

Swarthmore College
Spring 2014
Tues-Thurs. 9:55-11:10
Science Center 158

Bruce Dorsey
Trotter 214 x8095
Hours: T. & Th.: 11:15-1:00
& by appointment

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 end of the 20th century. It is a course on the cultural and social history of gender and sexuality in America.

REQUIRED READINGS:

The following books are required readings and available at the College Bookstore:

E. Anthony Rotundo, *American Manhood*.

Amy Greenberg, *Manifest Manhood and the Antebellum American Empire*.

Elliott Gorn, *The Manly Art: Bare-Knuckle Prize Fighting in America*.

Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization*.

George Chauncey, *Gay New York*.

Nayan Shah, *Stranger Intimacy*.

Steve Estes, *I am a Man! Race, Manhood, and the Civil Rights Movement*.

ALL ADDITIONAL ASSIGNED READINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON MOODLE.

Additional books for paper assignments are on reserve at McCabe Library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Reading and Class Participation: This is a discussion-oriented course, so attendance and participation are an important part of every students' commitment to this course. Students are expected to attend all class meetings, including films and guest lectures scheduled outside of class. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings **before** every class meeting, and be prepared for discussion.

Papers: Three papers (6-8 pages) will be written over the course of the semester. The papers are not designed to be research papers, but rather analytical essays integrating assigned and supplemental readings. Students can decide among a choice of topics. The essays will be based primarily on the supplemental reading list for each paper topic, 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. (A description of the expectations for the papers and the topics will be posted on Moodle.)

First Paper Due: Feb. 20.

Second Paper Due: Mar. 27.

Third Paper Due: May 2.

Examinations: There will be a final examination, either as a take-home exam or as an exam scheduled by the College Registrar (to be determined by the professor). The exam will be based on the assigned readings, class lectures and discussions.

POLICIES:Evaluation/Grading:

Class participation:	20%
Papers:	60%
Final Examination	20%

Note: Students must complete all writing assignments (including the Final Exam) to pass this course.

Attendance & Communication: The following is the History Department policy on attendance & communication: *"Students are required to attend all classes. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade for the course. If you are having a medical or personal emergency, please contact the Dean's Office as well as the instructor of the course. It is your responsibility to inform your instructor as soon as possible. It is essential that you check your email on a regular basis since History professors will contact you via email. We also expect you to use email to contact History professors."*

Laptops & Electronic Devices: To facilitate discussion and to avoid distractions, I am going to ask that you do not use a laptop or any other electronic device in class. Please silence and put away your mobile phone during class. (Disability accommodations requiring the use of a computer are not covered by this policy.)

Accommodations for disability: If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services (Parrish 113) or email lhempli1@swarthmore.edu to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. As appropriate, she will issue students with documented disabilities a formal Accommodations Letter. Since accommodations require early planning and are not retroactive, please contact her as soon as possible. For details about the accommodations process, visit the Student Disability Service website at <http://www.swarthmore.edu/student-life/academic-advising-and-support/student-disability-service.xml>. You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your academic needs. However, all disability-related accommodations must be arranged through Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services.

CLASS SCHEDULE:**(WEEK 1)****Jan. 21 INTRODUCTION****Jan. 23 MANHOOD AND THE STUDY OF GENDER**Required Reading:

Rotundo, *American Manhood*, Introduction.

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble* (1990), 1-34.

R. W. Connell, *Masculinities* (1995), 67-86.

Ditz, Toby L., "The New Men's History and the Peculiar Absence of Gendered Power: Some Remedies from Early American Gender History," *Gender & History* 16 (April 2004), 1-35.

More Reading: (Not now, but perhaps in your future)

Nancy F. Cott, "On Men's History and Women's History," in Carnes & Griffen, *Meanings for Manhood*, (1990), 205-211.

Judith A. Allen, "Men Interminably in Crisis? Historians on Masculinity, Sexual Boundaries, and Manhood," *Radical History Review* 82 (Winter 2002), 191-207.

Bruce Traister, "Academic Viagra: The Rise of American Masculinity Studies," *American Quarterly* 52 (2000), 274-304.

Robert A. Nye, "Locating Masculinity: Some Recent Work on Men," *Signs* 30 (2005), 1937-62.

(WEEK 2)**Jan. 28 MANHOOD IN COLONIAL & REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA**Required Reading:

Rotundo, *American Manhood*, ch. 1.

Kathleen M. Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches & Anxious Patriarchs* (1996), 42-74; 137-86 [excerpt]

Thomas A. Foster, *Sex and the Eighteenth-Century Man* (2006), 77-97.

