

# ANTH3360/ANTH5360 Anthropology of the Body, Love and Emotions

Fall 2019

WEDNESDAY 12:30-2:15PM

MMW 710

Professor Sealing Cheng  
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This course seeks to denaturalise notions of love, body, and emotions by exploring their historical and cross-cultural diversity. Students will examine systems of meanings and practices that evolved around notions of love, body, and emotions across time and place, and their political significance. In particular, the cross-cultural perspective will demonstrate the intimate associations of these 'private emotions and desires' with social structures such as gender, class, ethnicity, and religion. It examines both the reproductive role of ideologies about love and intimacy in different societies, as well as their transformative potential.

The questions that will be raised in class include: Do bodily and emotional experiences of intimacy differ across cultures? What shape the economic and social formations of intimate relationships such as love and friendship? What does it mean to say that romantic love is an ideology? What have our desires got to do with social order? Why are some emotions and desires taboo? Is our body a product of nature or culture?

## Learning Outcomes:

1. to understand and critically engage with concepts of love, body, and emotions;
2. to comprehend historical and cross-cultural differences of love as an emotion and a social and cultural practice;
3. to interrogate the social and cultural construction of the most "private" of their lives, and come to see its "public" and historical significance;
4. to analyze the ways current discourses of love, body, and emotions are specific to our current historical moment.

## Assessment:

### 1. Tutorial Participation (20%)

Prompt attendance at each tutorial meeting, informed participation, and completion of all assigned readings. Every student is expected to be an active member in class and in contributing to a meaningful learning experience. Listening carefully to others, raising relevant questions, posing alternative interpretations, bringing in outside material to enrich class discussion via conference or other means are just some of the way to do so. How ready and conscientious you are in class will directly affect how much the whole class could gain from the course.

### 2. Tutorial Facilitation (10%)

9 tutorials will be open to class facilitation by a group of students. Sign up for the topic you are interested in at the 2nd tutorial (Week of Sep 18).

DO NOT summarise the readings for the class – everyone should have done the reading already. Your job is to raise critical questions and lead the class to discuss particular issues that your group finds important. Feel free to bring in outside material – news story, case studies, film clips – and use a variety of formats – role play, debate, games etc - to help your fellow students learn. As facilitators, it is important for you to think through these exercises carefully before coming to class, planning it step by step with clear instructions. You have 20 minutes for class facilitation.

### 3. "Romantic Love": A Lover's Ethnography (30%)

Write an ethnography of some romantic ritual you can observe around you on or off campus – of people around you, e.g. friends/families or yourself.

If you really cannot find ANY romantic experiences that you/your friends/families are going through, then you could write about something you observe in the media.

**Use the readings in the course** to help you analyze their ideas and expressions of romantic love.

1,500 (+/- 300) words. Date of Submission: **Oct 23**.

#### 4. Final Paper or Project (40%)

The grade will be based not only on the final paper/presentation, but your submission at different stages (proposal/Part I of Individual paper).

*Option 1:* Individual paper (10-page). NOTE SUBMISSION IN 2 PARTS

Choose ONE piece of writing/film/music/art work etc. or an experience that best captures your ideals about love/intimacy. Write as detailed as you can about why it is so appealing and your beliefs about love/intimacy. This is an opportunity for you to reflect on your own ideas and what you value about love/intimacy.

Date of Submission: **Sep 25**.

Using the analytical tools you acquire and the critical distance you have gained throughout the course from your own ideals of romance and/or intimacy, write an analysis of your own ideas about love. Submit by **Dec 11**.

*Option 2:* Group project. You will form groups of 3 to 5 to formulate a research project on a subject of your choice. You are expected to use analytical tools and concepts you learn in the course when conducting this project.

Meet with your instructor on or before **Oct 16**. Submit a written proposal (2 pages) on or before **Oct 30**.

The proposal should include the following sections: Objective, Research Questions, Methods, Relevant Literature, and an Interview Outline.

Presentation of your research takes place on the last class **Nov 27**.

Submit a summary of your research findings and analysis (10 to 12-page) on **Dec 11**.

