



GS/SO 316 INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF SEXUALITY AND GENDER IN THE CONTEXT OF AMSTERDAM
IES Abroad Amsterdam

DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to the study of gender and sexuality. The Netherlands, and especially Amsterdam as a relative small scale city, is a particularly appropriate location for such a course. While the Netherlands lives up to its liberal reputation that allows students to explore sexuality and gender as multi-faceted academic venues, current political and social tensions in Holland and in Europe demonstrate how those very subjects can be turned into contested areas and can have exclusionary effects.

The following themes will be covered in the course: transgender issues, sex education, sex work, sexual nationalism, histories of sexuality, and sexual and gender identities. In studying these themes, the course takes an interdisciplinary approach in which students learn to critically compare perspectives on sexuality, in which they understand historical and current shaping of knowledge concerning sexuality and gender. Attention will be paid to historical processes in which popular and scientific knowledge reinforced one another and created common sense knowledge on sexuality and gender. The course will raise awareness about hierarchies of knowledge in these matters and the consequences thereof, such as giving rise to homosexual and transgender identities, but also to medical and psychiatric interventions. Next to fieldtrips, guest lectures, and readings, class discussions that stimulate critical exchange, will prepare students for further academic pursuits.

The study of sexuality and gender offers a fascinating cross-section of Amsterdam/Dutch culture and this program gives the participants ample opportunity to explore some specific aspects of that culture. Yet, while sensitizing them to the topics as well as to local peculiarities and differences with other locations, the course is especially meant to learn (to teach?) more generally to question common sense knowledge concerning sexuality.

After the introductory sessions the course will be divided in thematic sections: sex work; youth and sexuality, transgender; and sexual nationalism. After each theme students will be required to write a 500 word reflection that refers to the assigned literature.

Students will write a 2500 words ESSAY on a topic of their own choice concerning sexuality and gender and The Netherlands. Throughout the course in class, in tutorials and if necessary in individual meetings with the tutor, selecting proper and feasible topics, contacts with individuals or institutions, as well as finding and selecting relevant literature or other materials will be closely supervised.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Tutorials
- Discussions
- Course-related trips

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

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| • Active class participation | 15% |
| • 4 Reflections (500 wrd) | 50% |
| • Final Paper (2500 wrd) & presentation (20 minutes) | 35% |

Assignment during introduction

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Prior to the first class, students will be asked to consider their expectations of Amsterdam as far as its sexual reputation is concerned, and also to take note of anything sexual in ways that are different from where they come from during their first days/weeks in Amsterdam. The same goes for their perspective on gender. During the first week's meeting students are invited to comment and to discuss their expectations and observations .

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course:

- Students will be able to articulate concepts in sexuality and gender studies
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of Amsterdam, Amsterdam sexual cultures and Dutch policies *as local research sites*
- Students will have gained insight in their capacities of conducting sexuality research

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

All students are required to attend all classes. (Students will automatically be downgraded for non-attendance.) Students are also advised to attend any additional study trips, which are arranged, to make comparisons with the class trips, and to make their own trips to additional sites.

CONTENT:

ASSIGNMENT DURING ORIENTATION

- Observing gender & sexuality differences between the US and Amsterdam

Class	Content	Assignments
Class 1	DUTCH CULTURE AND SOCIETY Introduction to the program, its participants and lecturer, group meetings. We will discussing the observation assignment: the gender and sexuality differences between the US and the Netherlands. The lecture will introduce sexuality and gender in the Netherlands.	Required reading: • Buikema, R. & Van der Tuin, I. <i>Three Feminist Waves</i>. Ch 16 (p. 191-202). In: E. Besamusca & J. Verheul (eds.). 2014. <i>Discovering the Dutch. On Culture and Society of the Netherlands</i>. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press • Boston, N. & Duyvendak, J.W. 2015. <i>People of Color Mobilization in LGBT Movements in the Netherlands and the United States</i>. In <i>The Ashgate Research Companion to Lesbian and Gay Activism</i>, 135–48. • Wekker, G. (2014). <i>Diving into the Wreck. Intersections of gender, race, sexuality and class in the Dutch cultural archive</i>. Ch. 8 (p.159-178). In: P. Essed & I. Moving (Eds.), <i>Dutch racism</i>. Amsterdam: Rodopi.
Class 2	CONCEPTUALIZING SEXUALITY AND GENDER Lecture: The meanings of sexuality and gender in a cultural, social and individual, as well as local context.	Required reading: • Robert W. Connell and Gary W. Dowsett, 'The unclean motion of the generative parts': Frameworks in Western Thoughts on Sexuality. In Parker, R. & Aggleton, P. <i>Culture, Society and Sexuality. A Reader</i>. London: Routledge • Scott, J.W 2007 Gender as a Useful Category of Historical Analysis. In Parker, R. &

