

**History 5591/Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies 6130**  
**History of Sexuality in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe**  
**York University - Winter 2013 - Marc Stein**

Seminar: R230-530, McLaughlin College 101A

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This course introduces graduate students to the history of sexuality in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe. The primary focus is 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> century history. Among the topics discussed are:

- definitions of sex, gender, and sexuality;
- sexual desires, behaviours, identities, communities, and movements;
- relationships between sexual discourses and practices;
- intersections of sexuality with age, class, (dis)ability, gender, ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, and sex;
- links between sexuality and capitalism, colonialism, nationalism, and imperialism;
- connections between sexuality and culture, economics, law, politics, and society.

The readings focus on same-sex and cross-sex sexualities; reproduction, abortion, birth control, and fertility; commercial sex, pornography, prostitution, and sex work; sexual health and disease; sexual violence; and sex and gender change. Most of the assigned texts were authored by historians, but works by scholars in other disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields are also considered. Readings and discussions are informed by feminism, marxism, psychoanalysis, poststructuralism, postcolonialism, critical race theory, queer theory, trans theory, crip theory, affect theory, and other theoretical frameworks.

### Readings

Except where indicated, all readings on the syllabus are required. Most books are available on reserve at Scott Library. Several copies of the main books are available at the York Bookstore.

### Grade Breakdown

Two Reaction Papers (750-1000 Words)	10%
Participation	45%
Major Paper (15-20 Pages)	45%

Reaction Papers: In reaction papers, you are invited to think creatively and critically about the works assigned, present an argument clearly and coherently, and demonstrate that your writing skills will put you in a position to prepare a successful major paper. Above all, you should show that (1) you understand the works and (2) you have developed a perspective on the works. Reaction papers may cover one course reading or multiple readings, and they may refer back to previous readings. You are encouraged to focus on a particular idea or argument presented; highlight tensions, contradictions, and gaps within an author's work; explore points of agreement and disagreement between and within texts; consider definitions and language; and discuss theoretical assumptions of historical works and historical applications of theoretical works. Reaction papers are due at the beginning of class on the day a particular reading or set of readings is assigned; papers will not be accepted after the seminar discussion. You are free to select which texts to cover, but I recommend that you allow time to review my comments on a previous paper before turning in the next. Reaction papers are not formal reviews or summaries. Unlike reviews and summaries, they may assume that the reader is familiar with the

text(s) under discussion and they need not provide a comprehensive review and evaluation of the text(s).

Participation: You are expected to attend all class meetings and participate actively in seminar discussions. Silent attendance is not acceptable. Most seminars will begin with each student being asked to highlight what they would like to discuss. At a minimum, each student should be prepared to summarize the main arguments and contributions of the readings assigned. Discussion questions generally will be circulated in advance and individual students will be asked to prepare brief responses. Participation is especially valued when students (1) distill the main arguments of the readings, (2) refer to specific passages in the readings, (3) respond to one another, (4) make links between different readings, (5) show that they are thinking independently, and (6) show that they are thinking collectively.

Major Paper: Your assignment is to present a primary, historiographic, or theoretical essay on a topic related to the subject of the course. Primary research papers that offer an in-depth analysis of a limited set of texts are encouraged. Historiographic papers are expected to review critically the development of historical scholarship on a particular subject. Theoretical papers should define, discuss, and analyze a conceptual problem in the history of sexuality. Historiographic and theoretical essays must review five or more books (with two articles or book chapters counting as the equivalent of one book); at least two of the books (or the equivalent in articles) must not be assigned course readings. All paper topics must be approved by 1 March (preferably after consulting with me earlier). Papers are due on 18 April.

#### 10 Jan.: Introduction

Note: The following readings are taken from the Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History in America, ed. Marc Stein (New York: Scribners, 2003). Electronic access to the encyclopedia and the other readings is available through York University libraries.

Nichole Prescott, "Essentialism and Constructionism," ELGBT

Bruce Freeman, "Gender and Sex," ELGBT

Kevin White, "Homosexuality and Heterosexuality," ELGBT

Lisa Duggan, "Sexual Orientation and Preference," ELGBT

#### 17 Jan.: Marxist and Feminist Histories of Sexuality in the 1970s

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1985), 53-76, 90-128, 217-296.

Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex," in Toward an Anthropology of Women, ed. Rayna R. Reiter (New York: Monthly Review, 1975), 157-210. [Reprinted in Deviations]

Nancy F. Cott, "Passionlessness: An Interpretation of Victorian Sexual Ideology, 1790-1850," Signs 4, no. 2 (1978): 219-36.

John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity," in Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality, ed. Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharon Thompson (New York: Monthly Review, 1983), 100-113. [Reprinted in Making Trouble]

#### 24 Jan.: Foucault's History of Sexuality

Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality: An Introduction, trans. Robert Hurley (New York: Pantheon, 1978).

31 Jan.: Class, Gender, and Race in Histories of Sexuality in the 1980s

- Gayle Rubin, "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality," in Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality, ed. Carole S. Vance (London: Routledge, 1984), 267-319. [Reprinted in Deviations]
- Kathy Peiss, "'Charity Girls' and City Pleasures: Historical Notes on Working-Class Sexuality, 1880-1920," in Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality, ed. Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharon Thompson (New York: Monthly Review, 1983), 74-87. [Reprinted in Passion and Power]
- Hazel Carby, "'It Jus Be's Dat Way Sometime': The Sexual Politics of Women's Blues," Radical America 20, no. 4 (1986): 3-22.
- John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America (New York: Harper and Row, 1988), xi-xx, 3-52, 85-108, 202-203, 215-21.
- Anne duCille, "'Othered' Matters: Reconceptualizing Dominance and Difference in the History of Sexuality in America," Journal of the History of Sexuality 1, no. 1 (1990): 102-127; John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman's response, 128-29.

