

Englit 2660
Spring 2006
Anderson, M.

ENGLIT 2660
SEXUALITY & REPRESENTATION:
CONSIDERING DEVIANCE
Spring 2006 (CRN 18797)
Wednesdays, 1:00 PM to 4:50 PM
444 Cathedral of Learning

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Thursdays, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM;
and by appointment.

RATIONALE:

By placing sexual identity at the center of discussions about cultural politics, queer theory has produced new ways of understanding the relations among representation, power, and sexuality. This seminar uses queer theory to consider modern Western sexual identities in the nineteenth- and twentieth centuries and their emergence through both specialized discursive practices (medicine, sexology, psychoanalysis, sociology) and mass cultural institutions, particularly the cinema. Beginning with Michel Foucault's demonstration that categories of deviance crucially subtend most contemporary forms of knowledge, we will be concerned with queer theory's interventions in debates about sexuality and power, as well as with its various reevaluations of cinema's relation to deviant bodies and subjectivities.

The seminar can be roughly divided into three sections. We begin with a consideration of some of the discursive constructions of sexual deviance that helped make contemporary sexual identities possible. We then look at the role played by the emerging mass media in the public articulation and circulation of sexual deviance and deviant identities before the Second World War. Finally, we are concerned with how queer theory might provide ways for us to move through the seemingly intractable contradictions that determine modern sexual definition, and toward different ways of being (or not being). Throughout the course we will view film and video work related to these critical projects.

TEXTS:

Bersani, Leo and Ulysse Dutoit. 2004. *Forms of Being: Cinema, Aesthetics, Subjectivity*. London: British Film Institute.

Farmer, Brett. 2000. *Spectacular Passions: Cinema, Fantasy, and Gay Male Spectatorships*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.

Foucault, Michel. 1990. *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction*. Translated by Robert Hurley. New York: Vintage Books.

Freud, Sigmund. 2000. *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*. Rev. ed. Translated by James Strachey. New York: Basic Books.

Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. 1990. *The Epistemology of the Closet*. Berkeley, Cal.: University of California Press.

Villarejo, Amy. 2003. *Lesbian Rule: Cultural Criticism and the Value of Desire*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.

SEMINAR PROCEDURES

Because this course is conducted as a seminar, your attendance and prepared contributions are both expected and highly valued. Students in the seminar are required to write a short response (approximately 1,000 words) to one of several questions on take-home exam that will be distributed on February 15 and due by March 1. Students will also formulate a research project on which to base a final seminar paper (approximately 4,000-6,000 words). Each student will also make a short presentation of her/his research project to the seminar near the end of the course.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND SCREENINGS

(x) = reading available through electronic reserve.

January 4

SCREENINGS:

Pedagogue (UK 1988, d. Stuart Marshall) 11 minutes.

History Lessons (US 2000, d. Barbara Hammer) 65 minutes.

January 11

READING:

Michel Foucault. *History of Sexuality*, 3-49.

(x) Krafft-Ebing, Richard von. "Psychical Hermaphroditism," "Homo-Sexual Individuals or Urnings," "Effemination," and "Androgyny," *Psychopathia Sexualis*. (New York: Rebman Company, [n.d.]) 352-94.

(x) Gayle Rubin. "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality." *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality*. Carole S. Vance, ed. (Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1984) 267-319.

(x) Chris Straayer. "Coming Out in a New World: Monika Truet's *Virgin Machine*," *Deviant Eyes, Deviant Bodies: Sexual Re-orientation in Film and Video*. (New York: Columbia, 1996) 23-41.

SCREENINGS:

Intersex Exposition: Full Monty (Australia 2002, d. Eli (Shorona) se Mbessakwini) 7 minutes.

The Virgin Machine [Die Jungfrauen Maschine] (West Germany 1988, Hyäne Film/Norddeutscher Rundfunk, d. Monika Truet) 85 minutes.

January 18

READING:

Michel Foucault. *History of Sexuality*, 53-131.

(x) Havelock Ellis. "The Nature of Inversion," *Studies in the Psychology of Sex*. Vol. 1, Part Four, Chapter V. (New York: Random House, 1936) 264-301.

(x) Erica Ryan. "Getting Dressed Up: The Displays of Frank Woodhull and the Policing of Gender," *The Ellis Island Snow Globe*. (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005) 67-106.

(x) Mandy Merck. "'Transforming the Suit': A Century of Lesbian Portraits," *Perversions: Deviant Readings*. (New York: Routledge, 1993) 86-100.

(x) Julian Carter. "Normality, Whiteness, Authorship: Sexology and the Primitive Pervert," *Science and Homosexualities*. Vernon A. Rosario, ed. (New York: Routledge, 1997) 155-76.

SCREENINGS:

Know Thy Wife (US 1918, Christie Film Company, d. Al Christie) 13 minutes.

A Florida Enchantment (US 1914, Vitagraph, d. Sydney Drew) 63 minutes.

January 25

READING:

Sigmund Freud. *Three Essays*, 1-38.

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. *Epistemology of the Closet*, 1-63.

(x) Estelle B. Freedman. "'Uncontrolled Desires': The Response to the Sexual Psychopath, 1920-1960," *Journal of American History* 74:1 (June 1987): 83-106.

(x) Terry, Jennifer. "Theorizing Deviant Historiography," *Differences* 3.2 (1991): 55-74.

SCREENING:

Swoon (US 1992, d. Tom Kalin) 94 minutes.

February 1

READING

Sigmund Freud. *Three Essays*, 39-109.

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. *Epistemology of the Closet*, 67-90.

(x) Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. "How to Bring Your Kids Up Gay," *Social Text* 29 (1991): 18-27.

