Syllabus - ANG2461
Sexuality and Representation

Professor Caroline Brown
Autumn 2017
Course Meeting Times: Friday, 1-4pm
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Course Description
What is sex? What is gender? How do they inform sexuality? How do men and women talk
about/experience sex and sexuality? What do they say? Are their actual corporeal or psychological
experiences distinctive? What happens if an individual doesn’t fit into an assigned gender category? Or self-
identifies outside of a heteronormative sexual orientation—or a clearly defined gay or lesbian identity? In
fact, what is now the “normal”? In “Sexuality and Representation” (ANG2461), we will examine how writers
use the page or screen to engage these and many other fraught issues. Through fiction, memoir/biography,
journalism, scholarship, and film, we will explore the role of the sociocultural in the development of
individual and sexual identity. Concurrently, we will investigate how individual sexual identities influence
larger social systems and the revision of sexual/gender categories. By creating a trajectory—from the
historical revision of the archive to the surrealism of science fiction/fantasy—this course will interrogate the
impact of sex and sexuality, personal affiliation and social contestation, desire and the taboo in the
construction of human identity.

Required Texts (Available at UdeM Bookstore)

| James Baldwin | Giovanni’s Room |
| John Colapinto | As Nature Made Him |
| Arundhati Roy | The God of Small Things |
| Colm Tóibín | The Master |
| Kathleen Winter | Annabel |

Course Objectives

1. To allow students to explore concepts related to sex, gender, and sexuality as manifested in
individual identity and social formation. This will be accomplished by focusing on the intersection
of psychological, sociocultural, and biological principles in a cross-section of works, including
fiction, memoir/biography, journalism, scholarship, and film.
2. To enable students to recognize various literary genres and devices, including plot and character
development, language, dialogue, and symbolism, and how they affect the text as a work of art.
3. To help students improve their writing skills through textual analysis.
4. To permit course participants to present and examine their ideas in a public forum, thereby
exchanging ideas and improving public speaking skills.

Course Mechanics

• Class participation is a must. It improves the quality of discussion (and is graded for both content and
frequency).
• All essays must be typed. Each should be double-spaced and have a one-inch margin. Please use a standard font. Remember to title your essays and include page numbers. Staple all pages together.
• Plagiarism, the uncredited use of another’s words, research, and thoughts, is forbidden. It will not be tolerated. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with the policies of the FAS: www.fas.umontreal.ca/plagiat. Please document your sources appropriately.
• You are responsible for collecting any materials or assignments handed out during an absence.

Course Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Reflection Papers</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper #1 (4-5 pages), Due: 11/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper #2 (4-6 pages), Due: 12/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (9/8)
Introductions

Rereading the Archive: Revising Narratives of Sexuality and Desire
WEEK 2 (9/15)
History and Theory
*Michel Foucault, “The History of Sexuality,” Power/Knowledge (excerpt)
-----, “The Confession of the Flesh,” Power/Knowledge (excerpt)
-----, “The Perverse Implantation,” The History of Sexuality (excerpt)
*Leila Rupp, “Global History of Same-Sex Sexuality”
*Richard Krafft-Ebing, Psychopathia Sexualis”

Sex and Gender as Cultural Taboo
WEEK 3 (9/22)
Arundhati Roy, The God of Small Things (ch 1-9)

WEEK 4 (9/29)
Arundhati Roy, The God of Small Things (ch 10-21)
Rereading the Archive: Revising Narratives of Sexuality and Desire

WEEK 5 (10/6)
Colm Tóibín, *The Master* (ch 1-7)

WEEK 6 (10/13)
Colm Tóibín, *The Master* (ch 8-11)

WEEK 7 (10/20)
James Baldwin, *Giovanni’s Room*

WEEK 8 (10/27) Reading Week

Blurring the Boundaries: What is Sex? What is Gender?

WEEK 9 (11/3): (Due: Paper #1)
John Colapinto, *As Nature Made Him*

WEEK 10 (11/10)
Film: *Boys Don’t Cry*

*Judith Halberstam, “An Introduction to Female Masculinity” (from *Female Masculinities*)

WEEK 11 (11/17)
Kathleen Winter, *Annabel* (Parts 1-3)

WEEK 12 (11/24)
Kathleen Winter, *Annabel* (Part 4)

*Elizabeth Weil, “What If It’s (Sort of) a Boy and (Sort of) a Girl? *NY Times* (9/24/2006)
*Anne Fausto-Sterling, *Sexing the Body* (excerpts)

Science Fiction: Fantastic Desires and the Deconstruction of Sex and Gender

WEEK 13 (12/1)
Film: *Splice* (Vincenzo Natali)

WEEK 14 (12/8)
Discuss *Splice* and “Bloodchild” (Octavia Butler)

WEEK 15 (12/15) (Due: Paper #2)
In-Class Final Exam