

Fall 2010
History 16
Mr. Bensch

Office Hours:
T 12:45 – 2:00 P.M.
Tr 204

Sex, Sin, and Kin in Early Europe

The course will consist of weekly readings, discussions, and papers presented in class. In addition to the common weekly readings, each student will explore a specialized topic selected from those suggested in the syllabus, write a critical paper (5-7 pp., approx 1250-1750 words each), and make a short presentation to the rest of the class. The class will culminate in a larger project in which the student will build on a command of the secondary literature in order to explore a primary source in greater depth. Research into the primary material will culminate in a class research presentation culminating in a paper (10-15 pp., 3000-4500 words) in weeks 13 and 14. Your grade will depend on class participation (20%), preliminary papers (20% each), the primary source project (40%) and a final (20%).

In the past generation, research devoted to the history of marriage, kinship, family, and sexuality has grown exponentially. An overview of the field can be gained from the following specialized bibliographies, some already somewhat dated (these include M. Sheehan and Jacqueline Murray, Domestic Society in Medieval Europe: A Select Bibliography (Toronto, 1990); Joyce E. Salisbury, Medieval Sexuality: A Research Guide (New York, 1990) - the latter is particularly valuable for source materials). An online bibliography can be found on <http://inpress.lib.uiowa.edu/feminae/Default.aspx>.

** Indicates books available in the bookstore.

I. An Historical Look at Family, Kinship, and Sexuality. Week of Aug. 31

- a) Introduction and Class Organization
- b) Comparative Approaches to Kinship and Sexual Taboos

Readings: **R. Fox, Kinship and Marriage (Cambridge, 1967), pp. 28-76.

M. Foucault, "The Battle for Chastity," in Western Sexuality: Practice and Precept in Past and Present Times, ed. P. Ariès and Andre' Béjin (Oxford, 1985), pp. 14-35.

John Cassian, Institutes, Bk. 6 (fornication).

II. Family and Sexuality in Late Antiquity. Week of Sept. 7

- a) Marriage and alliance

Readings: **D. Herlihy, Medieval Households (Cambridge, Mass., 1989), pp. 1-28.

** P. R. L. Brown, Body and Society in Late Antiquity: Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity (N.Y., 1988), pp. xiii-64.

- b) The Roman Family

** P. R. L. Brown, Body and Society in Late Antiquity (N.Y., 1988), pp. 65-82, 122-39, 160-77.

III. Chastity and Social Discontinuity: Bodies between Heaven and Earth. Week of Sept. 14

- a) The Struggles of the Flesh: Asceticism and the Social Body

Readings: Brown, Body and Society, pp. 213-40, 366-86.

b) Toward Control: Marriage and the Control of Sexuality

Readings: Brown, Body and Society, pp. 387-448.
Selections from Augustine on Marriage

Special Topics

A. Radical Sex: Chastity and The Third Gender

M. Kuefler, The Manly Eunuch: Masculinity, Gender Ambiguity, and Christian Ideology in Late Antiquity (Chicago, 2001), pp. 1-36, 245-82.

K. M. Ringrose, The Perfect Servant: Eunuchs and the Social Construction of Gender in Byzantium (Chicago, 2003), pp. 1-32, 111-162.

J. Murray, "One Flesh, Two Sexes, Three Genders," in Gender and Christianity in Medieval Europe: New Perspectives, ed. L. M. Bitel and F. Lifshifshitz (Philadelphia, 2008), pp. 34-51.

IV. Family and Kin in the Early Medieval West: Protection and Property. Sept. 21

Herlihy, Medieval Households, pp. 29-78.

J. Goody, The Development of the Family and Marriage in Europe (Cambridge, 1983), pp. 1-28, 34-47.

Special Topics

A. The Nature of Kinship

B. Phillpotts, Kindred and Clan in the Middle Ages and After: A Study in the Sociology of the Teutonic Races (Cambridge, 1913), pp. 1-8, 245-76.

A.C. Murray, Early Germanic Kinship: Studies in Law and Society in Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages (Toronto, 1983), pp. 11-32, 89-97, 109-11, 135-55.

T.M. Charles-Edwards, Early Irish and Welsh Kinship (Oxford, 1993), pp. 1-88.

G. Althoff, Family, Friends, and Followers: Political and Social Bonds in Early Medieval Europe, tr. C. Carroll (Cambridge, 2004), pp. 1-22, 65-101.

B. Relatives and Property.

F.W. Maitland, Domesday Book and Beyond (Cambridge and Boston, 1897), pp. 220-58, 340-56.

Murray, Early Germanic Kinship: Studies in Law and Society in Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages (Toronto, 1983), pp. 177-219.

T.M. Charles-Edwards, Early Irish and Welsh Kinship (Oxford, 1993), pp. 257-304.

