HISTORY 29

Sexuality and Society in Modern Europe

This class traces historical constructions of sexual identities in Western societies since 1700. Topics include a survey of Greek, Roman and Medieval European traditions, sexuality in colonized societies, urbanization and the creation of sexual minorities, the medicalization of sex, the 19th-century invention of deviant sexualities, contemporary Queer Theory and its relation to social history.

Course Requirements:

The course will be conducted primarily as a discussion class. Although I will occasionally lecture on background material, it is imperative that you come to class fully prepared. This means reading AND reflecting on the day's assignment well in advance of class discussion. Occasionally I will distribute study guides to help you focus your thoughts about the readings. The history department has implemented the following draconian policy on attendance: Students are required to attend all classes for the successful completion of the course. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.

During the semester, each student will prepare a short five minute oral synopsis of one of the assigned readings (to be determined in advance). Students will also produce:

1) A 5-page (1,250 word) document analysis, due September 30 in class.
2) A take-home exam, due no later than November 5 at noon.
3) A final paper on a 20th-century topic (10 pages or 2500 words) due December 15 (topic due no later than December 5).

I will provide details about each assignment well in advance of the due date.

Readings:
The following paperback texts have been ordered for you at the Bookstore:

G. Chauncey, Gay New York
M. Foucault, Herculine Barbin. Being the Recently Discovered Memoirs of a 19th-Century French Hermaphrodite
J. Fout, ed., Forbidden History: The State, Society, and the Regulation of Sexuality in Europe
V. Martinez-Alier, Marriage, Class and Color in 19th-Century Cuba
J. Meyerowitz, How Sex Changed. A History of Transexuality in the United States
S. Ullman, Sex Seen. The Emergence of Modern Sexuality in America

All other readings are available through Blackboard.

The books listed above as well as the following have been placed on General Reserve for this course:

H. Abelove, M. Barana, D. Halperin, eds., The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader
J. D’Emilio and E. Freedman, Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America
M. Duberman, M. Vicinus, G. Chauncey, eds. Hidden From History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past
J. Epstein, Altered Conditions: Disease, Medicine and Story Telling
J. Epstein and K. Straub, eds., Body Guards: The Cultural Politics of Gender Ambiguity
D. Halperin, One Hundred Years of Homosexuality
D. Halperin, How to do the History of Homosexuality
J. N. Katz, Gay American History (document collection)
J. Katz, The Invention of Heterosexuality
T. Laqueur, Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud
M. Warner, ed. Fear of a Queer Planet

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

T 9/2  INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE
    Reading: Documents

Th 9/4  CATEGORIES, METHODOLOGIES, INTERPRETATION: WHAT IS A HISTORY OF SEXUALITY?
    Reading: J. Boswell, “Revolutions, Universals, and Sexual Categories,” in Hidden From History, pp. 17-36
S. Ullman, *Sex Seen*, pp. 1-9

**T 9/9**  
**POWER AND SEXUALITY IN CLASSICAL ATHENS**

Reading:  

**Th 9/11**  
**SOME CLASSICAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF FEMALE SEXUALITY**


**T 9/16**  
**SEXUAL DIVERSITY IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL EUROPE**

Reading:  
J. Brown, “Lesbian Sexuality in Medieval and Early Modern Europe in *Hidden from History*, pp. 67-75 (See Notes 34 and 46)  
J. Liliequist, “Peasants against Nature: Crossing the Boundaries between Man and Animal in 17th- & 18th-Century Sweden,” in *Forbidden History*, pp. 57-88

**Th 9/18**  
**FROM SOCIAL DISTINCTIONS TO BIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCE**

Reading:  

**T 9/23**  
**TOWARD NEW NORMATIVE GENDER ROLES IN EUROPE**

Reading:  
J. J. Rousseau, selection “Sophie” from *Emile*

**Th 9/25**  
**TOWARD A NEW NORMATIVE SEXUALITY IN EUROPE**

Reading:  
H. Abelove, “Some Speculation on the History of Sexual Intercourse
during the Long 18th Century in England” in Abelove, ed., *Deep Gossip*
T. van der Meer, “Tribades on Trial: Female Same-Sex Offenders, in Late 18th-Century Amsterdam,” in *Forbidden History*, pp. 189-210

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>DOCUMENT ANALYSIS: THE HERCULINE BARBIN FILE</td>
<td>M. Foucault, <em>Herculine Barbin</em>, pp. 119-151</td>
<td>Document Analysis Due in class</td>
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<td>10/7</td>
<td>RACE AND SEXUALITY ON THE COLONIAL FRONTIER</td>
<td>V. Martinez-Alier, <em>Marriage, Class and Color in 19th-Century Cuba</em>, pp. 11-45; 57-81</td>
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<td>10/9</td>
<td>RACIAL HONOR AND SEDUCTION IN COLONIAL CUBA</td>
<td>V. Martinez-Alier, <em>Marriage, Class and Color in 19th-Century Cuba</em>, pp. 82-119; xi-xix</td>
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<td>FALL BREAK</td>
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J. Weeks, “Inverts, Perverts and Mary-Annes: Male Prostitution and the Regulation of Homosexuality in England in the 19th and early 20th Centuries,” in *Hidden from History*, pp. 195-211 |
<p>| 10/23 | SOCIAL DARWINIST THOUGHT AND FEMALE SEXUALITY | |</p>
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<th>Date</th>
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Th 11/13  EMANCIPATION IN THE JAZZ AGE?


T 11/18  DEPRESSION AND REPRESSION


Th 11/20  WAR AND THE CREATION OF NEW SEXUAL COMMUNITIES


T 11/25  THE CONSUMER AND SEXUAL REVOLUTIONS


Th 11/27  THANKSGIVING

T 12/2  “EX-GI BECOMES BLONDE BEAUTY”: HOW SEX CHANGED

Th 12/4  THE LIBERAL MOMENT AND THE BACKLASH

Reading: Meyerowitz, How Sex Changed, pp. 168-254
G. Rubin, “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the
Politics of Sexuality” in The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader,
pp. 3-43

T 12/9  AIDS CRISIS AND THE OVERT POLITICIZATION OF SEXUALITY

Reading: P. Treichler, How to Have Theory in an Epidemic. Cultural Chronicles of
AIDS, pp. 11-98

“Longtime Companion”