I. NINETEENTH-CENTURY MANHOOD, 1790-1890**Jan. 30 INDUSTRIALIZATION & CAPITALISM: MEN, WOMEN, AND WORK**Required Reading:

Dana D. Nelson, *National Manhood: Capitalist Citizenship and the Imagined Fraternity of White Men* (1998), 29-53.

Paul Johnson, "The Modernization of Mayo Greenleaf Patch," *New England Quarterly* (1982), 488-516.

Bruce Dorsey & Woody Register, "Men on the Make: Entrepreneurs and the Mythical Culture of Self-Made Men," in *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, vol 1 (2009), 154-59.

(WEEK 3)**Feb. 4 THE DILEMMAS OF 19TH-CENTURY WHITE MANHOOD**Required Reading:

Mark C. Carnes, "Middle-Class Men and the Solace of Fraternal Ritual," in Carnes and Griffen, eds., *Meanings for Manhood*, 37-52.

Scott Sandage, *Born Losers: A History of Failure in America* (2005), 226-57.

Feb. 6 SLAVERY AND AFRICAN AMERICAN MANHOODRequired Reading:

Edward Baptist, "The Absent Subject: African American Masculinity and Forced Migration to the Antebellum Plantation Frontier," in Friend and Glover, eds., *Southern Manhood* (2004), 136-59.

Jim Cullen, "It's a Man Now: Gender and African American Men." in Catherine Clinton and Nina Silber, eds. *Divided Houses: Gender and the Civil War* (1992), 76-91

(WEEK 4)**Feb. 11 WHITE SOUTHERN MANHOOD**Required Reading:

Kenneth S. Greenberg, *Honor & Slavery* (1996), 3-23.

Bertram Wyatt-Brown, *Honor and Violence in the Old South* (1986), 14-39, 214-45.

Feb. 13 URBAN MANHOOD BEFORE THE CIVIL WARRequired Reading:

Brian P. Luskey, "Homo Counter-Jumperii," in *On the Make: Clerks and the Quest for Capital in Nineteenth-Century America* (2010), 83-118.

Patricia Cline Cohen, "Unregulated Youths: Masculinity and Murder in the 1830s City." *Radical History Review* (1992).

(WEEK 5)**Feb. 18 BOYHOOD, YOUTH, AND REFORM MOVEMENTS**Required Reading:

Rotundo, *American Manhood*, ch. 2 & 3.

Bruce Dorsey, *Reforming Men and Women: Gender in the Antebellum City* (2002), ch. 3.

**Feb. 20 FILM: *IN THE WHITE MAN'S IMAGE*.
(FIRST PAPER DUE)****(WEEK 6)****Feb. 25 MEN AND WOMEN IN THE WEST**Required Reading:

Susan Lee Johnson, *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush* (2000), ch. 3.

Amy Greenberg, *Manifest Manhood and the Antebellum American Empire*, 1-52.

Feb. 27 "MANIFEST DESTINY" AND MANHOODRequired Reading:

Greenberg, *Manifest Manhood and the Antebellum American Empire*, 88-169, 231-82.

II. TURN OF THE CENTURY (& INTIMACY/SEXUALITY), 1890-1940**(WEEK 7)****Mar. 4 SPORTS AND RECREATION**Required Reading:

Elliot Gorn, *The Manly Art*, Prologue, chapters 1, 4, 6, Epilogue. [Skim the rest.]

Mar. 6 RELIGIONRequired Reading:

Clifford Putney, *Muscular Christianity: Manhood and Sports in Protestant America, 1880-1920* (2001), 45-98.

SPRING BREAK: March. 8-16.

(WEEK 8)**Mar. 18 TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY TRANSITION IN WHITE, MIDDLE-CLASS MASCULINITY**Required Reading:

Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization*, ch. 1-3.

Margaret Marsh, "Suburban Men and Masculine Domesticity" in Carnes and Griffen, *Meanings for Manhood*, 111-127.

Mar. 20 STRENUOUS, PASSIONATE MANHOODRequired Reading:

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

Rotundo, *American Manhood*, ch. 10 & 11.

Woody Register, "Everyday Peter Pans: Work, Manhood, and Consumption in Urban America, 1900-1930," (1999), reprinted in Roger Horowitz, ed., *Boys and Their Toys: Masculinity, Technology and Class in America* (2001), 199-224.

(WEEK 9)**Mar. 25 WOMEN, COURTSHIP, AND SEX: MALE-FEMALE SEXUALITY**Required Reading:

Rotundo, *American Manhood*, ch. 5 & 6.

