This is an intensive reading course designed to prepare graduate students in the area of genders and sexualities in the field of feminist studies. We will discuss a variety of ethnographies of queer cultures in different parts of the world with an eye on the questions of how erotic desire, sexual behavior, intimate relationships, sexual identities, and gender identities differ in various social contexts; how queer cultures are shaped by both local and global understandings; and what queer cultures can tell us about genders and sexualities more generally. Along the way, we will consider the nature and ethics of ethnographic research and the various ways that scholars utilize empirical evidence, develop arguments, and write narrative.

We will read the required books in the order of publication, with an interlude along the way to consider some classic and more recent theoretical and conceptual articles addressing fundamental questions about sexuality in global and historical perspective.

**Required books: available for purchase at the bookstore and on reserve in the library:**


**Required articles:** available for purchase at SBprinter.com (6549 Pardall Rd. #A) and on reserve in the library:


Oct. 1: Introductions and introduction

Oct. 8: How travestís think about gender and sexuality
Kulick, *Travestí*

Oct. 15: How toms and dees think about gender, sexuality, and relationships
Sinnott, *Toms and Dees*

Oct. 22: Conceptual and theoretical issues
Articles
No class meeting: a virtual discussion via GauchoSpace

Oct. 29: Dubbing in *gai* and *lesbi* Indonesia
Boellstorff, *The Gay Archipelago*
Nov. 5: Mati work in Suriname
Wekker, Politics of Passion

Nov. 12: What happens to divas in the diaspora?
Manalansan, Global Divas

Nov. 19: Becoming transgender in New York
Valentine, Imagining Transgender

Nov. 26: Being black and lesbian in New York
Moore, Invisible Families

Dec. 3: Working for gay rights in sub-Saharan Africa
Currier, Out in Africa

Requirements:

Each week, a few students will prepare a short commentary on the assigned reading in order to kick off the discussion. These do not need to be comprehensive reviews of the reading, but, rather, should address whatever aspects of the work, both positive and negative, strike you as central. These could be sources, methods, evidence, theory, approach, argument, etc. Offer praise, make criticisms, raise questions. Email your commentaries to me by Monday at noon and I’ll post them on GauchoSpace. Everyone is expected to read the commentaries before class, and discussion will take off from the issues you raise. We will work out the assignments the first time we meet, with each of you preparing commentaries on two readings. Active participation in discussion is essential, and it will not be possible to receive a grade of “A” without it.

Grades will be based on class participation and on a final paper (20-25 pages) that critically reviews the literature assigned for class (and that incorporates the critiques you have prepared). The paper should identity the major questions, issues, and approaches in the literature on queer cultures in global perspective, critically analyze the various works we have read, point to future directions for research, and, if relevant, connect the literature to your own work. Think of this paper as a review essay written for a feminist studies journal such as Signs or Feminist Studies. I strongly encourage you to work on the paper throughout the quarter, not wait until the end.

The paper is due on Tuesday, December 10, to be posted on GauchoSpace.

My office is 4710 South Hall (893-6130) and my e-mail is lrupp@femst.ucsb.edu. My office hours are Tuesday 2:30-3:30, Thursday 1:30-2:30, and by appointment. If you should have any questions or concerns about the course, please do not hesitate to come see me.