7 Feb.: Gay and Lesbian History in the 1980s and Early 1990s

- John D'Emilio, Making Trouble: Essays on Gay History, Politics, and the University (New York: Routledge, 1992), 17-113, 234-74.
- Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline Davis, "The Reproduction of Butch-Fem Roles: A Social Constructionist Approach," in Passion and Power: Sexuality in History, ed. Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons (Philadelphia: Temple Univ. Press, 1989), 241-56.
- George Chauncey, Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay World, 1890-1940 (New York: Basic, 1994), 1-127.

14 Feb.: The Queer Turn

- Mariana Valverde, The Age of Light, Soap, and Water: Moral Reform in English Canada, 1885-1925, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (1991; Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 2008), ix-xiii, 3-43, 77-103.
- Henry Abelove, Deep Gossip (Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2003), xi-xviii, 1-55, 70-88.
- Lisa Duggan, "Making It Perfectly Queer," Socialist Review 22, no. 1 (Jan.-Mar. 1992): 11-31. [Reprinted in Sex Wars]
- Lisa Duggan, "The Trials of Alice Mitchell: Sensationalism, Sexology, and the Lesbian Subject in Turn-of-the-Century America," Signs 18, no. 4 (1993): 791-814.
- Lisa Duggan, "The Discipline Problem: Queer Theory Meets Lesbian and Gay History," GLQ 2, no. 3 (1995): 179-191. [Reprinted in Sex Wars]
- Heather Love, "'Spoiled Identity': Stephen Gordon's Loneliness and the Difficulties Of Queer History," GLQ 7, no. 2 (2001): 487-519.

28 Feb.: New Histories of Sexual Violence in the 1990s

- Judith R. Walkowitz, City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late-Victorian London (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992), ix-xiv, 1-13, 81-134, 191-245.
- Karen Dubinsky, Improper Advances: Rape and Heterosexual Conflict in Ontario, 1880-1929 (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1993), 1-112, 163-169.

7 Mar.: New Histories of Heterosexuality in the 1990s

- Jonathan Ned Katz, The Invention of Heterosexuality (New York: Dutton, 1995), 1-32.
- Gary B. Nash, "The Hidden History of Mestizo America," Journal of American History 82, no. 3 (Dec. 1995): 941-62.
- Jennifer Ting, "Bachelor Society: Deviant Heterosexuality and Asian American Historiography," in Privileging Positions: The Sites of Asian American Studies, ed. Gary Y. Okihiro, et al. (Pullman: Washington State Univ. Press, 1995), 271-79.
- Mary Louise Adams, The Trouble with Normal: Postwar Youth and the Making of Heterosexuality (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1997), 3-106.
- Patrick White, "Sex Education; Or, How The Blind Became Heterosexual," GLQ 9, nos. 1-2 (2003): 133-147.
- Jana Grekul, Harvey Krahn, and Dave Odynak, "Sterilizing the 'Feeble-minded': Eugenics in Alberta, Canada, 1929-1972," Journal of Historical Sociology 17, no. 4 (Dec. 2004): 358-84.

14 Mar.: New Histories of Same-Sex Sexuality in the 1990s and 2000s

- Steven Maynard, "Horrible Temptations': Sex, Men, and Working-Class Male Youth in Urban Ontario, 1890-1935," Canadian Historical Review 78, no. 2 (Jun. 1997): 191-235.
- Steven Maynard, "The Maple Leaf (Gardens) Forever: Sex, Canadian Historians and National History," Journal of Canadian Studies 36, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 70-105.
- Eithne Luibheid, "'Looking Like A Lesbian': The Organization of Sexual Monitoring At the United States-Mexican Border," Journal of the History of Sexuality 8, no. 3 (1998): 477-506.
- Margot Canaday, "'Who Is A Homosexual?': The Consolidation of Sexual Identities in Mid-Twentieth-Century American Immigration Law," Law and Social Inquiry 28, no. 2 (Spring 2003): 351-386.
- Steven Maynard, "Police/Archives," Archivaria 68 (Fall 2009): 159-182.
- Elise Chenier, "Hidden from Historians: Preserving Lesbian Oral History in Canada," Archivaria 68 (Fall 2009): 247-69.

21 Mar.: Historicizing Sexually-Transmitted Diseases

- Allan M. Brandt, "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study," Hastings Center Report 8, no. 6 (Dec. 1978): 21-29.
- Deborah B. Gould, Moving Politics: Emotion and ACT UP's Fight Against AIDS (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2009), 1-175.

28 Mar.: Transgender and Intersex Histories

- Kathleen Brown, "'Changed...into the Fashion of Man': The Politics of Sexual Difference in a Seventeenth-Century Anglo-American Settlement," Journal of the History of Sexuality 6 (1995): 171-193.
- Joanne Meyerowitz, How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2002).

4 Apr.: Colonial, Imperial, and Transnational Histories of Sexuality

- Adele Perry, On the Edge of Empire: Gender, Race, and the Making of British Columbia, 1849-1871 (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 2001).
- Mark Rifkin, When Did Indians Become Straight?: Kinship, the History of Sexuality, And Native Sovereignty (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2011), 3-38.