HISTORY 29

Sexuality and Society in Modern Europe

This course examines the historical constructions of sex and sexual identities in Western societies since 1700. Topics include a survey of ancient Greek and medieval traditions; urbanization and the creation of sexual communities; the medicalization of sex; race and sexuality in colonized societies; the 19th century invention of normal and deviant sexualities; transsexuality; eugenics and the state.

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.

Academic Writing

This class is listed as writing intensive, which means that it places a significant focus on helping you to develop your analytic writing skills. You will practice formal writing skills in paper assignments that involve either the analysis of primary documents or the evaluation of historiography (how historians have written about historical topics). I will post detailed instructions for each assignment well in advance of the due date. On the due date you will give me a hard copy and an electronic version of your paper draft. Both the writing assistants and I will read them, and using the feedback from the WA’s, you will then hand in a second draft.

2) A 5-page (1,250 word) document analysis of a specific section of Freud’s Third Essay in his Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality due October 20.
3) An 8-page (2,000 word minimum) essay due December 15. In this paper you will focus more on analyzing secondary literature and historical arguments.

You will also engage in informal writing exercises that ask you to respond to the arguments made in particular readings. Please be prepared to write informal responses to the following readings: September 17 on Rousseau’s Emile, November 5 on Kollontai’s “Make Way for Winged Eros”, and December 1 on Rubin’s “Thinking Sex”.

Readings:

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

M. Foucault, Herculine Barbin. Being the Recently Discovered Memoirs of a 19th-Century French Hermaphrodite
M. Foucault, The History of Sexuality. An Introduction. Volume 1
S. Freud, Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality

All other readings are available on Blackboard in “Course Documents.”

The books listed above have been placed on General Reserve for this course:

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

Tue 9/1   INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Thu 9/3   POWER AND SEX IN CLASSICAL ATHENS
          Reading: Excerpt from Plato’s Symposium

Tue 9/8   SOME CLASSICAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF FEMALE SEXUALITY
          Reading: Aristotle, The Politics, XII-XIII (32-38)
          D. Halperin, “The First Homosexuality?” in D. Halperin, How to do the
**History of Homosexuality, 48-80.**

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| Thu 9/10 | **SEXUAL DIVERSITY AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY: ONE THEORY**  
Reading: J. Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality*, 91-117; 243-266; 269-277; 333-334  
J. Brown, “Lesbian Sexuality in Medieval and Early Modern Europe in Hidden from History, pp. 67-75 (See Notes 34 and 46)** |
| Tue 9/15 | **FROM SOCIAL DISTINCTIONS TO BIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCE**  
| Thu 9/17 | **TOWARD NEW NORMATIVE GENDER ROLES IN EUROPE**  
Reading: J. J. Rousseau, selection “Sophie” from *Emile*  
**In-Class Writing** |
| Tue 9/22 | **TOWARD A NEW NORMATIVE SEXUALITY IN EUROPE**  
Reading: T. van der Meer, “Tribades on Trial: Female Same-Sex Offenders, in Late 18th-Century Amsterdam,” in *Forbidden History*  
| Thu 9/24 | **NO CLASS**  
Reading: M. Foucault, *Hercule Barbin*, 119-151  
**Document Analysis Due** |
| Tue 9/29 | **AUTHENTICITY: THE MEDICALIZATION OF SOCIAL IDENTITY**  
Reading: M. Foucault, *Hercule Barbin*, vii-115; 155-199 |
Thu 10/1  RACE, DISEASE, SEXUAL BEHAVIOR: NATURE OR NURTURE?

Reading: S. Gilman, “Black Bodies, White Bodies: Toward an Iconography of Female Sexuality in Late 19th-Century Art, Medicine, and Literature” in H. Gates, ed., Race, Writing, and Difference
L. Duffin, “Women and Evolution” in Delamont & Duffin, eds. The 19th Century Woman: Her Cultural and Physical World

Tue 10/6  DEVELOPMENT AND DEVIATION: FREUD’S REVOLUTION (OR, THE INVENTION OF HETEROSEXUALITY)

Reading: S. Freud, Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality, 1-61

Th 10/8  NO CLASS
Second draft of first document analysis due

FALL BREAK

Tue 10/20  REPRESSION/INCITEMENT: THEORIZING MODERN SEXUALITY

Reading: M. Foucault, “We ‘other Victorians’” and “The Repressive Hypothesis” in The History of Sexuality. An Introduction, Volume 1, 1-49

Second document analysis due

Thu 10/22  SCANDALS AND MINORITY IDENTITIES: REPRESSION OR INCITEMENT?

FILM: Anders als die Anderen

Tue 10/27  PROSTITUTION, ‘WHITE SLAVERY,’ AND ITS MANY MEANINGS
Reading: J. Walkowitz & D. Walkowitz, “We are not Beasts of the Field.” Prostitution and the Poor in Plymouth and Southampton Under the Contagious Diseases Acts,” in Hartman & Banner, eds. Clio’s Consciousness Raised, 192-225

Thu 10/29  CONTRADICTIONS OF THE NEW WOMAN
Reading: M. Vicinus, “Distance and Desire: English Boarding School Friendships, 1870-1920,” in Hidden from History, 212-229

Tue 11/3  URBAN SPACE AND SEXUAL MINORITIES
Reading: M. Houlbrook, Queer London. Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis, 1918-1957, 68-92; 93-108

Thu 11/5  SEX AND BOLSHEVISM  (NO CLASS)
Reading: A. Kollontai, “Prostitution and Ways of Fighting It,” and “Make Way for Winged Eros: A Letter to Working-Class Youth” in Alexandra Kollontai: Selected Writings, 261-275, 276-29

Second Draft of Second Document Analysis Due

Tue 11/10  SEX REFORM, EMANCIPATION AND CONSUMERISM: THE 1920S

In Class Writing

Thu 11/12  REPRESSION AND INCITEMENT: FASCISM AND SEX
Reading: D. Herzog, Sex After Fascism: Memory and Morality in 20th-Century Germany, 10-63
Tue 11/17  SEX UNDER CAPITALISM
Reading: F. Eder, “The National Socialists’ ‘Healthy Sensuality’ was followed by ‘America’s Influence’: Sexuality and Media, from National Socialism to the Sexual Revolution” in Contemporary Austrian Studies 15, Sexuality in Austria, 102-130
FILM EXCERPTS: “Pillow Talk”

Thu 11/19  SEX UNDER COMMUNISM
Reading: D. Herzog, “East Germany’s Sexual Evolution,” in K. Pence and P. Betts, eds., Socialist Modern, 71-95

Tue 11/24  “EX-GI BECOMES BLONDE BEAUTY”: HOW SEX CHANGED

THANKSGIVING

Tue 12/1  RADICAL ACTIVISM (AND THE BACKLASH)
Reading: G. Rubin, “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality” in The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader, 3-43
In-Class Writing

Thu 12/3  RETHINKING IDENTITIES, ACTIVISM AND AIDS

**Tue 12/8**

**SEX AND SEXPLOITATION IN THE NEW EUROPE**

