

PLEASURE ACTIVISM

GNDR_ST 382/ASIAN_AM 360



While critique is a necessary component of knowledge production about racialized sexualities, how do we also produce, refine, and celebrate joy and pleasure? “Sexuality”—as potential, productive, perverse, political, and pleasurable— is taken up in this course as a profoundly dynamic node of power and knowledge. “Pleasure Activisms” explores how sexuality, race, gender, class, disability, and citizenship function as mutually imbricated vectors across multiple sites such as the media, the family, the school, the government, the clinic, the nightclub, and “the everyday.” This interdisciplinary course interrogates “Pleasure Activisms” as an analytic in history, performance, public health, film, sociology, anthropology, literature, and art to discuss diaspora and migration, activism and HIV/AIDS, intimacy and pornography, and gender and labor. Following the work of queer and feminist scholars of racialized sexualities who move beyond the false binaries of “good and bad” or “right and wrong,” this course asks, “What are the possibilities and potentialities of Asian American sexualities? How do Asian American sexualities inform our thinking about how we understand, relate to, and imagine the world and what we want it to be?” Please be aware some texts and media might be too explicitly violent, graphic, or sexual for some students. Such films and readings are used to demonstrate the power and diversity of representations and expressions of Asian American pleasure activism.

Raymond Sandiego

T/Th 12:30-1:50pm
University Hall 122