GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND IDENTITY IN AFRICA
History 294
Dr. Katherine Fidler (kgfidler@loyno.edu)
Meeting Time and Place: MWF 1:30-2:20
Office: Bobet 430/Phone: 865-2568
Office Hours:

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will consider the histories of gender and sexuality in sub-Saharan Africa during the colonial and post colonial periods. Institutions like woman-woman marriage and various gender transgressive identities suggest many African cultures do not divide “men” and “women” in the same way Western cultures have. We will consider gender and sexuality as a set of practices and as part of larger questions of work, domesticity, social control, and political violence.

COURSE GOALS
1. A focused and in depth knowledge of historical facts, themes, and ideas
2. An ability to critically discuss and debate their understanding of issues and debates in past and present
3. An ability to identify arguments in texts (both primary and secondary) and analyze the viability of the author’s approach to the given topic
4. Engagement with writing projects designed to help students work on a concise writing style, which emphasizes brevity and clarity.

REQUIRED READINGS

Books
• Men and Masculinities in Modern Africa, edited by Lisa Lindsey, et al (Heinemann, 203)
• Nervous Conditions, Tsitsi Dangarembga

ASSIGNMENTS
Mid-semester take-home exam: 15%
Final Take-home Exam: 25%
Reading Reviews (4): 40%
Class Participation: 20%
TAKE-HOME EXAM GUIDELINES

Details of the exam will be handed out in class
Take-home exams must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, 1” margins and blank ink. **Tests outside of these parameters will be returned ungraded.** There is a strict 3 page limit per question – I will only read three pages for each question, no exceptions. Late tests will NOT be accepted. I will give out a set of questions five days before the test is due, students will choose which of the questions they will answer and will turn in the test by the due date at 5pm.

**Mid-Semester Take-Home Exam: 15%**
Students will receive four questions and will answer two

**Final Take-Home Exam: 25%**
Students will receive four questions and will answer two. The final exam WILL be comprehensive.

**READING REVIEWS: 10% EACH (TOTAL OF 40%)**
These 2-3 page papers should review the main arguments/issues of the readings for the week. They should explore how the authors agree or disagree on different points and how the authors deploy various forms of evidence. The papers should also critique the arguments presented – with an awareness of when the articles/chapters were written and for what audience. **These reviews are due the week that we discuss the readings.** Each student can choose which four weeks they wish to write reviews.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION: 20%**
This grade will be based on participation in discussions of the readings assigned for the week. Students will be expected to bring questions and thoughts about the readings assigned for the week to class. Occasionally we will have in-class writing assignments on the readings as a means to fuel our discussions. Each student will be assigned a week when they are responsible for sending out discussion questions for the entire class. You cannot earn the participation grade simply by attending class – you must be an active member of the classroom.

**POLICY ON LATE WORK AND ATTENDANCE**
Assignments turned in late will be docked one grade for each date late – thus if you turn in your paper one day late and earn a “B” grade, you will receive a “C” for the paper.

Attendance is not optional. If you have more than two unexcused absences you will be docked half a letter grade for each subsequent absence. Additionally, if you arrive to class 5 minutes late or more, you will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted as an unexcused absence.

**PLAGIARISM**
Loyola University takes plagiarism very seriously. Any examples of plagiarism or academic dishonesty are automatically presented to the Dean of the College of
Humanities and Natural Sciences for disciplinary. If you can google it – so can I.
Don’t waste our time.

**Definition of Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Submitting papers not written by the student is only the most blatant form of plagiarism. Plagiarism also includes, but is not limited to: copying another student’s work in exams, papers, or other exercises, inappropriate collaboration with another student; and verbatim copying, close paraphrasing, pasting in, or recombining published materials, including materials from the internet without appropriate citation.

**A Note on Grades:**
A grade is not a gauge of your intelligence but rather an evaluation of your work in the course. The scale for work in this course is standard for other courses at a university, this means that the baseline for average work will earn a “C”. Grades will follow: A = excellent work; B = good work; C = average work; D = below average work; F = failing work.

**Etiquette:**
TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES. Do not answer a cell phone in class or text from your phone during class. There will be a penalty for this behavior. I also ask that you refrain from conversations with neighbors during class.

**Disability Accomodation:**
If you have a disability and wish to receive accommodations, please contact Sarah Mead Smith, Director of Disability Services at 504- 855-2990. If you wish to receive test accommodations (e.g., extended test time), you will need to give the course instructor an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services is located in Monroe Hall 405.

