

## **ANTH 390B: ORIENTALISM AND SEX**

FALL 2012 | MWF 1:40-2:40PM | OLIN 135

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Office: Asbury Hall, Room 205E

Office Hours: TTh 1:00PM-3:00PM

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### **OVERVIEW**

This course explores the anxious relationship between sexuality and Orientalism as a colonial and colonizing discourse. Sex and sexuality have operated as powerful forces in Orientalism, creating categories of Others who were both intensely dangerous and uncontrollable, and intensely erotic and desirable. Such projected categories have allowed Orientalist colonizers to imagine themselves in particularly convenient ways, while displacing aspects of culture and persona that they feared and distrusted on to an imagined Other. We will rely on close readings to examine the long history of this process and its political and social consequences as a phenomenon of gender that necessarily intersects in peculiar ways with race and class in colonial situations, as well as some postcolonial situations in which the Other engages directly with this Orientalist imaginary.

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

You are expected to read all assignments in timely fashion; assignments are listed on the syllabus on the day by which they should be read. We will be reading a number of books, which we will supplement with occasional articles and excerpted readings. The major texts are:

Baum, Bruce. 2006. *The rise and fall of the Caucasian race: a political history of racial identity*. New York: New York University Press.

Bernstein, Richard. 2009. *The East, the West, and sex: a history of erotic encounters*. New York: Knopf.

Chardin, John. 1988. *Travels in Persia, 1673-1677*. New York: Dover.

McCabe, Ina Baghdiantz. 2008. *Orientalism in early modern France: Eurasian trade, exoticism and the ancien regime*. Oxford: Berg. **[ONLINE ONLY]**

Said, Edward. 1978. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books.

Schueller, Malini Johar. 1998. *U.S. Orientalisms: race, nation, and gender in literature, 1790-1890*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Stoler, Ann Laura. 2002. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

With the exception of McCabe, the books may be purchased at the bookstore, and will also be on reserve at ROW. (The McCabe book can only be accessed online through ROW's website.) All other readings will be placed on digital reserve at ROW.

### **EVALUATION AND ATTENDANCE**

Students are required to attend all class sessions; since the course is discussion-based, it is imperative that students not miss class. We will present material only once, and I will not send lecture notes or other materials on an individual basis. Those students who miss a class session are still responsible for keeping up with the material presented. Each student is permitted to miss two class sessions without penalty (except for their own presentation). Every absence thereafter will count against this component of the final grade. Any student who misses more than ten class sessions will automatically fail the course.

I will track attendance and participation by noting who speaks each session, and the strength of their contribution. I expect everyone to come to class prepared to discuss the readings knowledgeably, and those who demonstrate that they have come to class unprepared will lose points. I want you all to speak and engage with each other, and in productive fashion — offering a superficial comment just so I have heard your voice counts for little. My tracking will include these grades:

Absent	0
Present but kept silent	1
Present but unprepared	1
Present and said something unhelpful to discussion	2
Present and offered engaged comment or question in discussion	4

I will also collect discussion questions that you have each prepared via Moodle on Sunday evenings, so that we can focus our conversations on particular questions that spark the class' interest. Please submit at least two discussion questions per person by 8:00PM each Sunday before class, so that I have time to review them. Submitting these questions is part of coming to class prepared.

In addition to attendance and general participation in discussions, students are required to lead off the discussion of each week's set of readings. This should include a ten- to fifteen-minute presentation of the major ideas in the text(s), including questions that the readings bring up. The student discussion leader must not only present their own ideas, but must also facilitate discussion with the class at large — it is not to be addressed solely to me. Many students find hand-outs useful in setting forth discussion points, but you are welcome to approach your presentation in any (low-technology) way that you see fit.

Rather than exams at the midterm and final points, students will write a 15- to 20-page research paper, on a topic to be developed in consultation with me. You must submit a complete first draft of the paper by Friday, November 16 at 8:00PM EST. I will review and critique this draft thoroughly, and return it to you with required and suggested revisions. You must submit a revised second full draft of the paper in lieu of a final exam by Tuesday, December 11 at 12:00PM EST. I strongly recommend that you treat the revision process seriously, since, as you can see below, you will receive more credit for the revised finished product than for the first draft. However, this does not mean that you may submit a half-baked series of bullet points with no citations for your first draft. Do your work in lazy, slapdash fashion, and you will be graded accordingly. Do your work carefully and in timely fashion, and you will have a good paper to show for it.

Structure of the final grade:

General attendance and participation	20%
Discussion presentation and facilitation	10%
First draft of paper	30%
Revised final draft of paper	40%

### **LATENESS POLICY**

Turning in written work late will drag you down very fast. Since you must submit all written work through Moodle, you will be unable to slide on deadlines. I do not accept any excuses for late work. If you are forced to turn in a paper copy of work to me past the stated deadline, I will deduct a full letter grade for every day of tardiness. No late final drafts will be accepted at all, and will be marked as receiving no credit.

### **CITATIONS, PLAGIARISM, AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

As a matter of academic integrity, no plagiarism will be tolerated. Plagiarism is not merely a violation of university policy, but it is fundamentally a form of cheating that circumvents the learning process. Proper citation practices are key to demonstrating that you can engage with other people's ideas as you build your own. All written work should follow the citation formats of the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Please consult me if you have a question about citation that the CMS cannot answer.

