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### LS 495.01: Same-Sex Love in Indian and English Literatures

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Spring 2001

## Same-Sex Love in Indian and English Literatures

LS 495 ENLT 495 WS 494

Dr. Ruth Vanita

Wednesday 3-6 p.m.

Office: LA 146A Tel. 243-4894 Email: rvanita@selway.umt.edu  
Office Hours : TR 11 a.m. to 12 noon, and by appointment.

This course will compare representations of same-sex desire in a selection of Indian and European literary texts, from the fifth century BC onwards.

### Texts

1. Sappho, The Poems
2. Plato, Symposium and Phaedrus
3. Columbia Anthology of Gay Literature ed. Byrne R. S. Fone
4. Chloe plus Olivia: An Anthology of Lesbian Literature from the Seventeenth Century to the Present ed. Lillian Faderman
5. Same-Sex Love in India: Readings from Literature and History ed. Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai

### Requirements

Students are required to

- (a) attend class regularly. Please inform me in advance if you are unable to attend a class. More than one unexplained absence will affect your grade;
- (b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and actively participate in discussion;
- (c) make a five to ten-minute class presentation on one or two texts, raising questions for discussion. The presentation may become the basis for one of the papers;
- (d) write a short paper on any one text (4-5 pages double-spaced typed);
- (e) hand in a written abstract of the final paper, with bibliography, and discuss it with me during office hours;
- (f) write a long paper (8-10 pages double-spaced typed).
- (g) Topics for presentations and papers must be decided in individual consultation with me.
- (h) Graduate students must write longer papers – 8-10 and 12-15 pages respectively, and must demonstrate more background reading.

## Grades

The short paper will be worth 30%, the long paper 30%, class attendance and participation 25% and the presentation 15%. Handing in papers late without satisfactory explanation will result in a diminished grade.

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class.

## Reading Schedule

**This schedule is tentative. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with any changes.**

January 31 Introduction; reading and discussion of some fables and poems by Katherine Mansfield and Suniti Namjoshi.

February 7 Sappho's Poems; "Sikhandin's Sex Change," "Somadeva Bhatta's Kathasaritsagara," "Introduction: Ancient Indian Materials" (Vanita-Kidwai).

February 14 Plato, The Symposium; Phaedrus pp. 65-70 (But of beauty, I repeat...leave you a fool in the world below"); extract from the Kamasutra (photocopied).

February 21 Martha Nussbaum, "Steerforth's Arm: Love and the Moral Point of View" (photocopy); "Musa Paidika" pp.37-45, Virgil pp.66-68, Ovid pp. 68-70, Petronius, Martial and Juvenal pp.70-88, Petronius (Fone); "Padma Purana," "Introduction: Medieval Materials in the Perso-Urdu Tradition," Ziauddin Barani, Amir Khusro, "Haqiqat-al-Fuqara" (Vanita-Kidwai).

February 28 "Inventing Sodom" pp.95-102, "Romantic Friendship" pp. 103-111, "Amis and Amile" pp.122-24; Michelangelo pp.143-47 (Fone); Anonymous Latin poems (photocopied); "Introduction: Medieval Materials in the Sanskritic Tradition," Shiva Purana: The Birth of Ganesha, Krittivasa Ramayana, "Ayyappa and Vavar" (Vanita-Kidwai).

March 7 "Platonic Dialogues" and Ficino pp. 127-136, Marlowe pp.168-81, Barnefield pp.184-89, Shakespeare pp.189-93 (Fone); Donne (photocopied); Montaigne pp.9-11, Katherine Philips, Sor Juana, The Ladies of Llangollen (Faderman); "Abru: Advice to a Beloved," Sarmad, Dargah Quli Khan, (Vanita-Kidwai). Title of short paper due.

March 14 Emily Dickinson, Anna Seward, Anne Lister (Faderman); English Homophobia pp.197-213, Resisting Homophobia pp. 214-37 (Fone) "Mir Taqi Mir," Rekhti Poetry, Nazir Akbarabadi (Vanita-Kidwai). Short paper due.

March 19-23 Spring Break.

March 28 Christina Rossetti, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman pp.76-88, Katherine Lee Bates, Michael Field (Faderman); "Romantic Friendship' pp. 265-301, Thoreau, Whitman, Bayard Taylor, Verlaine and Rimbaud (Fone); "Introduction to Modern Indian Materials," Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Gopabandhu Das, Shri Ramakrishna, Sharada: "Farewell," (Vanita-Kidwai).

