

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS: MAY/JUNE 2011

**SOCIOLOGY: COURSE SOC2033F**

*Diversity Literacy*

Lecturer: Claire Kelly, Buhle Zuma and Philip Broster  
Convenor: Melissa Styen

Time: **TWO** Hours

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Note 1: You must answer a total of **TWO** questions.

**Section A:** You must answer **ONE** question (question 1(a) and 1(b) **OR** 2(a) and 2(b)).

**Section B:** You must answer **ONE** question (question 3 **OR** 4) based on the attachments in Appendix A.

Note 2: Please note that you will be assessed on

- (a) your grasp of the relevant theory;
- (b) your engagement with the issues;
- (c) your ability to present a coherent point of view/argument.

Note 3: There is not only one right answer, but you should be able to demonstrate that your argument is cognisant of the dynamics of privilege and oppression.

**Note 4: EACH ANSWER MUST BE CLEARLY NUMBERED AND PRESENTED IN A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK.**

This examination will be marked out of 100 marks (60 marks for Section A and 40 marks for Section B), and counts for 50% of your course marks.

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**SECTION A**

Marks: 60

Time allocation: 70 minutes

Choose **ONE** of the following questions (**EITHER** Question 1(a) and 1(b) **OR** Question 2(a) and 2(b)). Spend about 70 minutes on this section. Use a separate answer book for this section.

**QUESTION 1:** Answer both 1(a) [20 marks] and 1(b) [40 marks].

1(a) Choose any TWO of the following FIVE concepts/themes. Briefly ( $\pm 100$  words each) discuss what you understand by them. In each answer, refer to at least one of the course readings.

- i. Doing gender
- ii. Difference as a social process
- iii. Marginalisation as a form of oppression
- iv. Psychologising social oppression
- v. Intersectionality

**AND**

1(b) Discuss the contention in the following quotation, illustrating your points by reference to issues raised by some of the theorists whose work you have read for this course. Reflect on whether, and how, it continues to be true in post-apartheid South Africa.

“... oppression designates the disadvantage and injustice some people suffer not because tyrannical power coerces them, but because of the everyday practices of a well intentioned society” (Iris Marion Young)

**OR**

**OR****QUESTION 2:** Answer both 2(a) [20 marks] and 2(b) [40 marks].

2(a) Choose any TWO of the following FIVE concepts/themes. Briefly ( $\pm 100$  words each) discuss what you understand by them. In each answer, refer to at least one of the course readings.

- i. Hegemonic masculinity
- ii. Privilege and oppression as structural
- iii. Invisibility of the norm
- iv. Homophobia as a weapon of sexism
- v. The danger of a single story

**AND**

2(b) Discuss the contention in the following quotation, illustrating your points by reference to issues raised by some of the theorists whose work you have read for this course. Reflect on whether, and how, it continues to be true in post-apartheid South Africa.

“The systems of dominance are mutually constitutive; therefore they cannot be effectively attacked one at a time. The struggles against sexism, racism, anti-Semitism and homophobia are inextricably linked.” (Gerda Lerner)

**SECTION B**

Marks: 40

Time allocation: 50 minutes

The articles/comments/letters in Appendix A all pertain to two currently contested diversity issues. Choose ONE of the questions below, and refer to the relevant articles/comments/letters in Appendix A for material.

Critically discuss the diversity issues raised by the question of your choice. Discuss how the issues are represented in the articles/comments/letters reproduced in Appendix A, and evaluate the positions taken up in the texts in relation to each other. Your answers must show an application of appropriate concepts and theoretical frameworks and should specify which theorist(s) you are drawing on.

[NB: You must answer **ONE** question based on the attachments. i.e. spend about 50 minutes on this section.]

**QUESTION 3: ATTACHMENTS FOR QUESTION THREE**

(a) “Judges flee after Xhosa girl win Miss Teen India” (Suthentira Govender, *The Sunday Times*, 29 July 2007)

**AND**

(b) “Racism at beauty contest disgraceful” (Ronnie Govender, *The Sunday Times*, 5 August 2007)

**AND**

(c) “It’s her fault – and the organizers” (Owen Mnenelwa, *The Sunday Times*, 5 August 2007)

**OR**

**OR**

**QUESTION 4: ATTACHMENTS FOR QUESTION FOUR**

(a) “New generation would accept gay footballers” (John Mehaffey, *www.timeslive.co.za*, 27 June 2010).

AND

(b) Comments from “New generation would accept gay footballers” (John Mehaffey, *www.timeslive.co.za*, 27 June 2010).

AND

(d) “Woman barred from men’s football” (BBC News, *http://news.bbc.co.uk*, 19 December 2004).

