HISTORY 52: HISTORY OF MANHOOD IN AMERICA

This course is designed to allow students to explore the meanings of manhood and the various constructions of masculine identity in America between the late-18th century and the middle of the 20th century. It is a course on the cultural and social history of gender in America.

REQUIRED READINGS:
The following books are required readings and available at the College Bookstore:
Mark C. Carnes and Clyde Griffen, eds., *Meanings for Manhood*.
Bertram Wyatt-Brown, *Honor and Violence in the Old South*.
Elliott Gorn, *The Manly Art: Bare-Knuckle Prize Fighting in America*.
Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization*.
Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood*.
George Chauncey, *Gay New York*.
Stephen H. Norwood, *Strikebreaking & Intimidation*.

Optional books for paper assignments are also available in the bookstore or on reserve at McCabe Library. All additional assigned readings are available on electronic reserve at:
http://trires.brynmawr.edu/coursepage.asp?cid=824  Password = manly

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Reading and Class Participation: Students are expected to attend all class meetings, including films and guest lectures scheduled outside of class. The following is the History Department 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."

Students are encouraged to complete the assigned readings before every class meeting, and be prepared for discussion. Students should have all the reading completed before a discussion meeting.

Papers: Three papers (6-8 pages) will be written over the course of the semester. The essays will be based primarily on the optional reading list, but should also integrate the class lectures, discussion, and assigned readings. These papers will allow students to do in-depth studies of topics for which the course can only provide a rudimentary exposure. Students can decide among a choice of topics. The papers are not designed to be research papers, but rather analytical essays integrating assigned and optional readings. The third paper, focusing on post-World War II manhood, may involve more research and analysis of primary-source texts, since the historical literature on that era is more sparse. (A handout will be distributed outlining the expectations and topics for the papers.)
First Paper Due: Sept. 30.
Second Paper Due: Nov. 6.
Third Paper Due: Dec. 10.

Examinations: There will be an midterm examination and a final examination on the date and time scheduled by the College Registrar. The exams will be based on the assigned readings, class lectures and discussions.
CLASS SCHEDULE:
* = Primary source document

(WEEK 1)
Sep. 2 INTRODUCTION - MANHOOD AND THE STUDY OF GENDER

Required Reading:
Rotundo, American Manhood, Introduction, ch. 1
Judith Butler, Gender Trouble (1990), pp. 1-34.

Sep. 4 MANHOOD IN COLONIAL & REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA

Required Reading:
Cornelia Dayton, "Taking the Trade: Abortion and Gender Relations in an 18th-Century New England Village" William and Mary Quarterly 48 (1991), 19-49

Sep. 6 INDUSTRIALIZATION & CAPITALISM: MEN, WOMEN, AND WORK

Required Reading:

(WEEK 2)
Sep. 9 THE DILEMMAS OF 19TH-CENTURY WHITE MANHOOD

Required Reading:

Sep. 11 IMAGES OF MANHOOD IN THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE

Required Reading:

Sep. 13 DISCUSSION

(WEEK 3)
Sep. 16 SLAVERY AND AFRICAN AMERICAN MANHOOD

Required Reading:
Bruce Dorsey, Reforming Men and Women: Gender in the Antebellum City (2002), pp. 136-64, 186-94.
James Cullen, "'s a Man Now: Gender and African American Men." in Catherine Clinton and Nina Silber, eds. Divided Houses: Gender and the Civil War (1992), pp. 76-91
Martha Hodes, White Women, Black Men: Illicit Sex in the Nineteenth-Century South (1997), pp. 147-175.
Sep. 18 WHITE SOUTHERN MANHOOD

Required Reading:
Bertram Wyatt-Brown, *Honor and Violence in the Old South*.

Sep. 20 DISCUSSION

(WEEK 4)

Sep. 23 URBAN MANHOOD BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

Required Reading:

Sep. 25 BOYHOOD, YOUTH, AND REFORM MOVEMENTS

Required Reading:

Sep. 27 DISCUSSION

(WEEK 5)

Sep. 30 MEN AND WOMEN IN THE WEST
(First Paper Due)

Required Reading:

Oct. 2 FILM: *IN THE WHITE MAN'S IMAGE*.

Oct. 4 DISCUSSION

(WEEK 6)

Oct. 7 RELIGION

Required Reading:

Oct. 9 SPORTS AND RECREATION
Required Reading:
Elliot Gorn, *The Manly Art: Bare Knuckle Prize Fighting in America*.

Oct. 11 MID-TERM EXAMINATION

October Break  Oct. 14-18

(WEEK 7)
Oct. 21 TURN-THE-CENTURY TRANSITION IN WHITE, MIDDLE-CLASS MASCULINITY

Required Reading:

Oct. 23 STRENUOUS, PASSIONATE MANHOOD

Required Reading:
Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization*, ch. 4-5, Conclusion.

Oct. 25 DISCUSSION

(WEEK 8)
Oct. 28 WAR, VIOLENCE, AND THE AMERICAN MALE

Required Reading:

Oct. 30 IMPERIALISM AND MANHOOD

Required Reading:
Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood*.

Nov. 1 DISCUSSION

(WEEK 9)
Nov. 4 WOMEN, COURTSHIP, AND SEX: MALE-FEMALE SEXUALITY

Required Reading:

Nov. 6 FAMILY LIFE: MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE
(SECOND PAPER DUE)

Required Reading:


Nov. 8 FAMILY LIFE: FATHERHOOD

Required Reading:

(WEEK 10)

Nov. 11 MALE-MALE INTIMACY

Required Reading:
Rotundo, *American Manhood*, ch. 4 "Youth and Male Intimacy."

Nov. 13 HOMOSEXUALITY AND GAY MANHOOD

Required Reading:

Nov. 15 DISCUSSION

(WEEK 11)

Nov. 18 LABOR AND MANHOOD

Required Reading:

Nov. 20 IMMIGRANT AND ETHNIC MANHOOD

Required Reading:
Bruce Dorsey, *Reforming Men and Women*, ch. 5.

Nov. 22 FILM: LOS MINEROS

POSTWAR MASCULINITY, 1945-1975

Note: This section of the syllabus is tentative. Changes in the readings (both additions and deletions) are possible. The films will be shown during earlier weeks in the semester.

(WEEK 12)

Nov. 25 POSTWAR MASCULINITY: CONFORMITY & ORGANIZATION MEN – THE MAN IN THE GRAY FLANNEL TRAP

Required Reading:

Selected Primary Sources: (Tentative List)
* Richard Nixon’s “Checkers Speech” (1952).

Films:
*North by Northwest*. Alfred Hitchcock, Director. 1959.

Nov. 27 & Nov. 29 Thanksgiving Break

(WEEK 13)
Dec. 2 POSTWAR MASCULINITY: FATHERS, SONS, AND JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

Required Reading:

Films:

Dec. 4 POSTWAR MASCULINITY: MALE BODIES, SEX, & “TRANSSEXUALISM”

Required Reading:

Films:
*Some Like it Hot*. Billy Wilder, Director. 1959.

Dec. 6 DISCUSSION

(WEEK 14)
Dec. 9 POSTWAR MASCULINITY: COLD WARRIORS AND VIETNAM

Required Reading:

Films:
*My Son John*. Leo McCarey, Director. 1952.

THIRD PAPER DUE: DEC. 10. 5PM.

FINAL EXAMINATION: DATE & TIME ______________________________________________