		Aggleton, P. <i>Culture, Society and Sexuality. A Reader</i>. London: Routledge: 61-82. • Mottier, Veronique, <i>Sexuality. A very short Introduction</i>, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2008
Class 3	theme 1 sex work – COURSE-RELATED TRIP PROSTITUTION INFORMATION CENTER The course-related trip to the PIC (Prostitution Information Center) will acquaint students with the history of Amsterdam's famous and notorious Red Light District. Students will be informed about past and present policies in regards of prostitution, and how these work out in practice for the sex workers and the district. Students will be taken on a walking tour of the Red Light District and learn about its various and diverse parts, rules and norms.	Required Reading: • Aalbers, M.B. & Deinema, M. 2012. 'Placing Prostitution: The spatial–sexual order of Amsterdam and its growth coalition.' in <i>City</i>, Vol. 16 (1-2), 129-145. • Majoor, M. 2015. Chapter 3 (p. 20-30) in: <i>When sex becomes work</i>. Amsterdam: PIC
Class 4	theme 1 sex work - SEX WORK, CHOICE AND TRAFFICKING In this class we will have a closer look at the discourses that are employed to understand sex work, for example sex work as 'choice' or the sex worker as 'victim of trafficking'	Required reading: • Carole S. Vance, 'States of contradiction: Twelve Ways to do Nothing about Trafficking While Pretending To', in <i>Social Research</i> Vol. 78 : No. 3 , 2011.
Class 5	theme 2 youth - SEX EDUCATION IN THE NETHERLANDS Guest lecture: Yuri Ohlrichs (Rutgers – expertise centre on sexuality) will discuss sexual health and sex education in the Netherlands, considering its history and current state.	Required Reading: • SoaAids Nederland & RutgersWPF. 2012. <i>Most important conclusions Sex under the age of 25</i>. P 1-11 • Lewis, J, and T Knijn. 2002. The Politics of Sex Education Policy in England and Wales and the Netherlands since the 1980s. <i>Journal of social policy</i> 31(4): 669–94.
Class 6	theme 2 youth - YOUTH, SEXUALITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA Session on youth, sexuality, social media and sexting, based on ethnographic materials from the Netherlands.	Required Reading: • Hasinoff, A.A. 2014. 'Myspace led girl to Mideast': Race, the online predator myth, and the pathologization of violence. <i>Sexualities</i>, 17 (4), 484-500 • Ringrose, J. & Harvey, L. 2015. Boobs, back-off, six packs and bits: Mediated body parts, gendered reward, and sexual shame in teens' sexting images. <i>Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies</i>, 29, 2, 205-217
Class 7	theme 3 transgender - TRANSGENDER AND REASSIGNMENT SURGERY Guest lecture: Jos Megens (former head of the Gender Clinic, Free University) & a spokesperson of Transvisie (f-to-m or m-to-f) will introduce students to the	Required reading: • Annelou de Vries, <i>Gender Dysphoria in Adolescents. Mental Health and Treatment Evaluation</i>. Vrije Universiteit- Amsterdam 2010. Chapters, 1, 6 and 7.

	medical and cultural aspects as well as lived experiences of gender dysphoric and transgender people.	
Class 8	theme 3 transgender - TRANSGENDER REVISITED Guest lecture: Arianne van der Ven will present her critical perspective on transgender issues, based on her experiences as a transgender woman.	Required reading: David Valentine, <i>Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category</i>, Duke University Press, Durham, 2007, chapter 1
Class 9	TUTORIALS Instead of class there will be individual meetings to discuss the final paper, based on the first draft.	
Class 10	theme 4 sexual nationalism - SEX EDUCATION: WHAT ELSE CAN IT DO? In this session we will discuss the intended and unintended effects of sex education in practice and we will analyse the most widely used sex education curriculum for secondary schools.	Required Reading: - Bredstrom, A. 2005. 'Love in Another Country' - 'Race', Gender and Sexuality in Sexual Education Material Targeting Migrants in Sweden. <i>Sexualities</i>, 8 (4), 517-535 - Schalet, A. 2004. Must we fear adolescent sexuality? <i>Medscape general medicine</i>, 8 (4), 1-16 - Van den Bongardt, D., Bos, H., Mouthaan, I. 2013. Sexual and relational education practices in the Netherlands: Evidence of a discourse of erotics? <i>Society for International Education Journal</i>, 7 (1), 76-104.
Class 11	theme 4 sexual nationalism - QUEER IN THE NETHERLANDS We will discuss the 'conditional acceptance' of homosexuality in the Netherlands, as well as the ways in which sexuality functions in current nationalist politics.	Required reading: - Paul Mepschen, Jan Willem Duyvendak, Evelien Tonkens Sexual Politics, Orientalism and Multicultural Citizenship in the Netherlands. <i>Sociology</i>, special issue 2010: <i>Sexualities</i>. - Laurens Buijs, 'As long as they keep away from me': the paradox of antigay violence in a gay-friendly country', <i>Sexualities</i> vol.14 (2011)6
Class 12	Paper presentations	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- The field trip to the PIC (Prostitution Information Center) will acquaint students with the history of Amsterdam's famous or notorious Red Light District. The founder of the PIC - a former prostitute herself - will tell about past and present (changing) policies in regards of prostitution, about trafficking and about what of those means for women in the trade. She will give a tour of the Red Light District and its various and diverse parts.