Academic integrity also requires that students do not attempt to gain unfair advantages over their peers, such as giving a false excuse for an extension. Any such behavior will carry severe consequences, reflected in your grade or in recommendations to be suspended or expelled from the university. Please consult the long (if incomplete) list of questionable practices to avoid at:

<http://www.depauw.edu/handbooks/academic/policies/integrity/>

## COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONICA

The use of personal computers is completely forbidden in class, since they generally prove highly distracting to others. I recommend that students who wish to take notes bring blank paper and pencils and/or pens to class.

The use of mobile phones, PDAs, mp3 players, and any similar device is frowned upon during class, as a matter of respect to your classmates and to me. Please silence such devices and put them away. Students often fool themselves that they can subtly text their friends whilst sitting in class without my noticing. In fact, as many people have already acknowledged, we professors understand what is going on when an ostensibly sane person looks down at his/her crotch and starts giggling. Put the toys away and deny yourself the temptation to goof off.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

Most absences will not be excused, and will count against you. If you are unable to attend class on the day of your presentation for good reason, you must provide me with appropriate documentation. Do not simply give me an excuse with no way to prove it. If you had a doctor's appointment, make sure to ask the doctor for a note – signed, dated, and on professional letterhead – confirming this fact. If you had to attend a family funeral, then bring the funeral program with you. Upon receiving this documentation, I will decide whether or not the excuse is valid. Documentation *does not* guarantee that I will grant clemency. If I determine that the excuse is valid, you must write a ten-page paper analyzing the material intended for the presentation, due within one week of the absence. Such a make-up will be granted only in dire cases, however, and you may not negotiate with me to write a paper instead of leading a presentation. I encourage any students who suffer from anxiety about public speaking to consult with the S-Center:

<http://www.depauw.edu/academics/academic-resources/academic-resource-center/s-center/>

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a disability that will require special arrangements to be made for note-taking, technology, etc., please let the university know as soon as possible so that there is sufficient time to coordinate all reasonable accommodation. In keeping with university policy, students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Student Disability Services before contacting individual professors, so that all such situations are properly documented and accounted for.

See: <http://www.depauw.edu/handbooks/student-html/resources/disabilities/>

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## COURSE CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 22 – First day of class

Friday, August 24 – *Orientalism*, pp. 1-110

WEEK 1: *Orientalism* and *Travels in Persia*

Monday, August 27 – *Orientalism* discussion, continued

August 29-31 – Chardin (entire text)

WEEK 2: *The rise and fall of the Caucasian race*, first half

September 3-7 – Baum pp. 1-117

WEEK 3: *The rise and fall of the Caucasian race*, second half

September 10-14 – Baum pp. 118-253;

Hartigan, John. 1997. "Establishing the Fact of Whiteness." *American Anthropologist* 99 (3): 495–505. (Reserves)

WEEK 4: *Orientalism in early modern France*, first half

\*Monday, September 17 – No class

September 19-21 – McCabe pp. 1-159

WEEK 5: *Orientalism in early modern France*, second half

September 24-28 – McCabe pp. 163-297

\*Wednesday, September 26 – No class

WEEK 6: *Carnal knowledge and imperial power*, first half; Paper topics discussion

Monday, October 1 – Discussion of final paper assignment

October 1-5 – Stoler pp. 1-111

WEEK 7: *Carnal knowledge and imperial power*, second half

Monday, October 8-12 – Stoler pp. 112-217

October 13-21 – Fall Break; no classes

WEEK 8: Even more about Orientalism, colonialism and empire; Paper topics due

Monday, October 22 – Malinowski excerpts

Wednesday, October 24 – Stocking on Malinowski

Friday, October 26 – Gaudio, Rudolf P. 2001. "White Men Do It Too: Racialized (homo)sexualities in Postcolonial Hausaland." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 11 (1): 36–51. (Reserves)

\*Paper topics must be submitted to me via Moodle for approval by 4:00PM on Friday, October 26.

WEEK 9: *The East, the West, and sex*, first half

October 29-November 2 – Bernstein pp. 1-159

WEEK 10: *The East, the West, and sex*, second half

November 5-9 – Bernstein pp. 160-296

WEEK 11: Even more on ideas from Bernstein reading

Monday, November 12 – Potuoğlu-Cook, Öykü. 2006. "Beyond the Glitter: Belly Dance and Neoliberal Gentrification in Istanbul." *Cultural Anthropology* 21 (4) (November): 633–660. (Reserves)

Wednesday, November 14 – Winegar excerpt?

\*Friday, November 16 – No class, but first full draft of paper is due by 8:00PM via Moodle.

WEEK 12: You call this a week?

Monday, November 19 – Discussion of paper revision ideas; writing center recommendation

November 21-23 – Thanksgiving Break; no class

WEEK 13: *U.S. Orientalisms*, first half

November 26-30 – Schueller pp. vii-108

WEEK 14: *U.S. Orientalisms*, second half

December 3-7 – Schueller pp. 109-205

Tuesday, December 11, 12:00PM – Final revised paper due in lieu of exam