

SYLLABUS

CROSS-CULTURAL SEXUALITY (A,D,O)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:15 – 2:45 PM

ANT 261.01 Spring 2006

Dr. Douglas A. Feldman, Professor

SUNY Brockport

Department of Anthropology

dfeldman@brockport.edu

(585) 395-5709

Course Description:

This course discusses human sexuality from the perspective of different cultures throughout the world. It focuses upon the cultural geography of sexual practices, the evolution of human sexuality, sex techniques, physical types, physical attractiveness, clothing and modesty, marriage and incest, same-sex desire and behavior, the gay and lesbian community, the sadomasochism community, the transgendered community, global gender diversity, sex work, global population growth and heterosexual reproduction, pornography, drugs, alcohol and sex, legal issues of sexual behavior, stigma and sex, multipartnering behavior, polygyny and monogamy, and the social dimensions of sexually transmitted infections.

Required Texts:

Edgar Gregersen (1996). *The World of Human Sexuality: Behaviors, Customs, and Beliefs*. New York: Irvington Publishers. [G]

DeWight R. Middleton (2002). *Exotics and Erotics: Human Cultural and Sexual Diversity*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press. [M]

Serena Nanda (2000). *Gender Diversity: Crosscultural Variations*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press. [N]

Cathy Crimmins (2005) *How the Homosexuals Saved Civilization*. New York: Tarcher/Penguin. [C]

Course Topics:

A panoramic view of sexuality. Sex: the anthropological perspective. The Western cultural background. History of the study of sex. Culture, self, and sex. Evolution of human sexuality. The sexual body. Sex patterns. Sex techniques. Physical types. Physical attractiveness. Clothing and modesty. Regulating sex: Incest taboos,

marriage, and descent. Marriage and incest. Sexual issues. Prostitution. Current developments. The future of sex. The geography of sexual practices: Africa, the Middle East, India and Southern Asia, the Far East, Oceania, the Americas, Europe and European outposts.

Gender Diversity: Multiple genders among North American Indians. Hijra and Sadhin: Neither man nor woman in India. Men and not-men: Sexuality and gender in Brazil. Liminal gender roles in Polynesia. Transgendered males in Thailand and the Philippines. Sex/gendered diversity in Euro-American cultures. Variations on a theme.

How the Homosexuals Saved Civilization: The gay aesthetic, language, community, food, fashion, the future of sex, movies, game shows and gay dads, music, theater.

Reading Schedule:

January 24:	Introduction and welcome. Review of syllabus.
January 26:	M: Chapter 1. G: Chapters 1, 2.
February 2:	M: Chapters 2, 3. G: Chapter 3.
February 7:	G: Chapter 4. C: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4.
February 9:	C: Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8.
February 14:	C: Chapters 9, 10. M: Chapter 4.
February 16:	G: Chapters 5, 6.
February 21:	N: Introduction, Chapter 1, 2
February 23:	N: Chapters 3, 4, 5.
February 28:	N: Chapters 6, 7. G: Chapter 7
March 2:	Cultural Diversity Conference.
March 7:	Midterm exam.
March 9:	M: Chapter 5.
March 14:	No class, Spring break.
March 16:	No class, Spring break.
March 21:	G: Chapters 8, 9.
March 23:	M: Chapter 6. G: Chapter 10.
March 28:	Video.
March 30:	Video.
April 4:	M: Chapter 7. G: Chapter 11.
April 6:	G: Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15.
April 11:	G: Chapters 16, 17, 18.
April 12:	Scholar's Day
April 13:	Video.
April 18:	Discussion of Scholar's Day topics. Class presentations.
April 20:	Class presentations.
April 25:	Class presentations.
April 27:	Class presentations.
May 2:	Class presentations.
May 4:	Conclusion and review.

May 11: Final exam. All papers are due.

Three videos will be shown. We will have one or more guest speakers.

Course Requirements and Grade:

Midterm Exam:	25%
Final Exam:	25%
Class participation and presentation:	25%
Paper:	25%
 TOTAL:	 100%

Class participation includes constructive participation in which the student demonstrates having read the assigned readings and has thought deeply about the content. Students are expected to spend at least six hours per week preparing for the class sessions. The professor may call upon students to discuss the assigned readings. All students will give a five minute presentation in front of the class, followed by 5-10 minutes for discussion, giving a progress report of what they are learning in preparation for writing their paper. One or more extra credit projects may be assigned during the semester. The final exam is not cumulative. The midterm exam will be multiple choice, and the final exam will have essay questions.

All students will complete an original paper on a topic pre-approved by the professor related to cross-cultural sexuality. Papers must be about 10 pages, 12 point type (do not use smaller or larger point type), double-spaced, either printed one-sided or two-sided, one-inch margins on all four sides (not 1.25 inches) , page numbers, Arial font, plus a title page and references cited page(s). Papers must have at least 7 references cited (more are preferred), keyed to the text of your paper. The references cited page(s) should be alphabetized by last author's name, and include the names of all authors, year of publication, and title of book or article. If an article, it must include the name of the journal, volume number, and page numbers. If a book, it must include the place of publication and the publisher. Papers must be carefully spell-checked and proofread for grammar and coherence. The title page should include your name, title of the paper, name of the course, course number, date, and name of the professor (Dr. Feldman). Do not use contractions. Do not use Internet or chat line spellings or grammar. Do not plagiarize. Use lengthy quotes sparingly.

Disability Statement:

Students with documented disabilities may be entitled to specific accommodations. SUNY Brockport's Office for Students with Disabilities makes this determination. Please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at (585) 395-5409 or

osdoffic@brockport.edu to inquire about obtaining an official letter to the course instructor with an official letter. Faculty work as a team with the Office for Students with Disabilities to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session, so it is important that you not be late. Students who have six unexcused absences will receive a lowered final grade (e.g., B = B-). Each additional two unexcused absence will receive a further lowered final grade (e.g., B = C+). Absences will be excused for a) documented illnesses, b) official representation of the College, c) death of a close relative, d) religious holiday, and e) other circumstances beyond the control of the student as determined by the professor. Students who arrive late to class must inform the professor at the end of the session to make sure they are not marked absent that day. Students who must leave early on a particular day need to notify the professor before the class.

Academic Integrity and Student Behavior:

Students are expected to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty (papers and exams) will not be accepted. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty during this course will receive a lowered grade for the course depending on the nature of the action, and could possibly be referred to the administration for further disciplinary action.

Students are asked not to carry on unrelated conversations during class. You are expected to pay attention and to be courteous. Major breaches of conduct or impropriety will receive a lowered grade.

Cell phones and pagers must be turned off while attending class.

Office Location and Hours:

Dr. Feldman's office is located at Room C15, Cooper Hall. Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45-4:45 PM, or by appointment. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the professor during office hours or by appointment.