M.I. Innes, "Challemagne's Will: Piety, Politics and the Imperial Succession," English Historical Review. 112 (1998), pp. 835-55

- and "Practices of Property in the Carolingian Empire," in The Long Morning of Medieval Europe: New Directions in Early Medieval Studies, ed. J. R. Davis and M. McCormick (Aldershot, 2008), pp. 247-66.

V. Christianizing the Family: Sexuality and Salvation. Sept. 28

M. Rouche, "The Early Middle Ages in the West," in A History of Private Life, tr. A. Goldhammer (Cambridge Mass, 1985), pp. 413-14, 453-84, 519-49.

Goody, The Development of the Family and Marriage, pp. 48-102.

Special Topics:

A. Did Christianity Reshape Family and Kinship?

J.-L. Flandrin, "Sex in Married Life in the Early Middle Ages: The Church's Teaching and Behavioral Reality," in Western Sexuality, pp. 114-29.

J.H. Lynch, Godparents and Kinship in Early Medieval Europe (Princeton, 1986), pp. 1-12, 163-223, 242-57.

P. J.Payer, Sex and the Penitentials : The Development of a Sexual Code, 550-1150 (Toronto 1984),pp. 1-54.

L. Bitel, The Land of Women: Tales of Sex and Gender from Early Ireland (Ithaca, 1996), pp. 167-203.

J. Smith, "Did Women Have a Transformation of the Roman World? Gender and History, 12 (2000), pp. 552-71.

B. Reshaping Marriage: From Polygamy to Monogamy?

James A. Brundage, Law, Sex, and Christian Society in Medieval Europe (Chicago, 1987) pp. 124-75.

S.F. Wemple, Women in Frankish Society (Philadelphia, 1981), pp. 27-50, 75-126.

Dyan Elliott, Spiritual Marriage: Sexual Abstinence in Medieval Wedlock (Princeton, 1993), pp. 3-15, 51-93.

VI. Family and Nobility: The Emergence of Patrilineages. Oct. 5

Herlihy, Medieval Households, pp. 79-111.

Goody, The Development of Family and Marriage, pp. 183-93, 222-39.

Special Topics:

A. The Origins of the Noble Families: From Sippe to Geschlect?

M. Bloch, Feudal Society, tr. L.A. Manyon (Chicago, 1961), vol. 1, pp. 123-42; vol. 2, pp. 283-93.

K. Schmid, "The Structure of the Nobility in the Early Middle Ages," in T. Reuter, ed. The Medieval Nobility, (Amsterdam, London, and N.Y., 1978), pp. 37-60.

G. Duby, "Lineage, Nobility, and Knighthood," and "French Genealogical Literature," in The Chivalrous Society, tr. C. Postan (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1977), pp. 59-80, 149-57.

K. Leyser, "The German Aristocracy from the 9th to the Early Twelfth Century," Past and Present, XXXIX (1968), pp. 25-53.

K.A. Bullough, "Early Medieval Kinship Groupings: The Terminology of Kinship," Past and Present, XL (1969), pp. 3-18.

K. Leyser, "Maternal Kin in Early Medieval Germany: A Reply," Past and Present, XLIX (1970), pp. 126-34.

J.B. Freed, "Reflections on the Medieval German Nobility," The American Historical Review, XCI (1986), pp. 553-75.

B. How Cohesive Were Noble Families?

C.B. Bouchard, "Consanguinity and Noble Marriages in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries," Speculum, LVI (1976), pp. 268-87.

Stephen White, Custom, Kinship, and Gifts to Saints: The laudatio parentum in Western France (Chapel Hill, 1988), pp. 1-18, 40-129.

C. Lansing, The Florentine Magnates: Lineage and Faction in a Medieval Commune (Princeton, 1991), pp. 3-27, 64-83, 164-211.

VII. Aristocratic Families in the High Middle Ages. Oct. 19

** G. Duby, The Knight, the Lady, and the Priest, tr. B. Bray (N.Y., 1983).
Karras, Sexuality in Medieval Europe, pp. 59-86.

Special Topics:

A. Ecclesiastical Control on Marriage: Medieval Liberation?

J.A. Brundage, Law, Sex, and Christian Society in Medieval Europe, pp. 176-245, 254-300, 323-4.

J. Scammel, "Freedom and Marriage in Medieval England," Economic History Review, XXVII (1974), pp. 523-37.

M.M. Sheehan, "Choice of Marriage Partners in the Middle Ages: Development and Mode of Application of a Theory of Marriage," Studies in Medieval and Renaissance History, XI (1978), pp. 4-15.

C. Donahue, Jr., "The Canon Law on the Formation of Marriage and Social Practice in the Later Middle Ages," Journal of Family History, VIII (1983), pp. 144-58.

