

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
Department of History

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Office: Trotter 207
Office Hours: M 11:30-12:30;
T 2:00-4:00; W 1:00-3

fall 2009
X 8136
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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.

- 1) A 5-page (1,250 word) document analysis of the physicians' reports reproduced in M. Foucault, Herculine Barbin. Being the Recently Discovered Memoirs of a 19th-Century French Hermaphrodite, due September 24.

- 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 <u>Symposium</u> D. Halperin, "Sex Before Sexuality: Pederasty, Politics and Power in Classical Athens," in <u>Hidden From History. Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past</u> , 37-53 D. Halperin, "The Democratic Body: Prostitution and Citizenship in Classical Athens" in D. Halperin, <u>One Hundred Years of Homosexuality</u> , 88-112
Tue	9/8	SOME CLASSICAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF FEMALE SEXUALITY
	Reading:	Aristotle, <u>The Politics</u> , XII-XIII (32-38) D. Halperin, "The First Homosexuality?" in D. Halperin, <u>How to do the</u>

History of Homosexuality, 48-80.
"Of Tribads" from Forberg, Manual of Classical Erotology, 1844, 109-167

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**

Reading: T. Laqueur, "Orgasm, Generation and the Politics of Reproductive
Biology" in *Representations*, no.14, 1986

Thu 9/17 **TOWARD NEW NORMATIVE GENDER ROLES IN EUROPE**

Reading: J. J. Rousseau, selection "Sophie" from Emile
R. Perry, "Colonizing the Breast: Sexuality and Maternity in 18th-
Century England," in Forbidden History, ed. John Fout

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
E. Colwill, "Pass as a Woman, Act Like a Man: Marie-Antoinette as
Tribade in the Pornography of the French Revolution," in J.
Merrick & B. Ragan, ed., Homosexuality in Modern France, 54-79.

Thu 9/24 **NO CLASS**

Reading: M. Foucault, Herculine Barbin, 119-151

Document Analysis Due

Tue 9/29 **AUTHENTICITY: THE MEDICALIZATION OF SOCIAL IDENTITY**

Reading: M. Foucault, Herculine 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., <u>Race, Writing, and Difference</u> L. Duffin, "Women and Evolution" in Delamont & Duffin, eds. <u>The 19th Century Woman: Her Cultural and Physical World</u>
Tue	10/6	DEVELOPMENT AND DEVIATION: FREUD'S REVOLUTION (OR, THE INVENTION OF HETEROSEXUALITY)
	Reading:	S. Freud, <u>Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality</u> , 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 <u>The History of Sexuality. An Introduction</u> . Volume 1, 1-49
		Second document analysis due
Thu	10/22	SCANDALS AND MINORITY IDENTITIES: REPRESSION OR INCITEMENT?
	Reading:	S. Spector, "Where Personal Fate Turns to Public Affair: Homosexual Scandal and Social Order in Vienna, 1900-1910," in <i>Austrian History Yearbook</i> 38 (2007), 15-24 S. Spector, "The Wrath of the 'Countess Merviola:' Tabloid Expose and the Emergence of Homosexual Subjects in Vienna in 1907" in <i>Contemporary Austrian Studies</i> 15, <i>Sexuality in Austria</i> , 31-47 FILM: <i>Anders als die Anderen</i>
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
K. Stauter-Halsted, "'A Generation of Monsters': Jews, Prostitution, and
Racial Purity in the 1892 L'viv White Slavery Trial," in *Austrian
History Yearbook* 38 (2007), 25-35
- 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**
- Reading: A. Grossman, "The New Woman and the Rationalization of
Sexuality in Weimar Germany," in A. Snitow, ed. Powers of
Desire
- 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
U. Poiger, "Rock'n'Roll, Female Sexuality, and the Cold War Battle Over German Identities in R. Moeller, ed., West Germany Under Construction, 373-410.
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**

Reading: J. Meyerowitz, How Sex Changed. A History of Transsexuality in the United States, pp. 1-97

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
Andrea Dworkin, "Against the Male Flood: Censorship, Pornography, and Equality" in D. Weisberg, ed., Applications of Feminist Legal Theory to Women's Lives, 28-36

In-Class Writing

Thu 12/3 **RETHINKING IDENTITIES, ACTIVISM AND AIDS**

Reading: D. Tuller, "AIDS of the Russian Soul" in Cracks on the Iron Closet. Travels in Gay and Lesbian Russia, 205-225

H. Abelove, "The Politics of the 'Gay Plague': AIDS as a U.S. Ideology" in Body Politics. Disease, Desire, and the Family, ed. M. Ryan & A. Gordon, 3-17

Tue 12/8

SEX AND SEXPLOITATION IN THE NEW EUROPE

Reading: M. Bunzl, "The Prague Experience: Gay Male Sex Tourism and the Neocolonial Invention of an Embodied Border" in Altering States. Ethnographies of Transition in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, eds. Berdahl, Bunzl, Lampland, 70-95
P. Judson, "A Scandal in the Seminary" in *Contemporary Austrian Studies* 15, *Sexuality in Austria*, 145-157
J. Scott, The Politics of the Veil, 151-174