Instructor: Sofian Merabet (sofian.merabet@austin.utexas.edu)
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment in SAC 5.164

Course Description:

This graduate seminar deals with the cultural analysis of sexuality. Its aim is to evaluate critically formative concepts and theories that have been subject to debates within Anthropology, History, Philosophy, and Gender Studies/Queer Theory. Through the reading of a variety of texts, we will explore the central position sexuality occupies within culture. By discussing recent scholarship covering Affect Theory and Critical Gender Studies, we will examine the ways in which the nation and the state are closely tied to the politics of sexuality, gender, race and class and consider how bodies marked by those concepts are situated in space and time. One of the basic themes of the material for this course concerns the extent to which both realities and their perceptions are socio-cultural constructs that are subject to constant change and, therefore, need historical contextualization.

Required Texts (listed alphabetically): [ordered at the University Coop, www.universitycoop.com, 2246 Guadalupe Street, Austin, (512) 476-7211]


**Course Requirements for Registered Students:**

The class relies on the intellectual commitment and active participation of all students. It will be run primarily as discussions within a seminar format. In order for the course to be effective, all students must have the reading assignments completed and ready for in-depth discussion for each class. Regular attendance is required. Attendance in class, however, does not constitute participation. You must come to class having carefully read all materials and be prepared to discuss, question, and argue about issues raised in the readings. It will be beneficial for you to take excerpts/notes on any material that you find enlightening, controversial, or objectionable. You should also take notes in class on themes, key terms, and debates we tackle. These note-taking strategies will be crucial when you write your term paper. In short:

1) Do all assigned readings (while taking excerpts/notes!) by the date indicated on the syllabus and participate actively in the general class discussion.
2) Regular two 15-minute presentations on the weekly readings to be assigned to students. They are intended to launch the general seminar discussions.

3) Three-page description of the research paper (“Project Outline”) to be submitted to me and presented to the rest of the class on Monday, March 21st.

4) 10-minute presentations on the respective final research project on during the last three weeks of the semester.

5) 15 to 20-page term paper on any relevant topic dealing with the study of sexuality and culture due on Friday, May 6th. Focused topics on your own scholarly interests that raise a central research issue or query are best. Avoid general or overview topics. You must include at least 25% of the readings in your paper.

The writing assignment is designed to develop critical reading, analytical, and writing skills. Evaluation criteria include: critical and integrative analysis of texts, clarity of thought, ability to synthesize readings and, occasionally, class discussions into your own argument, and ability to formulate a theoretical grounding for it. Every student is encouraged to visit the University Writing Center (UWC: http://uwc.utexas.edu/).

Grading Procedure:

- Term Paper: 70%.
- Presentations of weekly readings: 15%.
- Presentations of own work (in process as well as final): 15%.

Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives.

Reading Schedule: (this schedule is tentative and subject to possible revision)

Week 1:
- Monday, January 25th - Introduction to the seminar

Week 2:

Week 3:
Week 4:  
- Monday, February 15th  
*Conference on the Syrian Civil War and Refugees*

Week 5:  
- Monday, February 22nd  

Week 6:  
- Monday, February 29th  
(Translated by Ken Seigneurie and Gary Schmidt). University of Texas Press.

Week 7:  
- Monday, March 7th  

Week 8:  
- Monday, March 14th  
*Spring Break*

Week 9:  
- Monday, March 21st  
- Term Paper Outlines/Presentations

Week 10:  
- Monday, March 28th  

Week 11:  
- Monday, April 4th  
Week 12:
- Monday, April 11\textsuperscript{th}

Week 13:
- Monday, April 18\textsuperscript{th}

Week 14:
- Monday, April 25\textsuperscript{th}

Week 15:
- Monday, May 2\textsuperscript{nd}

Final Papers due on Friday, May 6\textsuperscript{th}!

University Writing Center (UWC: \texttt{http://uwc.utexas.edu}):

The University Writing Center helps UT students become stronger, more independent writers. We provide:

- one-on-one consultations for student writers
- presentations for classes & campus groups
- online resources about writing
- workshops and discussion panels about writing
- The Grammar Ferret
- support for those who share our goal of helping students become strong writers.

Find us in the UT Learning Commons at Perry-Castañeda Library (PCL 2.330). For appointments, click [here](http://uwc.utexas.edu), or call 512-471-6222.

Spring 2016 Hours: M-TH 10-8, F 10-3, Sunday 1-7
If you have any questions, contact: Mary Hedengren, Graduate Writing Coordinator, Office: PCL Room 2.330, Phone: 512-471-6222, Email: mary.hedengren@gmail.com

**Emergency Evacuation Policy:**

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line/BCAL: 232-5050

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Additional Information under: [http://www.utexas.edu/emergency/](http://www.utexas.edu/emergency/)