Kevin J. Mumford, "'Lost Manhood' Found: Male Sexual Impotence and Victorian Culture in the United States." *Journal of the History of Sexuality* (1993), 33-57.

Beth Bailey, *From Front Porch to Back Seat: Courtship in Twentieth-Century America* (1988), 97-118.

**Mar. 27 FILM: LOS MINEROS
(SECOND PAPER DUE)****(WEEK 10)****Apr. 3 MALE-MALE INTIMACY**Required Reading:

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

Martin Bauml Duberman, "'Writhing Bedfellows': Two Young Men from Antebellum South Carolina's Ruling Elite Share 'Extravagant Delight'," in Duberman, *About Time: Exploring the Gay Past* (1986), 5-14.

Apr. 1 IMMIGRATION & STRANGER INTIMACYRequired Reading:

Nayan Shah, *Stranger Intimacy*, Introduction, ch. 1-5.

(WEEK 11)**Apr. 8 HOMOSEXUALITY AND GAY MANHOOD**Required Reading:

George Chauncey, *Gay New York*, Introduction, ch. 2-7, 10-12, Epilogue.

Apr. 10 WORLD WAR II & THE "STRAIGHT STATE"Required Reading:

Timothy Stewart-Winter, "Not a Soldier, Not a Slacker: Conscientious Objectors and Male Citizenship in the U.S. during the Second World War," *Gender & History* 19 (2007), 519-42.

Margot Canaday, "Building a Straight State: Sexuality and Social Citizenship under the 1944 G.I. Bill," *Journal of American History* 90 (Dec. 2003), 935-57.

III. POSTWAR MASCULINITY, 1945-

(WEEK 12)

Apr. 15 CONFORMITY & ORGANIZATION MEN – THE MAN IN THE GRAY FLANNEL TRAP

Required Reading:

Barbara Ehrenreich, *The Hearts of Men* (1983), 14-51.

Julie Berebitsky, *Sex and the Office* (2012), 141-76.

Selected Primary Sources:

Richard Nixon's "Checkers Speech" (1952).

William Whyte, *The Organization Man* (1956).

"Uncertain Hero: The Paradox of the American Male," *Woman's Home Companion* (Nov. 1956).

"Playboy's Penthouse Apartment, part 1 & 2" *Playboy* (Sept. & Oct. 1956).

Films:

North by Northwest. Alfred Hitchcock, Director. 1959.

Apr. 17 FATHERS, SONS, AND JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

Required Reading:

James Gilbert, *A Cycle of Outrage: America's Reaction to the Juvenile Delinquent in the 1950s* (1986), 63-78.

Peter Biskind, *Seeing is Believing: How Hollywood Taught Us to Stop Worrying and Love the Fifties* (1983), 197-227.

Films:

Rebel Without a Cause. Nicholas Ray, Director. 1955.

Blackboard Jungle. Richard Brooks, Director. 1955.

(WEEK 13)

Apr. 22 CIVIL RIGHTS AND BLACK MASCULINITY

Required Reading:

Steve Estes, *I am a Man!*, Introduction, ch. 1-7.

Apr. 24 COLD WARRIORS AND VIETNAM

Required Reading:

Selected Primary Sources:

James F. O'Neil, "How You Can Fight Communism," *American Legion Magazine* (1948).

Mickey Spillane, *One Lonely Night* (1951).

David Loehwing, "How Red Girl Spies Make Suckers of G.I.'s," *National Police Gazette* (1954)

Robert O. Self, *All in the Family: The Realignment of American Democracy since the 1960s* (2012), 47-74.

Films:

My Son John. Leo McCarey, Director. 1952.

(WEEK 14)

Apr. 29 MALE BODIES, SEX, & "TRANSSEXUALISM"

Required Reading:

David Harley Serlin, "Christine Jorgensen and the Cold War Closet," *Radical History Review* 62 (1995), 136-65.

Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States* (2002), 51-97.

Films:

Some Like it Hot. Billy Wilder, Director. 1959.

May. 1 FEMALE MASCULINITY & A TRANSGENDER HISTORY OF MANHOODRequired Reading:

Judith (Jack) Halberstam, "Introduction to Female Masculinity," in *Female Masculinity* (1998), 1-43, 231-66.

Peter Boag, "Go West Young Man, Go East Young Woman: Searching for the *Trans* in Western Gender History," *Western Historical Quarterly*, 36 (2005), 477-97.

THIRD PAPER DUE: May. 2. 5PM.

FINAL EXAMINATION: DATE & TIME _____