TOTAL: 100 MARKS

**APPENDIX A FOR SECTION B BELOW**

## APPENDIX A – Attachments for Questions 3 and 4

**QUESTION 3: ATTACHMENTS FOR QUESTION THREE**(a) "Judges flee after Xhosa girl win Miss Teen India" (Suthentira Govender, *The Sunday Times*, 29 Jul 07)

# 3(a) Judges flee after Xhosa girl wins Miss Teen India

Race row erupts as teenager takes pageant's regional crown

**SUTHENTIRA GOVENDER**

JUDGES at a beauty pageant fled out of the back door after crowning a Xhosa teenager as the regional Miss Teen India SA in Port Elizabeth and sparking a furious race row.

The audience hurled abuse at pageant officials and one of the judges narrowly missed being punched when Anelisa Willem, 15, walked off with the crown.

"It all boiled down to the queen's race," said judge and former Mrs Port Elizabeth Anitha Sharma.

"I felt rattled and threatened so I called in security to escort us out."

The judges escaped through the

venue's back entrance after the event two weeks ago.

Sharma said the crowd became "very upset and voiced insults" after Anelisa's crowning at the Boardwalk Casino's Tsitsikamma Conference Centre.

"People were unreasonable and raising their voices. They didn't want to listen to reason and became aggressive," she said.

The judges — who this week stood by their unanimous decision to crown Anelisa — told the *Sunday Times* they were shocked and embarrassed by the audience's behaviour.

"One of the audience members was so angry that a fist fight almost ensued between him and another judge," Sharma said.

Fellow judge Praveen Maniram said there would not have been such an outcry "if Anelisa was Indian", and that she had been chosen on merit.

"She was really good. She had the poise, personality and the talent," he said.

Another judge, Vanita Dullabh, said: "It was clear that the crowd was upset because a non-Indian was chosen."

"We were very fair in our decision. She was the best out of all the girls and that is why she won. If there was a problem with race, the organisers should have stipulated this before Anelisa entered," she said.

Sharon Maharaj, CEO of the Miss Teen India SA pageant, said she was grilled by unhappy community members about why Anelisa had won.



**DRAMA QUEEN:** Miss Teen India SA Port Elizabeth Anelisa Willem is at the centre of a racist storm

Picture: PICTURE PERFECT PORT ELIZABETH

"I was taken aback by people's reaction. They were racist and told me it was an Indian competition and I should not have allowed Anelisa to enter," she said.

"I had to approach the judges afterwards because the audience was so upset. It was a perfect show but it ended up being a nightmare. I never want a repeat of this."

Willem, head girl at Ebenezer Academy in Port Elizabeth, said she decided to give the pageant a shot because she loves a challenge.

"I love Bollywood movies and I have a flair for dancing. I have been entering pageants and competitions since I was six," she said.

"But I did not expect this kind of reaction from Indians because I have many friends in the community."

Willem spent R400 on an Eastern outfit for her dance routine which she performed in the pageant's talent section.

"I loved the beat of the song I chose. I never had any formal training and learnt the moves from watching movies."

Basking in the glory of her win, Willem said she had been oblivious to the drama.

"All the girls were happy for me. I didn't realise that my win was a problem," she said.

"It was a shock for me because blacks did not get upset when an Indian girl won Miss South Africa. I can't under-

stand this behaviour. It's stupid.

"But I'm a strong girl, I can handle it. Besides, I love the drama."

Willem said she hoped there would not be a repeat of "this kind of reaction" at the September finals in Durban.

Her beauty-therapist mother, Nontle, said her daughter entered the pageant "not to change Indian culture but to be part of it".

"This was a dream come true for my girl. I never had a chance when I was younger to enter pageants like this, so I encouraged Anelisa to give it a try. I didn't expect this reaction," she said.

Maharaj said her pageants were open to all races.

"If the person can promote the Indian culture I have no problem," she said.

SA Human Rights Commission head Jody Kollapen described the audience's reaction as "a crying shame".

"We are not an Indian nation. We are South Africans and all South Africans, irrespective of race or creed, should be welcomed to enter any pageant or competition they may want to," he said.

"This was a clear sign of racial intolerance. If you value your culture so much then you should be willing to share it."

**COMMENT ON THIS**  
tellus@sundaytimes.co.za  
or SMS us at: 33971

- (b) "Racism at beauty contest disgraceful" (Ronnie Govender, *The Sunday Times*, 5 August 2007)
- and
- (c) "It's her fault – and the organizers" (Owen Mnenelwa, *The Sunday Times*, 5 August 2007)

3(b) Our story 'Judges flee after Xhosa girl wins Miss Teen India' (July 29) attracted a huge response. Here are some readers' views:

## Racism at beauty contest disgraceful

VALLIAMAL Mudalliar, Thumbi Naldoo, Mahatma Gandhi, Yusuf Dadoo and a host of other such stalwarts of the struggle for liberation must be turning in their graves at the atrocious behaviour of those who walked out in protest when Anelisa Willem was chosen as Miss Teen India SA Port Elizabeth.