SCREENING:

Dottie Gets Spanked (US 1994, d. Todd Haynes) 45 minutes.

February 8

READING:

Brett Farmer. *Spectacular Passions*, 1-109.

(x) Alexander Doty, "There's Something Queer Here," *Making Things Perfectly Queer: Interpreting Mass Culture*. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993) 1-16.

(x) George Chauncey. "'Pansies on Parade': Prohibition and the Spectacle of the Pansy," *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (New York: Basic Books, 1994) 300-329.

(x) David M. Lugowski. "Queering the (New) Deal: Lesbian and Gay Representation and the Depression-Era Cultural Politics of Hollywood's Production Code." *Cinema Journal* 38 (Winter 1999): 3-35.

SCREENING:

Palmy Days (US 1931, MGM, d. Edward Sutherland) 77 minutes.

February 15

READING:

(x) Andrea Weiss. "A Queer Feeling When I Look at You': Hollywood Stars and Lesbian Spectatorship in the 1930s," *Vampires and Violets: Lesbians in Film*. (New York: Penguin Books, 1993) 30-50.

Amy Villarejo. *Lesbian Rule*, 1-81.

(x) Patricia White. "Black and White: Mercedes de Acosta's Glorious Enthusiasms," *Camera Obscura* 45 (2000): 227-264.

(x) Sigmund Freud. "The Psychogenesis of a Case of Homosexuality in a Woman," Barbara Low and R. Gabler, trans. *Sexuality and the Psychology of Love*. Philip Rieff, ed. (New York: Collier Books, 1963) 133-159.

SCREENINGS:

Shanghai Express (US 1932, Paramount, d. Joseph Von Sternberg) 90 minutes.

Encuentra entra Dos Reinas [The Meeting of Two Queens] (Spain 1991, d. Cecelia Barriga) 14 minutes.

February 22

READING:

Brett Farmer. *Spectacular Passions*, 110-97.

(x) Marc Siegel. "Documentary That Dare/Not Speak Its Name: Jack Smith's Flaming Creatures," *Between the Sheets, In the Streets: Queer, Lesbian, Gay Documentary*. Chris Holmlund and Cynthia Fuchs, eds. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997) 91-106.

(x) Jack Smith. "The Perfect Film Appositeness of Maria Montez," *Film Culture* 27 (Winter 1962/63): 28-32.

(x) Thomas Waugh. "Cockteaser," *Pop Out: Queer Warhol*. Jennifer Doyle, Jonathan Flatley, José Esteban Muñoz, eds. (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1996) 51-77.

(x) Douglas Crimp. "Getting the Warhol We Deserve," *Social Text* 59 (Summer 1999): 49-65.

SCREENINGS:

Blow Job (US 1963, d. Andy Warhol) 35 minutes.

Flaming Creatures (US 1963, d. Jack Smith) 45 minutes.

March 1

READING:

(x) Richard Dyer (with Derek Cohen). "The Politics of Gay Culture," *The Culture of Queers*. (London: Routledge, 2002) 15-30.

Amy Villarejo, *Lesbian Rule*, 123-157.

(x) Ed Cohen, "Who Are 'We'?": Gay Identity as Political (E)motion," *Inside/Out: Lesbian Theories, Gay Theories*. Diana Fuss, ed. (New York: Routledge, 1991) 71-92.

SCREENINGS:

O Happy Day (US 1996, d. Charles Lofton) 6 minutes.

Out: The Making of a Revolutionary (US 2000, d. Sonja de Vries and Rhonda Collins) 60 minutes.

March 8 SPRING BREAK

March 15

READING:

Amy Villarejo. *Lesbian Rule*, 160-207.

(x) Ann Cvetkovich. "Trauma and Touch: Butch Femme Sexualities," *An Archive of Feeling: Trauma, Sexuality, and Lesbian Public Cultures*. (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2003) 49-82.

(x) Judith Butler. "Imitation and Gender Insubordination," *Inside/Out: Lesbian Theories, Gay Theories*. Diana Fuss, ed. (New York: Routledge, 1991) 13-31.

SCREENINGS:

Jollies (US 1990, d. Sadie Benning) 12 minutes.

A Day in the Life of a Bull Dyke (Canada 1995, d. Shawna Dempsy and Lorri Millan) 11 minutes.

Hide and Seek (1996, d. Su Friedrich) 63 minutes.

March 22

READINGS:

(x) Lee Edleman. "No Future," *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive*. (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2004) 111-154.

(x) Sue-Ellen Case. "Tracking the Vampire," *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 3:2 (Summer 1991): 1-20.

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. *The Epistemology of the Closet*, 213-251.

Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, 135-59.

SCREENING:

The Birds (US 1964, Universal, d. Alfred Hitchcock) 119 minutes.

March 29

READING:

Leo Bersani and Ulysee Dutoit. *Forms of Being*, 1-73.

SCREENING:

Le Mépris [Contempt] (France/Italy, Rome-Paris Films/Films Concordia [Paris]/ Compagnia Cinemagrafica Champion [Rome], 1963, d. Jean-Luc Godard) 109 min.

April 5

READING:

Leo Bersani and Ulysee Dutoit. *Forms of Being*, 74-123.

SCREENING:

Todo sobre mi madre [All About My Mother] (Spain/France 1999, El Deseo S.A./Renn Productions/France 2 Cinéma, d. Pedro Almodóvar) 101 minutes.

April 12

READING:

Leo Bersani and Ulysee Dutoit. *Forms of Being*, 124-178.

SCREENING:

The Thin Red Line (US/Canada 1998, Fox 2000 Pictures/Geisler-Roberdeau/Phoenix Pictures, d. Terrence Malick) 170 minutes.

April 19

TBA