**\*\*\*Alternative arrangements for assessment could be arranged if you decide to go on strike. It may take the form of an oral exam. Please contact Sealing by email or in person.**

#### 5. EXTRA CREDIT

You get extra credit of up to half-a-letter-grade when you attend specific events and write a 500 – 1000 word reaction. Events will be announced on Blackboard as “Extra Credit Event” and in class. Send written piece to [sealing@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:sealing@cuhk.edu.hk) with EXTRA CREDIT in subject line.

**\*\* Readings with double asterisk are optional for undergraduates and required for MA students.**

Sep 4	Lecture 1	Introduction: “Heteronormativity”
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Kramer, Lawrence. 1997. “Ruling Bodies” in *After the Lovedeath: Sexual Violence and the Making of Culture*, pp. 177-179. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Sep 11	Lecture 2	Bodies and Genders
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Kam, Yip Lo Lucetta. 2008. “Recognition Through Mis-recognition: Masculine Women in Hong Kong.” In Fran Martin, Peter Jackson, Mark McLelland and Audrey Yue, eds., *AsiaPacifiQueer: Rethinking Genders and Sexualities*. University of Illinois Press: Urbana and Chicago.

Nanda, Serena. 2005. “Hijra and Sadhin: Neither Man nor Woman in India.” In *Gender Diversity: Cross-cultural Variations*, pp. 27-42. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Karkazis, Katrina and Georgiann Davis. 2015. “Intersex: socio-cultural perspectives.” In Patricia Whelehan & Anne Bolin (eds) *The International Encyclopedia of Human Sexuality*. John Wiley & Sons.

\*\*Weiss, Margot. 2016. "Always After: Desiring Queerness, Desiring Anthropology." *Cultural Anthropology* 31 (4). <https://culanth.org/articles/858-always-after-desiring-queerness-desiring>

<b>Sep 18</b>	<b>Lecture 3</b>	<b>Intimacy and Modernity</b>
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*In class Screening: Tisese: A Documentary on Three Mosuo Women (2001) Directed by Chou Wab-san. (clips)*

Hawkes, Gail. 2004. Pleasure and Desire in the Age of Modernity. In *Sex & Pleasure in Western Culture*. London: Polity Press, 107-143.

Yuan, Lu and Sam Mitchell. 2000. "Land Of The Walking Marriage - Mosuo people of China." *Natural History*, Nov. 2000.

<b>Sep 25</b>	<b>Lecture 4</b>	<b>Sex Hierarchy</b>
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*In-class exercise: Sex Hierarchy*

Rubin, Gayle S. 1992 (1984). Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality. In *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality*. Edited by C. S. Vance. London: Pandora, pp.267-319.

<b>Oct 2</b>	<b>Lecture 5</b>	<b>Making 'Love' and Modernity</b>
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Illouz, Eva. 1997. Constructing the romantic utopia. In *Consuming the romantic utopia: Love and the cultural contradictions of capitalism*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 25-47.

Ahearn, Laura M. 2002. True Traces: Love Letters and Social Transformation in Nepal. In *Letter Writing as a Social Practice*. Edited by D. Barton and N. Hall, pp. 199-207. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

\*\*Abu-Lughod, Lila, and Catherine Lutz. 1990. Shifting Politics in Bedouin Love Poetry. In *Language and the Politics of Emotion*. Cambridge: Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and University of Cambridge Press, pp. 24-45.

<b>Oct 9</b>	<b>Lecture 6</b>	<b>Courtship</b>
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Yan, Yunxiang. 2002. "Courtship, Love and Premarital Sex in a North China Village." *The China Journal* 48:29-53.

Schalet, A. 2000. "Raging Hormones, Regulated Love: Adolescent Sexuality and the Constitution of the Modern Individual in the United States and the Netherlands." *Body and Society* 6, 75-105.

\*\*Kendall, Laurel. 1996. Transformations: The Construction of Courtship in Twentieth-century Korea. In *Getting Married in Korea*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, pp.85-119.

<b>Oct 16</b>	<b>Lecture 7</b>	<b>Friendship</b>
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Carrier, James. 1999. People Who Can Be Friends: Selves and Social Relationships. In *The Anthropology of Friendship*. Edited by S. Bell and S. Coleman. Oxford: Berg.

Herzog, Hal. 2010. "Pet-o-philía : why do humans (and only humans) love pets?" in *Some we Love, Some we Hate, Some we Eat*, pp. 67-95. New York: Harper.