I want to say to those idiots who dare call themselves, "Indians", let alone South Africans, you are an absolute disgrace.

Journalist Suthenthira Govender must be commended for highlighting this disgusting behaviour, although it spoilt my Sunday-morning read. Perhaps a major influence is the "Bollywoodisation" of our youth. These Miss India South Africa beauty contests spring from a commercial distortion of Indian culture and entrench sexism and racism. Thus, what happened at Port Elizabeth was not entirely surprising. This is not culture, this is an abomination. I wince every time the electronic media, particularly, proclaim the virtues of Bollywood's shallow tripe which is passed off as "family entertainment". Can you call blatant crotch-thrusting dancing, even more explicitly suggestive than those of its creator, Michael Jackson, "family entertainment"?

Willem must be commended for standing her ground and for her observation that when an Indian girl was chosen as Miss South Africa, "blacks did not object".

In the meantime, whether we approve of beauty contests or not, we will be holding thumbs for Willem in the finals. We hope the judges will have the integrity and courage of the judges of the Port Elizabeth leg. — Ronnie Govender, Cape Town

## 3(c) It's her fault — and the organisers'

I FAIL to understand why anyone either than an Indian person would want to take part in an Indian beauty pageant.

Why did the organisers fail to stipulate beforehand that participation is reserved?

The organisers are pushing ethnicity. Where have you heard of a whites beauty pageant, Xhosa beauty pageant and coloured beauty pageant?

Why must we segregate to an extent that we would fuel unnecessary racial utterances?

Be that as it may, I empathise with the audience when they saw a Xhosa girl takes home the crown.

She is not Indian; she was not supposed to enter. The fault is with the organisers and person who entered the competition. — Owen Mngonelwa, by e-mail

**QUESTION 4: ATTACHMENTS FOR QUESTION FOUR**

(a) “New generation would accept gay footballers” (John Mehaffey, [www.timeslive.co.za](http://www.timeslive.co.za), 27 June 2010)

## New generation would accept gay footballers

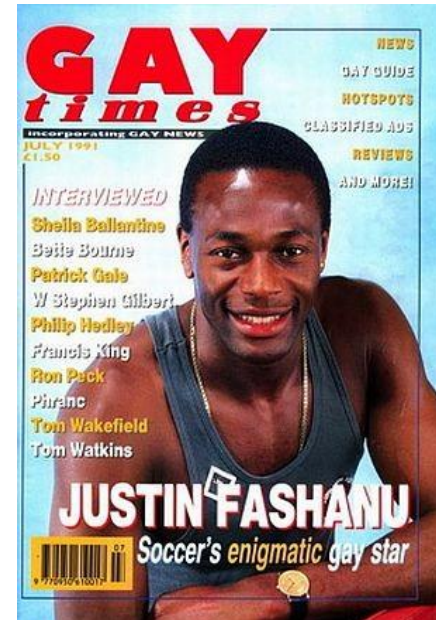
Jul 27, 2010| By John Mehaffey, Reuters

A new generation of British soccer fans would be tolerant about professional footballers admitting they were homosexual, according to an online survey conducted by Staffordshire University in England.

The survey of 2,000 supporters ([www.topfan.co.uk](http://www.topfan.co.uk)) found that only 7% believed that soccer had no place for homosexuals.

It was conducted by culture, media and sport professor Ellis Cashmore and senior sociology lecturer Jamie Cleland.

“The big surprise was that we got what I suppose you’d call a counter-intuitive response and that was that 93% said they felt there was no place for homophobia in football and it should be stomped out and they felt that it brought shame on football,” Cashmore told Reuters in a telephone interview.



“There was a call for greater transparency. A lot of people said they would prefer it if gay footballers came out because they don’t think they would have to put up with that much abuse.”

Only one professional footballer, England international Justin Fashanu, has revealed he was homosexual during his career. Fashanu committed suicide in 1998 at the age of 37.

Players in other sports have been equally reticent. Former Wales rugby captain Gareth Thomas revealed in a newspaper last year that he was gay, saying: “It’s pretty tough for me being the only international rugby player prepared to break the taboo.”

Thomas’s candour prompted sympathy from British former National Basketball Association (NBA) player John Amaechi, who announced he was gay after retiring in 2007, plus a warning that homophobia was still present in sport.

Former England rugby coach Clive Woodward was more positive, saying he expected the sport to take Thomas’s announcement in its stride, while Welsh media reported recently that Hollywood actor Mickey Rourke was considering portraying Thomas in a film.

### HEAVY BURDEN

“The question remains when will a gay soccer player come out?,” Cashmore said.

