

ANTH 21525/32220

**Love, Capital and Conjuality: Comparative Perspectives from Africa and India**

**Jennifer Cole and Rochona Majumdar**

Time: Tuesdays 3:00-5:50

Spring 2010

Cobb 107

Office hours:

TBA

Are love and money necessarily opposed? Is arranged marriage primitive? Many would argue yes. It is widely accepted that in modern societies romantic love, the couple and the nuclear family are the 'correct' ways to organize intimate life. But, like many other normative ideas, these too were the product of particular historical developments in post-enlightenment Europe. A look at societies in other parts of the world demonstrates all too often that modernity in the realm of love, intimacy and family had a different trajectory from the European one. To characterize marriage, love, and familial relationships as backward or retrograde on grounds of their difference with (normative) models prevalent in the west results in a fundamental misunderstanding of the variety of different ways that societies have forged intimate relations. This course surveys ideas and practices surrounding love, marriage, and capital in the modern world with a particular focus on comparison between Africa and India. The first half of the class concentrates on key theoretical texts that lay the foundation for the study of gender, intimacy and modern life. The latter part of the class examines case studies from Africa and India. Using a range of readings the course will explore such questions as the emergence of companionate marriage in Europe; arranged marriage, dowry, love and money.

Books to buy:

Ruby Lal, *Domesticity and Power in the Early Mughal World*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Rochona Majumdar, *Marriage and Modernity: Family Values in Colonial Bengal*. Duke University Press, 2009.

Jennifer Cole and Lynn Thomas. *Love in Africa*. University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Michel Foucault. *History of Sexuality*. Vol. 1.

**Course Requirements:** Your grade is divided between course participation (20 percent), and two papers each worth 80 percent. For presentations, we request that students get together and work in groups to come up with questions that are suitable for discussion. Presentations should NOT summarize the work which we will have of course already read. Rather they should provide selected quotes and questions to spark discussion. In

terms of writing, we require all people taking the course for a grade to write two 5-7 page papers. The first paper is due the Friday of week 5. The second paper is due the Friday of week 10. Topics are to be decided in consultation with the instructors. All papers should be double spaced, 12 point font, with page numbers.

#### Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Week 1) Tuesday March 30<sup>th</sup>

Introduction to the Class: The Philosophy of Right

Week 2) April 6 The Sexual Contract

Readings: Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (page 17-51); Carol Pateman, *The Disorder of Women: Democracy, Feminism and Political Theory* (pages 17-57).

Week 3) April 13<sup>th</sup>

Readings: Frederick Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* (pages 55-113); Zelizer, Viviana. Chapter 1: Encounters of Intimacy and Economy, Chapter 2 Intimacy in Law and Chapter 3 “Coupling” (pages 7-157) in *The Purchase of Intimacy*. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2005. Cole, Jennifer. Chapter 4 in *Love in Africa* volume: “Love, Money and Economies of Intimacy in Tamatave, Madagascar.”

Week 4) April 20<sup>th</sup>

Readings: Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*.

Week 5) April 27<sup>th</sup>

Readings: Stoler, Ann Laura. From Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power, “Gender and Morality in the Making of Race” (page 41-78); from *Race and the Education of Desire*, Chapter 5 “Domestic Subversions and Children’s Sexuality” and Chapter 6, “The Education of Desire and the Repressive Hypothesis” (pages 137-165).

Beth Povinelli, Notes on Gridlock: Genealogy, Intimacy, Sexuality. *Public Culture* 14(1): 215-238.

PAPERS ARE DUE ON FRIDAY APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>. PLEASE HAND ALL PAPERS IN TO PROFESSOR COLE’S BOX IN THE COMPARATIVE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT BUILDING AT 5730 SOUTH WOODLAWN

Week 6) May 4

Ruby Lala, *Domesticity and Power in the Early Mughal World*.

Week 7) May 11<sup>th</sup>

Readings: Rochona Majumdar, *Marriage and Modernity: Family Values in Colonial Bengal*.

Week 8) May 18<sup>th</sup>

Readings: Hunter, Mark. *Love in the Time of AIDS: Inequality, Gender, and Rights in South Africa*.

Week 9) May 25<sup>th</sup>

Readings: Parikh, Shanti. Manuscript on youth romance in Uganda.

Week 10) June 1<sup>st</sup>. Readings: Brian Larkin, 2002. Indian Films and Nigerian Lovers: Media and the Creation of Parallel Modernities. In, *The Anthropology of Globalization. A Reader*. Jonathan Xavier Inda and Renato Rosaldo eds. Oxford: Blackwell Books.; Laura Fair's essay in *Love in Africa*; Adeline Masquelier's essay in *Love in Africa*; M. Madhava Prasad, Guardians of the View: The Prohibition of the Private, pages 88-113. in "Ideology of the Hindi Film: A Historical Reconstruction"

ALL FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 5 PM PLEASE HAND ALL PAPERS IN TO PROFESSOR COLE'S BOX AT 5730 SOUTH WOODLAWN.