Money and markets are often depicted as sexless, unfeeling, and external to other domains of social life. This course seeks to alter our understanding of commercial transactions by examining them in relation to other more intimate exchanges that comprise family, sexuality, and gendered relationships. Drawing on anthropology, history, literature, and film, this course invites you to examine relationships between the exchange, evaluation, and control of objects and the regulated movements of bodies that surround them. The course is divided into three sections “Gendering Gifts and Money”, “The Seductions of Shopping”, and “Sex in/as the Market”. Readings include gendered critiques of classical economics, vaudeville sketches describing the distribution of funds within families, and debates about the best way to advertise condoms in contemporary India. Assignments for the course include a one-page review of an article or film, a prospectus, an in-class presentation, and a short research paper.

Getting Your Money’s Worth:

Whenever possible ask questions about assignments and seek out help before papers are due. I will not offer extra credit or the opportunity to revise work for a better grade. I am always delighted to discuss ideas related to anthropology, but I will not discuss grades on assignments more than two weeks after they have been posted on CourseWeb. If you have concerns or complaints about your grade please let me know as soon as possible. I reserve the right to modify course policies to support students who endure traumatic life events.

Because assignments in this class build on each other in a sequence missed classes and late work will impair your participation in this course. Unless otherwise marked all papers are due in class on the date marked on the syllabus. Papers will be marked down one grade for each day late. If medical or other emergencies impair your ability to participate or get work in please let me know as soon as possible.

My primary aim in teaching this class is to make sure you learn something. If you have questions or interests that go beyond the material covered on our syllabus please let me know. I welcome feedback on assigned readings and activities and will use them to improve the class in future years. If you have particular interests, fears, or disabilities that you’d like me to address please let me know about them as soon as possible.
Readings:

de Grazia, Victoria and Ellen Furlough, 1996 The Sex of Things: Gender and Consumption in Historical Perspective, University of California Press
ISBN-10: 0520201973


Zola, Emile (2008 [1886]) The Ladies Paradise Oxford World Classics (other editions/translations would be fine – it just needs to be inexpensive and in English). ISBN-10: 0199536902

Required books are available at the book center and are held on reserve at Hillman Library. All other readings can be found on our CourseWeb site under “Readings”. Please read all assigned texts by the date listed and bring copies of the texts assigned with you to class. I suspect that most of you will find it helpful to print out and mark-up assigned readings, but you may bring electronic copies if you prefer. If the cost of books prohibits you participation in the class please let me know.

Assignments and Grading:

Your grade in this class will be determined by three formal writing assignments - a brief evaluative abstract, a 5-page paper proposal, and a 15-page final paper. It is impossible to receive a passing grade in this class without turning the final paper in. All written assignments will be marked down one letter grade for each day late. You will also be asked to make a contribution to a class wiki, to participate in a group presentation, and to share your term paper findings in a “colloquium” at the end of the class. I will round borderline final grades up or down based on your class participation grade. All parts of the course will be graded on a point system:

Discussion Participation (all classes after Week 1): 25 points
Group Presentation (date of your choice): 5 points
Evaluative Abstract (Due January 22): 10 points
Wiki Contribution (Due February 26): 10 points
Paper Proposal (Due March 19): 15 points
Term Paper Presentation (Due April 7 or 9): 5 points
Term Paper (Due April 18): 30 points

Total: 100 points
Participation:

Regular attendance is critical to your success in this class. In-class activities will provide your primary guide to course concepts and build connections between assigned readings. Attendance and engagement with course materials will count towards a significant portion of your grade.

You are allowed one “free” absence during the term, after that you will lose one participation point for each class for which you are absent for more than 15 minutes. If you cannot avoid missing a class, you may make-up the point that you missed by meeting with Dr. Brown during office hours no more than one week after the class that you missed. This make-up assignment is, by design, both more work and less fun than actually attending class. Students who miss more than 10 classes will not be eligible to receive a passing grade. If life events require you to miss class for more than one month please investigate options for withdrawal.

Media Use:

Please bring copies of readings to class during the week in which they are assigned. You are encouraged to take written notes during class. Please refrain from taking photos, videos, or audio recordings during class – these forms of recording inhibit free and open discussion.

You are welcome to use laptops, tablets, and other communication devices to review assigned readings, look-up examples, and provide supplementary materials for discussion. Use of such devices in ways that are unrelated to class activities is distracting to others. If you repeatedly engage in distracting behavior during class you will be asked to leave.

This class is designed with the assumption that you have a Pitt E-mail account and access to CourseWeb. Please check both regularly.

Policy on Academic Integrity:

As a student in this course you are expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Plagiarism and all other forms of cheating will result in automatic failure. I trust that you know what they are and how to avoid them. If you find yourself in a situation where plagiarism seems like your best option please let me know and I’ll help you find a better one.

One of the goals of this course is to allow you to find and pursue topics of interest from multiple disciplinary perspectives. For this reason, you are invited to cite or incorporate elements of earlier assignments from this class into later ones.
Schedule

-Week 1: Approaching Exchange-

Jan 6: No reading

Jan 8:

-Week 2: Commodity Fetishes-

Jan 13:


Jan 15:

Optional: Graeber, David 2005. “Fetishism as social creativity, or fetishes are gods in the process of construction” *Anthropological Theory.*

-Week 3: Consuming Gender-

Jan 20: Group Presentation Sign-up

In Class: “Beau Brummell: This Charming Man” (selection)

Jan 22: Evaluative Abstract Due
Selected short stories (see CourseWeb)


-Week 4: Adornment and Desireable Bodies -

Jan 27: Wiki Topic Sign-Up


**Jan 29:**

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**Week 5: Tea, Chocolate, and Seductions of Empire**

**Feb 3:**

**Feb 5:**

**In Class:** Fieldtrip to Carnegie Museum

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**Week 6: Women on/in the Market**

**Feb 10:**


**Feb 12:**

**In Class:** Balzac, Honore Mercadet (a reading)
Week 7: Seductions of Shopping

Feb 17:
Zola, Emile (2008 [1886]) *The Ladies Paradise* Oxford World Classics (other editions are fine)

*In Class:* “Mr. Selfridge”, “The Paradise” (selections),

Feb 19:

Week 8: Money and the Family

Feb 24:

*In Class:* Djibril Diop Mambétý’s *Hyènes* (1992)

Feb 26: *Wiki Contribution (due before class)*

*In Class:* Djibril Diop Mambétý’s *Hyènes* (1992) continued

Week 9: Purchasing Intimacy?

March 3:
Zeilizer, Viviana A 2007 Ch 1-3 *The Purchase of Intimacy*

March 5:
Zeilizer, Viviana A 2007 Ch 4-6 *The Purchase of Intimacy*

Week 10: Spring Break

Week 11: Making Love in Shops

March 17:

March 19: *Paper Proposal Due*
-Week 12: Thinking Sex-

March 24:

March 26:

-Week 13: The Politics of Consumer Desire-

March 31:

In Class: Kamasutra condoms and other commercials (1990-2012)

April 2:

-Week 14: Love, Money, and Modernity-

April 7:
Ross, Kristin 1996 “Hygiene and Modernization” (Chapter 2) in Fast Cars, Clean Bodies: Decolonization and the Reordering of French Culture.

In Class: “The Umbrella’s of Cherbourg” (selection), “Two or Three Things I know about Her” (selection)

April 9:

-Week 15: Colloquium-

April 14:
Essay Presentations – check CourseWeb for schedule

April 16:
Essay Presentations – check CourseWeb for schedule

Final Paper Due: April 18