B. Blood and Power

A. Lewis, Royal Succession in Capitian France: Studies in Family Order and the State (Cambridge, 1981), pp. 1-77.

E. Searle, Predatory Kinship and the Creation of Norman Power (Berkeley and L.A., 1988), pp. 1-11, 159-213, 230-49.

S. L. Waugh, The Lordship of England: Royal Wardships and Marriages in English Society and Politics, 1217-1327 (Princeton, 1988), pp. 3-63, 232-52, 277-80.

VIII. Shaping Bodies: Sexual Theories and Contraception. Oct. 26

Readings: T. Lacqueur, Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud (Cambridge, Mass, 1990), pp. 1-62, 114-92.

Special Topic:

A. Medieval Views of Sexuality

Charles T. Wood, "The Doctor's Dilemma: Sin, Salvation, and the Menstrual Cycle in Medieval Thought," Speculum LVI (1981), pp. 710-27.

Danielle Jacquart and Claude Thomasset, Sexuality and Medicine in the Middle Ages (Cambridge, 1988), pp. 7-86, 168-97.

Prudence Allen, The Concept of Women: The Aristotelean Revolution 750 BC to 1250 (Montréal, 1985), pp. 75-83, 119-26, 251-315, 385-412.

B. Contraception.

E. Coleman, "Infanticide in the Early Middle Ages," in Women in Medieval Society, ed. S. M. Stuard (Philadelphia, 1976), pp. 47-70.

John T. Noonan, Contraception: A History of its Treatment by the Catholic Theologians and Canonists (rev ed. Cambridge, Mass., 1986) TBA

John M. Riddle, Contraception and Abortion from the Ancient World to the Renaissance (Cambridge, Mass, 1992), pp. 1-15, 87-143.

IX. An Antidote to Marriage: Courtly Love. Nov. 9

** D. de Rougement, Love in the Western World tr. M. Belgion (N.Y., 1940), pp. 15-179.

G. Duby, "Youth in Aristocratic Society," in The Chivalrous Society, pp. 112-22.

Special Topics:

A. Love: Heresy or a New Civilization?

C.L. Lewis, The Allegory of Love: A Study in Medieval Tradition (Oxford, 1936), chp. 1.

A.J. Denomy, 'Fin'Amors: The Pure Love of the Troubadours: Its Amorality and Possible Source,' Medieval Studies, VIII (1945), pp. 139-207.

N. Elias, A History of Manners, vol. 2 Power and Civility, tr. E. Jephcott (N.Y., 1982), pp. 66-90, 258-70.

J.F. Benton, "Clio and Venus: An Historical View of Medieval Love," in The Meaning of Courtly Love, F.X. Newman, ed. (Albany, 1968), pp. 19-42.

C. Morris, The Discovery of the Individual, 1050-1200 (London, 1972), pp. 107-20.

D. Jacquert and C. Thomasset, Sexuality and Medicine in the Middle Ages, tr. M. Adamson (Oxford, 1988), pp. 87-138.

B. Romance and Power

John W. Baldwin: The Language of Sex: Five Voices from Northern France around 1200 (Baltimore, 1994), pp. xiii-xxviii, 1-42, 116-72.

Joan Ferrante, "Male Fantasy and Female Reality in Courtly Literature," Women's Studies, II (1984), pp. 67-97.

R. Howard Bloch, Medieval Misogyny and the Invention of Western Romantic Love (Chicago, 1991), pp. 1-13, 93-164.

X. Bounding Sexuality: Same Sex Relations and Prostitution. Nov. 16

Karras, Sexuality in Medieval Europe, pp. 1-27, 87-159.

Jacques Roussiaud, "Prostitution, sex and society in French towns in the fifteenth century," in Western Sexuality, pp. 76-94.

A. Immodest Acts: Sex between men – on the edge of homosexuality?

John Boswell, Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality (Chicago, 1990), pp. 3-59, 91-168, 243-302.

M. Jordan, The Construction of Sodomy in Christian Theology (

M. Roche, Forbidden Friendship: Homosexuality and Male Friendship in Renaissance Florence (Oxford, 1996), pp. TBA

B, Selling the Flesh and Social Control

L. Otis, Prostitution in Medieval Society: The History of an Urban Institution in Languedoc (Chicago, 1985), pp. 1-63.

J. Roussiaud, Medieval Prostitution, tr. L. Cochrane (Oxford, 1988), pp. 1-52, 104-128, 160-66.

R. M. Karras, Common Women: Prostitution and Sexuality in Medieval England (Oxford, 1996), pp. 1-47, 65-83.

XI. Conferences. Nov. 23

XII and XIII. Presentations. Nov. 29 – Dec. 5