Deresiewicz, William. 2009. Faux Friendship. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Dec 9, 2009. <http://chronicle.com/article/Faux-Friendship/49308/>

\*\*Smith-Rosenberg, Carroll. 1985. The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations Between Women in Nineteenth-Century America. In *Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America*, pp. 53-76. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

<b>Oct 23</b>	<b>Lecture 8</b>	<b>Sexual Violence</b>
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Day, Sophie. "What Counts as Rape? Physical Assault and Broken Contracts: Contrasting Views of Rape among London Sex Workers." In Penelope Harvey & Peter Gow (eds) *Sex and Violence: Issues in Representation and Experience*, pp. 172-189. London: Routledge.

Humphries, Martin. "A gay man's reflections on the men's movement." In David Porter (ed.) *Between Men and Feminism*, pp. 140-160. London: Routledge.

\*\*Kulick, Don. 2009. "No." in Jennifer Robertson (ed) *Same-sex Cultures and Sexualities*, pp. 60-71. Oxford: Blackwell.

<b>Oct 30</b>	<b>Lecture 9</b>	<b>Interracial Intimacy</b>
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Heng, Geraldine, and Janadas Devan. 1992. State Fatherhood: The Politics of Nationalism, Sexuality and Race in Singapore. In *Nationalisms and Sexualities*. Edited by A. E. A. Parker, pp. 343-364. New York: Routledge.

Constable, Nicole. 2003. "Fairy Tales, Family Values, and the Global Politics of Romance," in *Romance on a Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and 'Mail Order' Marriages*, pp. 91-115. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Marsh, Jenni. 2014. "Til Death do us Part?": Afro-Chinese Marriages Boom in Guangzhou. SCMP Post Magazine, June 1, 2014. Available at <http://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/article/1521076/afro-chinese-marriages-boom-guangzhou-will-it-be-til-death?page=all>

<b>Nov 6</b>	<b>Lecture 10</b>	<b>Pornography and Desires</b>
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Snitow, Ann. 1983. "Mass Market Romance: Pornography for Women is Different." In *Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality*, pp. 245-263. Edited by Ann Snitow, Chritine Stansell and Sharon Thompson. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Kaye, Kerwin. 2002. Infernal Dreams. In *Male Lust*, pp. 205-212. New York: Harrington Park Press.

\*\*Vance, Carole. "Negotiating Sex and Gender in the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography." In *The Gender/sexuality Reader: culture, history, political economy*, pp. 440-453. Edited by Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo. London: Routledge.

<b>Nov 13</b>	<b>Lecture 11</b>	<b>Bodies, Sex, and Orgasm</b>
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McPhillips, Kathryn, Virginia Braun, and Nicola Gavey. 2001. "Defining (Hetero)sex: How Imperative is the 'Coital Imperative?'" *Women's Studies International Forum* 24:229-240.

Braun, Virginia, Nicola Gavey, and Kathryn McPhillips. 2003. "The 'Fair Deal?': Unpacking Accounts of Reciprocity in Heterosex." *Sexualities* 6:237-261.

\*\* Ho, Petula Sik Ying et al. 2005. "The Real Deal or No Big Deal – Chinese Women in Hong Kong and the Orgasmic Experience." *Issues in Contemporary Culture and Aesthetics* 1:177-187.

\*\*Potts, Annie. 2000. "The Essence of the Hard On." *Men and Masculinities* 3(1):85-103

<b>Nov 20</b>	<b>Lecture 12</b>	<b>Disability/Virtuality</b>
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Guest Speaker: TBA

*In Class Screening: Guys and Dolls (BBC Real Doll Documentary)*

Boellstorff, Tom. 2008. Intimacy: Language-Friendship-Sexuality-Love-Family-Addiction. In *Coming of Age in Second Life: An Anthropologist Explores the Virtually Human*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Kulick, Don & Jens Rydström. 2015. "How to Impede and How to Facilitate the Erotic Lives of People with Disabilities." In Kulick, Don & Jens Rydström, *Loneliness and its Opposite*, pp. 78-118.

<b>Nov 27</b>	<b>Lecture 13</b>	<b>Project Presentations and Review</b>
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Grade descriptors are as follows for the assessment of this course:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Overall course</b>
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
B	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
C	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.