April 4 J.A.Symonds pp. 302-03, Lord Alfred Douglas, Edward Carpenter pp.290-91, 302-14, Havelock Ellis 328-34, Oscar Wilde pp.335-44, Ralph Nicholas Chubb, A.E.Housman, E.M.Forster, Andre Gide (Fone); Gertrude Stein, Vita Sackville-West, Amy Lowell, Angelina Weld-Grimke (Faderman); M.K. Gandhi, "Hakim Mohammad Yusuf Hasan: Do Shiza," Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala,' Ugra's Chocolate, Firaq Gorakhpuri (Vanita-Kidwai).

April 11 Radclyffe Hall, Virginia Woolf, Hilda Doolittle, Katherine Mansfield, Muriel Rukeyser, May Swenson (Faderman); Amrita Sher-Gil, Ismat Chughtai, V.T.Nandakumar, Bhupen Khakhar (Vanita-Kidwai); Constantine Cavafy, D.H.Lawrence, J.R.Ackerley, W.H.Auden, Hart Crane, Gore Vidal, Allen Ginsberg, (Fone). Title of long paper due.

April 18 Film Fire and discussion. Abstract due.

April 25 Shobhana Siddique, Kamala Das, Nirmala Deshpande, Vikram Seth (Vanita-Kidwai and photocopies); Rita Mae Brown, Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, Judy Grahn, Monique Wittig, Olga Broumas , Pat Parker (Faderman). Page and Susan presenting

May 2 Inez Vere Dullas, Hoshang Merchant, Vijay Dan Detha, Ambai (Vanita-Kidwai); Shanti, "Tired of the Broom," Qamar Roshanabadi (photocopies); Chrystos, Namjoshi and Hanscombe, Cherrie Moraga, Marilyn Hacker, Dorothy Allison, (Faderman); Michael Rumaker, 744-746, Ed White, 77-85, Thom Gunn 795-801 (Fone). Jennifer presenting.

May 9 Conclusion. Long paper due.

Supplementary Readings placed on reserve in the Mansfield Library

1. Love Between Women : Early Christian Responses to Female Homoeroticism  
by Bernadette J. Brooten Paperback - 424 pages (September 1998)  
University of Chicago Press (Trd); ISBN: 0226075923
2. Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality : Gay People in Western Europe from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century  
by John Boswell Paperback (July 1981)  
University of Chicago Press (Trd); ISBN: 0226067114

3. Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe  
by John Boswell Paperback Reprint edition (June 1995)  
Vintage Books; ISBN: 0679751645
4. Hidden from History : Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past  
by Martha Vicinus, George Chauncey, Martin Duberman  
Paperback Reissue edition (November 1990)  
Meridian Books; ISBN: 0452010675 \$19.00
5. Surpassing the Love of Men : Romantic Friendship and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present  
by Lillian Faderman  
Paperback - 496 pages Reissue edition (July 1998)  
Quill; ISBN: 0688133304
6. Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers : A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America  
by Lillian Faderman  
Paperback Reprint edition (June 1992)  
Penguin USA (Paper); ISBN: 0140171223
7. To Believe in Women: What Lesbians Have Done For America - A History  
by Lillian Faderman  
Houghton Mifflin Co (Trd); ISBN: 0618056971 \$15.00
8. The Apparitional Lesbian  
by Terry Castle  
Paperback - 307 pages 0 edition (May 15, 1995)  
Columbia Univ Pr; ISBN: 0231076533
9. Facing the Mirror: Lesbian Writing from India  
ed. Ashwini Sukthankar  
(New Delhi: Penguin India, 1999)
10. Yaraana: Gay Writing from India  
ed. Hoshang Merchant  
(New Delhi: Penguin India, 1999)
11. Nineteenth Century Writings on Homosexuality : A Sourcebook  
by Chris White (Editor)  
Routledge; ISBN: 0415153069 \$24.99
12. The Well of Loneliness  
by Radclyffe Hall (November 1990)  
Anchor; ISBN: 0385416091 \$12.95
13. Giovanni's Room  
by James A. Baldwin  
Mass Market Paperback Reissue edition (December 1985)  
Laureleaf; ISBN: 0440328810 ; \$6.95
14. The Complete Kamasutra translated by Alain Danielou  
(Rochester, Vermont: Park Street Press, 1994).