**Emergency Policy:**
In the event that there is an interruption to our course due to the cancellation of classes by the university as a result of an emergency, we will continue our course on Blackboard within 48 hours after cancellation. All students are required to sign on to Blackboard and to keep up with course assignments within 48 hours of evacuation and routinely check for announcements and course materials associated with each class. Class handouts will be posted under “course materials”.

Students should be familiar with their responsibilities during emergencies, including pre-evacuation and post-evacuation for hurricanes. This information is available on the Academic Affairs web site:

http://academicaffairs.loyno.edu/students-emergency-responsibilities
## CLASS SCHEDULE

| Week One: 1/10-14 | Introduction of gender and sexuality in Africa  
|                  | • Chandra Mohanty, “Under Western Eyes” |
| Week Two: 1/17-21 | Gender and Sexuality in the “Contact Era”     
|                  | • No Class Monday (1/17): MLK Day        
|                  | • Thornton, “Legitimacy and Political Power: Queen Njinga, 1624-1663” (BB)  
|                  | • Hungochani, Chapter One                |
| Week Three: 1/24-28 | Gender and Sexuality in a pre-Colonial Society  
|                  | • Male Daughters, Female Husbands, Chapter One through Six |
| Week Four: 1/31-2/4 | Bridging the pre-Colonial and Colonial Words  
|                  | • Bradford, “Women, Gender and Colonialism: Rethinking the History of the British Cape Colony” (BB)  
|                  | • Scully, “Narratives of Infanticide in the Aftermath of Slave Emancipation in the 19th century Cape Colony” (BB) |
| Week Five: 2/7-11 | Sexuality in Colonial Cities       
|                  | • Comforts of Home (TBA)              |
| Week Six: 2/14-18 | Sexuality in Colonial Cities        
|                  | • McCurdy, “Urban Threats” in *Wicked Women*  
|                  | • Hungochani, Chapters Two and Three   |
|                  | **Midterm Questions Distributed In Class on Friday, February 18th** |
| Week Seven: 2/21-25 | Masculinity and Generational Conflict in Colonial Africa  
|                  | • Male Daughters, Female Husbands, Chapter Seven  
|                  | • Mann, “Old Soldiers, Young Men,” in *Men and Masculinities*  
|                  | • McKittrick, “Forsaking their Fathers,” in *Men and Masculinities* |
|                  | **Take-Home Mid-Term Exam is Due by 5pm on Wednesday, February 23** |
| Week Eight: 2/28-3/4 | Contesting Colonial Patriarchy?  
|                  | • Male Daughters, Female Husbands, Chapter Eight  
<p>|                  | • Bastian, ”Dancing Women and Colonial Men” in <em>Wicked Women</em> |
| Week Nine: 3/7-11 | NO CLASS – MARDI GRAS               |</p>
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| Week Ten     | 3/14-18     | The “Problem of Homosexuality” in Colonial and post-Colonial Southern Africa | • *Hungochani*, Chapters Five through Eight  
• Possible Film: “Fathers” |
• Hodgson, “My daughter belong to the government now” in *Wicked Women*  
• *Nervous Conditions* |
| Week Twelve  | 3/28-4/1    | Female Circumcision or Female Genital Mutilation: Exploring Cultural Relativism | • Robertson, “Women, Genital Mutilation, and Collective Action” (BB)  
• Thomas, “I Will Circumcise Myself” (BB) |
• Reading (TBA) on Female Combatants in Sierra Leone |
| Week Fourteen| 4/11-15     | Gendering War and Violence                                            | • Excerpts from Maalki, *Purity and Exile* (BB)  
• Excerpts for the ICTR judgement against Akayesu |
| Week Fifteen | 4/18-22     | NO CLASS – SPRING /EASTER BREAK                                       |                                                                        |
| Week Sixteen | 4/25-29     | NO CLASS – MONDAY, APRIL 25 HIV/AIDS and Sexuality                    | • Posel, “Sex, Death and the Fate of the Nation” (BB)  
• Upton, “Women have no Tribe” (BB) |
| Week Seventeen| 5/2-6       | Class Wrap-Up                                                         |                                                                        |
| Week Eighteen| 5/9         | Final Take-Home Exam Questions Distributed in class on Wednesday, May 4th |                                                                        |
|              |             | Final Take-Home Exam Due by 5pm on Monday, May 9th                    |                                                                        |