Readings may be changed or added. I will let you know through Blackboard.

“Savage Sexualities” in Modernity: Settler Colonialism, Heteropatriarchy, and Queer Indigenous Theory

ES 510
Winter 2013
TR: 12-1:20PM
CRN: 26936
16 Pacific Hall

Dr. Chris Finley
caf@uoregon.edu
818 E. 15th Ave Alder Building
Room 205
Office hours: T: 10-11:30am and R: 2-3:30pm

Purpose Of This Course
This class critically analyzes how discourses of sexualities discursively makes Native political organizing or resistance in the present impotent because Native peoples are constructed as dead and dying in the past and therefore cannot exist in the present or the future. This temporal and spacial racialization of Native peoples places them in what Anne McClintock calls “anachronistic space.” We will see how sexuality plays a key role in narratives of conquest and the alibi of the U.S. settler state. Yes, Natives are sexy but this class will look at how the biopolitical structuring of the “non-normative” sexualities of Native peoples erases Indigenous peoples through the failure of Native peoples ability to be “normal” enough to enter into white heteropatriarchal settler state, which justifies the genocide of Native peoples and the expansion of settler colonialism. I contend that all Native peoples have been “queered” through colonial logics of sexuality by making Natives appear sexually aberrant from white settlers and therefore in need of paternalistic care by heteropatriarchy. This move to queer Native Americans performs several important functions to maintain settler colonialism: Natives as queered non-citizens that are unable to manage their land and resources so Native peoples fall under the management of white heteropatriarchy. I critique how dominant U.S. popular culture sexualizes Native bodies as culturally and, therefore, racially unable to conform to white heteroreproductive norms.

Many Native peoples respond to these biopolitical discourses by desexualizing our communities and conforming to heteronormativity in an attempt to avoid the violence of settler-colonialism. This response has meant the exilusion of queer Native peoples and has not allowed either Native peoples or Native studies to take sexuality seriously as an analytic of study. We will interrogate these heteronormativity in Native America, the U.S. settler state, and provide sex-positive alternatives for Native nation building as an important means of decolonizing Native America.
Grading
Final project: 90%  Conferences: 10%

Final Projects: My belief is that graduate seminars should be used as a productive space to make progress on your dissertation as well as a space to expand your knowledge of the seminar topic. With this in mind, I do not require busy work for you in this course. Instead, I would like you to use the readings you find helpful to further your work on your dissertation project. For your final project, you will need to demonstrate extensive use of at least three sources (and less extensively three or more other sources) from this course in a draft of dissertation chapter, prospectus, exam preparation, etc.

Conferences: In order to complete your final project, you will need to meet with me at least twice during the quarter to come up with a reasonable timeline to finish your final project by the end of the term.

Texts that you will have to purchase or get your hands on for the course:
Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness
Michel Foucault’s History of Sexuality Vol. I
Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two-Spirit Literature
Queer Indigenous Studies: Interventions in Theory, Politics and Literature
Daniel Heath Justice’s Kynship: The Way of Thorn and Thunder Book One
Scott Lauria Morgensen’s Spaces Between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Decolonization
Mark Rifkin’s Erotics of Sovereignty: Queer Native Writing in the Era of Self-Determination
Craig Womack’s Drowning in Fire

All other readings for the course will be available on Blackboard.

Week 1
January 8: Introductions Andrea Smith’s “Heteropatriarchy and the Three Pillars of White Supremacy”
January 10: Michel Foucault’s History of Sexuality
Anne McClintock’s “Lay of the Land: Genealogies of Imperialism” in Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest
Selections from Paula Gunn Allen’s *The Sacred Hoop* (510)

**Week 2**
January 15: Qwo-Li Driskill, Chris Finley, Brian Joseph Gilley, and Scott Lauria Morgensen’s *Queer Indigenous Studies: Interventions in Theory, Politics, and Literature*

January 17: Continue to discuss Qwo-Li Driskill, Chris Finley, Brian Joseph Gilley, and Scott Lauria Morgensen’s *Queer Indigenous Studies: Interventions in Theory, Politics, and Literature*

**Week 3**
January 22: Daniel Heath Justice’s *Kynship: The Way of Thorn and Thunder Book One*

January 24: Continue Daniel Heath Justice’s *Kynship: The Way of Thorn and Thunder Book One*

**Week 4**
January 29: Make-up day

January 31: Selections from Jessica Yee’s corpus, Native Youth Sexual Health Network, and National Native Youth HIV and AIDS.

**Week 5**
February 5: Scott Lauria Morgensen’s *Spaces Between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Decolonization*

February 7: Continue with Scott Lauria Morgensen’s *Spaces Between Us: Queer Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Decolonization*

**Week 6**
February 12: M. Jacqui Alexander’s “Imperial Desire/Sexual Utopias: White Gay Capital and Transnational Tourism” in *Talking Visions: Multicultural Feminism in a Transnational Age*

Teresia Teaiwa “Bikinis And Other S/Pacific N/Oceans”

Haunani-Kay Trask’s “Lovely Hula Hands:’ Corporate Tourism and the Prostitution of Hawaiian Culture”

February 14: Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*

**Week 7**
February 19: Mark Rifkin’s *Erotics of Sovereignty: Queer Native Writing in the Era of Self-Determination*
February 21: Continue with Mark Rifkin’s *Erotics of Sovereignty: Queer Native Writing in the Era of Self-Determination*

**Week 8**
February 26: Sander L. Gilman’s “The Hottentot and the Prostitute: Toward an Iconography of Female Sexuality” in *Difference and Pathology: Stereotypes of Sexuality, Race, and Madness*

Ann Stoler’s “Epilogue” in *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault’s History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things*

February 28: Rayna Green’s “The Pocahontas Perplex”

Read Jennifer Nez Denetdale’s “Chairmen, Presidents, and Princesses: The Navajo Nation, Gender, and the Politics of Tradition”

**Week 9**
March 5: Craig Womack’s *Drowning in Fire*

March 7: Continue Craig Womack’s *Drowning in Fire*

**Week 10**
March 12: *Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two-Spirit Literature*

March 14: Continue *Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two-Spirit Literature*

**Final project due March 19 at 8am**