**Course Title:** Introduction to Feminist (Queer) Anthropology

**Enrollment Code**: IFA16  
**Instructor**: Nicole Butterfield, PhD  
**Language:** English  
**Duration:** 9 weeks, winter, Oct 3-Dec 2

**Description:**

The *Introduction to Feminist (Queer) Anthropology* will introduce students to the history, theory and methodology of feminist (queer) anthropology. Students will gain knowledge about feminist (queer) anthropological research and methods through lectures and seminar discussions about historical developments and current debates/topics within the field and through readings about specific ethnographic case studies. The course will encourage students to develop critical and reflective thinking about ethnographic methods and approaches and issues of power relations in the context of production of scientific knowledge. Students will engage in group discussions about readings and ethnographic documentary films, which will be screened in class, and will participate in several in-class ethnographic exercises (e.g. particpate observation, interviews). As a final project, students will be encouraged to do an independent research that will draw from the theoretical and methodological approaches discussed in the readings and in class. It is expected that students will gain insight and develop an awareness of feminism/queer critique as critical approaches that explore western-centric, androcentric and heteronormative representations in anthropology.

**Assessment:**

Students will be expected to actively participate in classroom discussion. In addition, as a means for critically reflecting on the assigned readings, students will be expected to submit a weekly reaction paper (approx. 1 page, 1.5 spacing, Times New Roman) about one of the week's assigned readings. The paper should not only briefly summarize the author(s)' main argument(s) but also raise questions, issues or concerns that the student finds relevant for further discussion.

For the final paper (8-12 pages; 1.5 spacing, Times New Roman), students must write about a cultural event, practice, or phenomena of their own choice from the perspective of the material taught during the term. We will discuss the choice of paper topics together in class, and the student must receive approval for the chosen topic. Students are also expected to add relevant references of their choosing (at least two items) in addition to the ones they use from the reading list.

**Grading:**

Class Participation and Attendance 30%

Weekly reaction papers (5) 50%

**Final Paper 20%**

**Course Schedule:**

**Week One: Introduction**

**Class 1**

Introductions/Syllabus/Questions

**Class 2**

Strathern, Merillyn (1987) “An Awkward Relationship: The Case of Feminism and Anthropology” in *Signs* 12(2). Pp. 276-292.

Stacey, Judith (1988) “Can there be feminist ethnography?” in *Women’s Studies International Forum* 11(1). Pp. 21-27.

IN CLASS: Topics of interest dicussion.

**Week Two: Gender/Sexuality**

**ASSIGNMENT: #1**

**Class 3**

Butler, Judith (1990) “Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire” in *Gender Trouble*, New York: Routledge. p. 1-34.

IN CLASS: Doing Gender in the Faculty (Participant Observation)

**Class 4**

FILM: *Harlan county, USA* (1976, Barbara Kopple, USA)

Johnson, Colin R. (2013) “Hard Women: Rural Women and Female Masculinity” in *Just Queer Folks: Gender and Sexuality in Rural America*, Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. p. 158-180.

**Week Three: Feminist Methodology**

**ASSIGNMENT: #2**

**Class 5**

Harding, Sandra (1987) “Is there a Feminist Method?*”* in *Feminism and Methodology*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Pp. 1-14.

Skeggs, Beverley (1997) “Respectable Knowledge: Experience and Interpretation” in *Formations of Class and Gender*, London: Sage Publications. p. 17-40.

IN CLASS: Developing Interviews

**Class 6**

**FILM:** *Stream of Love* (2015, Agnes Sos, Hungary/Romania)

Šikić/Mićanović, Lynette (2014) “Forgrounding the Self in Fieldwork” in *Hidden Lives: An Anthropological Study of Rural Women*, Zagreb, Ivo Pilar Institute. p. 47-62.

**Week Four: (Post)Colonial Feminism**

**ASSIGNMENT: #3**

**Class 7**

Stoler, Ann Laura (1991) “Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Gender, Race, and Morality in Colonial Asia” in *Gender at the Crossroads of Knowledge: Feminist Anthropology in the Postmodern Era.* Micaela di Leonardo, ed London: University of California. Pp. 51-101.

IN CLASS: Conducting Interviews

**Class 8**

**FILM:** *Pink Saris* (2010, Kim Longinotto, UK)

Mohanty Talpade, Chandra (2003) “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses” in *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*. Durham: Duke University Press. Pp. 17-42.

**Week Five: LGBT+/QUEER**

**ASSIGNMENT: #4**

**Class 9**

Weston, Kath (1993) “Lesbian/Gay Studies in the House of Anthropology” in *Annual Review of Anthropology* (22), pp. 339-367.

IN CLASS: Self-reflection

**Class 10**

FILM: *Paris is Burning* (1991, Jennie Livingston, USA)

Butler, Judith (1993) “Gender is Burning: Questions of Appropriation and Subversion” in *Bodies that Matter: On the Discursive Limits of “sex”,* New York: Routledge. pp. 121-142.

**Week Six: Rural Sexuality/Technology**

**Discussion of paper topics**

**Class 11**

FILM: *The Brandon Teena Story* (1998, Susan Muska, USA)

Halberstam, Judith (2005) “The Brandon Archive” in *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives*, p.22-46.

**Class 12**

**ASSIGNMENT #5**

Boellstorff, Tom (2008) “Chapter 3: Method” in *Coming of Age in Second Life: an Anthropologist Explores the Virtually Human,* p. 60-86

**Optional:** Alexander, Jonathan and Elizabeth Losh (2010) “A YouTube of One's Own:?: “Coming Out” Videos as Rhetorical Action” in *LGBT Identity and Online New Media*, Christopher Pullen and Margaret Cooper, eds. New York: Routledge, pp. 37-50.

IN CLASS: Online Research

**Week Seven: Queer Workshop**

**Class 13**

“Queer Workshop”

**Class 14**

“Queer Workshop”

**Week Eight: Final Dicussion**

**Class 15**

Final Discussion/Evalutions

**Final Papers DUE: December 2, 2016**