“The fans themselves are of the opinion that, yes we know there are gay players and when we watch football every week we know we are watching gay players but actually it doesn’t matter to us.” Cashmore said homophobia now was equivalent to the racism which blighted British soccer during the 1970s and 80s.

“Football fans who have for long been characterised as Neanderthal types, the knuckle-dragging kind of macho type who believe homosexuality is still taboo; actually they have changed as well,” he said.

"Football fans who have for long been characterised as Neanderthal types, the knuckle-dragging kind of macho type who believe homosexuality is still taboo; actually they have changed as well," he said.

"We have a new generation of football fans — managers, coaches, players themselves, I class them all as fans in some way.

"They don't actually care very much about a person's sexual orientation. But of course the players are living with a legacy and the legacy has become a heavy burden for football.

"It's going to make it extremely difficult for the first living footballer to come out. For a footballer to come out after his career is over, in a sense that is the path of least resistance.

"It's still enormously difficult but not as difficult as they think."

<http://www.timeslive.co.za>

**(b) Comments from "New generation would accept gay footballers" (John Mehaffey, [www.timeslive.co.za](http://www.timeslive.co.za), 27 June 2010)**

**ThembaM**

Ok, i'm not against gays, but what about the change rooms? Let's say we have 5 gays in Orlando Pirates, is it fair on the other players? They'd basically be going fully monty every week and what about the customary congratulatory pat on the backside?

**Biko Lives**

Another route to moral decay and the British wants to take along the whole world with them! Well certainly not Africa!

**Vlad**

One rule will apply. And that rule is: " DON'T DROP THE SOAP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Most football players are bordering on homosexuality... all that 'huggin, kissin and copping a feel' when someone scores?

**Wonder**

Yoh, i can imagine the change room, this will be one hell of awkward situation!!!

**Smurfsays**

I thought most of them were gay anyway, given that they fall about and complain like a bunch of sissies.

**Jackie Carey**

Homophobes of Mzansi clearly have united on the Times Live comments page. Racism sucks but homophobia is acceptable?! The tolerance of intolerance continues.

**Monzap**

@ThembaM & Wonder

Change rooms I can understand because everybody is there; just imagine at the camp during the night, will the wives and girlfriends be happy that their better halves are at the camp with couple of gays in team.

It is a definitely big no, as much as women cannot be on the same team with men they must treat gays the same open their gay teams and leagues because lot of relationships will be ruined.

**Sechaba-is-not-a-fake-Communist**

Gays and Lesbians are not welcomed in Africa.

**Spuntaki**

No Toffies allowed in Soccer period. Try Netball or Tennis please.

**Omuntu wetu**

@ Biko Lives & Sechaba-is-not-a-fake-Communist



It is part of the SAn constitution, no discrimination based on sexual orientation. Btw, SA is the only country in the whole of Africa with a big gay community. Gayness is not something new to Africa, i was told that there are words that referring to homosexuals in all African languages. How can it be if it wasnt there in Africa and only brought by the westerners?

Most of the well to do business and other personalities are gay, not that I have a problem with it. My motto is "everyone for himself and God for all". Gays needs also a place under the sun. As long as any heterosexual person is keeping his distance from me so also the gay person must keep his distance. And obviously any prostitute.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za>

**(c) "Woman barred from men's football" (BBC News, <http://news.bbc.co.uk,19> December 2004)**

## Woman barred from men's football

Football's world governing body, Fifa, has ruled that a leading Mexican woman footballer is not eligible to play for a professional men's club.

Maribel Dominguez signed for Mexico's second-division club Celaya this week - a move which would have been a first in North and Central America's sport.

But Fifa's executive committee said that "there must be a clear separation between men's and women's football".

Dominguez, 26, has scored 42 goals in 43 games for the national women's team.

### No exceptions

The decision by Fifa's executive committee was taken after a weekend meeting in Zurich, Switzerland. In a written statement, it stressed that the gender-separation principle in football should be maintained.

"This is laid down in league football and in international matches by the existence of gender-specific competitions, and the Laws of the Game and Fifa's regulations do not provide for any exception," the statement said.

Celaya agreed to abide by the Fifa ruling. It also said that signing the player was a publicity stunt. 'Marigoal'

Dominguez was Mexico's top scorer at the Athens Olympic Games, and was also ranked 25th in Fifa's top women players in the world for 2004.

The striker - who is nicknamed "Marigoal" - had said earlier this week that she would begin a special training regime to get match fit by mid-January.

"The hard thing is going to be equalling the physical force of the men, but the technique, the desire, the willpower, those are things I already have," she said.

Last year Italian team Perugia announced it had made an offer to German World Cup winner Birgit Prinz which would have made her the first female player in Serie A.

However she did not end up with the club, which had also pursued Sweden's Hannah Ljungberg, prompting suggestions it had been a publicity stunt.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/americas/4110027.stm>

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