Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Winter Semester (January -June 2016)

School: School of Human Studies
Programme with title: Gender Studies
Semester to which offered: II
Course Title: Sexualities

Credits: 2
Course Code (new):
Course Code (old): SHS202804
Type of Course: Elective

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory)  X
4. Discipline (Elective)  X
5. Elective

Course Coordinator and Team: Tara Atluri

Email of course coordinator: tara@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites:

Aim: Sexualities is itself an impossible word that is often used to encompass everything from sex acts to gender identity to forms of sociality and political organizing. Rather than offer a succinct authoritative claim regarding what sexualities are, we will discuss and debate theoretical, political, and creative mobilizations of sexual publics globally.
The course examines the ways that philosophers and intellectuals have grappled and engaged with debates regarding sexualities transnationally. Sexualities emphasizes the power relations that produce normative sexual ideologies and subsequently produce oppression.

We will look at innovative ways that dissident sexual subaltern counter-publics throughout the world cultivate spaces and discourses of resistance to the violence of heteronormative racist patriarchies. We will also be critical of the lure of binary understandings of subjectivity and politics that would divide people into easy categories in terms of both sexual identity and power.

Finally, the class asks one to question how the very ways in which one envisions and speaks of sexuality is deeply ideological. Rather than offering an exhaustive look at the entire fields of sexuality studies, queer theory, and feminist theory we will discuss selected writings and acts of sexual subalterns transnationally.

The class begins from the premise that essentialism is a construct that is rooted in colonial ideology. And yet, we will look at the forms of strategic essentialism that many create, using markers of sexuality as tools to form solidarities and subcultures.
Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Section I involves a theoretical exploration of Sexualities drawing on key theorists that will be studied, discussed and critiqued in regards to their relevance to contemporary India and transnationally.

Section II involves an exploration regarding the ways in which queer and feminist counter publics globally resist sexual oppression, heteronormativity and sexual norms enforced through implicit and explicit structures of disciplinary power.

Section 1:

In Theory: Hot Topics

January 10th

Time

Halberstam, J. In a Queer time and place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives. New York: NYU Press. Chapter 1


January 17

Sex


January 24
Bodies


January 31
Violence


February 7
Racism


February 14—
Names


February 21
In class test/Writing Assignment

February 28
Money
Introduction.


March 7
Space


March 14
Film: TBA

Section II: After Hours: Resistance
March 21
Pride?


March 28
Subculture


April 4
Music


April 11
Art


Final Assignment Due

April 18
Technology
Geist, Janina. "Queering Cyberspace in New Delhi–Negotiating Femininity, Masculinity and Thirdness."


April 25
Politics


References:

Halberstam, J. In a Queer time and place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives. New York: NYU Press. Chapter 1


Geist, Janina. "Queering Cyberspace in New Delhi–Negotiating Femininity, Masculinity and Thirdness."

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

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<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>Jan 10-April 25 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Test</td>
<td>February 21, 2017</td>
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<td>Final Assignment</td>
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