

HISTORY OF SEXUALITY IN THE UNITED STATES
HISTORY / WOMEN'S STUDIES / GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES 387-010

Memorial Hall Room 111, Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-3:15, p.m.

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday,
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

To sign up for office hours, please follow the link to my Google calendar, where you can reserve a 15-minute appointment. You will find the link on this course's SAKAI page.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Sexuality has a history. That statement expresses both the premise and the argument for this course. Because sexuality has a history, it changes across time. This course focuses on the history of sexuality in the United States since the nation's founding in the late eighteenth century, though we will briefly examine questions of sexual knowledge and power during the age of encounter and colonization. Along the way, we will examine the history of marriage and the family, pregnancy and childbirth, contraception, abortion, rape, prostitution, erotica/pornography, sexual reform and "social purity" movements, sexuality and racial conflicts, sex during wartime, transsexuality, same-sex desires and communities, the sexual politics of women's emancipation, sexual diseases, sex education, sexual liberation, and the gay rights movement.

In our examination of the history of sexuality, we will focus on four key themes: *fertility / reproduction, the regulation of sexuality (by reformers, agents of the state, parents, etc.), same-sex desires, and masculine/feminine ideals.*

This course will also teach you about historical analysis, how to read and evaluate primary documents, and how to construct a cogent argument about the past. Especially on a topic as politically and emotionally volatile as sexuality, it is imperative that we speak not simply from our "guts" or based upon feelings, but that we rely upon evidence to build our arguments and form a respectful academic community.

ASSIGNED TEXTS

The following books are at the University Bookstore and on two-hour reserve at Morris Library:

Martha Hodes, *White Women, Black Men: Illicit Sex in the Nineteenth-Century South*

Mary E. Odem, *Delinquent Daughters: Protecting and Policing Adolescent Female Sexuality in the United States, 1885-1920*

Elizabeth Reis, ed., *American Sexual Histories*, **Second Edition** (The first edition of this book is *not* a feasible substitute! It contains different material.)

Brock Thompson, *The Un-Natural State: Arkansas and the Queer South*

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Book Reviews: You will write book reviews for each of the three historical monographs assigned for this course (the books by Hodes, Odem, and Thompson). Each book review should be approximately 750-1,250 words (3-5 pages), and all references to books or articles should be cited and footnoted appropriately. Your book review should *not* summarize the book. For each review, I want you to *explain the book's argument* and then *assess the argument* within the context of the history of sexuality. *You may not consult or cite web-based material.*

Primary Source Analysis: The week of October 2-4 we will read two chapters from the reader (chapters 5 and 11 in Reis, *American Sexualities*). You will be assigned to write about a particular document from either of those two chapters. On October 4 you will bring to class a 2-3 page essay, in which you should summarize the content of the document, explain its context, and assess its implications for the history of sexuality in the U.S.

EXAMS

This course includes three reading quizzes, which will test your familiarity with the core ideas from the reading assignments to date; a midterm exam, which will cover the readings and lectures to date; and a final exam, which will consist of short-answer questions about material we have covered since the midterm exam and a cumulative essay question.

GRADING

Reading Quizzes	9% (3% each)
Book Reviews	36% (12% each)
Primary Source Analysis	5%
Class Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%

Extra Credit: Throughout the semester, I will inform you of lectures and symposia on campus that deal with issues that pertain to our class. If you attend one of these events and write a 500-word response about (a) what was said and (b) what you concluded about it, you may receive up to two bonus points, which would be added into your final grade. You may submit no more than two of these extra credit assignments during the semester.

A	94-100	C+	77-79.9
A-	90-93.9	C	73-76.9
B+	87-89.9	(AND SO FORTH)	
B	83-86.9		
B-	80-82.9		

POLICIES

Participation: Active participation in class discussions is a vital part of learning. Each of you will be expected to contribute your ideas, questions, and arguments to our class conversations. Any student who is concerned about being able to meet this requirement should speak with the professor to discuss techniques that will enable him or her to join the conversation.

Academic Honesty: All students are expected to uphold the university's standards of academic honesty and integrity. **Any student found to plagiarize any portion of any written assignment for this course, or to give or receive assistance during an exam, will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and recommended for a failing grade for this course.** Students should consult the website of the University of Delaware's Code of Conduct to understand how the university defines and sanctions plagiarism and other violations (<http://www.udel.edu/studentconduct/> and <http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/12-13/code.html>).

To avoid plagiarism, always attribute ideas, interpretations, and quotations to their original sources with parenthetical citations or footnotes. A source might be a book, article, radio or television program, website, faculty member, or fellow student. An excellent description of what plagiarism is, and how it can be avoided, can be found at <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>.

Cutting and pasting material from a website into your paper is a form of plagiarism!

Due dates: All papers and other assignments must be turned in on the due date. **Please bring a paper copy to class and upload your paper via SAKAI.** Emailed papers will not be accepted. Short of a hospital admission notice, religious observance, or major family crisis, no extensions will be granted. **If you use an unusual word processing program, please "save as" a Word file before you upload to SAKAI.**

Absences: Students are required to attend all class meetings. Each student is granted one "pass" for an unexcused absence. In other words, if your car breaks down, you get the flu, you have a religious observance to attend, or you otherwise cannot attend lecture, you may, once, be absent without penalty. Each subsequent unexcused absence from class will result in an **automatic 2% deduction** from your final grade. For grounds for an excused absence, see above.

**** You will be responsible for turning in a hard copy of any written work due on the day of your missed class by noon the following day. Late assignments should be delivered to my office in John Munroe Hall.**

**** Three late arrivals and/or early departures will count as an absence.**

**** Any student who joins this course after the first day will be responsible for all reading and writing assignments on the day on which they are due – and will receive no credit, with no option to make up the work, for any assignments whose due dates have already passed.**

Class Etiquette: No cell phones, ipods, ipads, etc. or text messaging gizmos may be used during class. Anyone in violation of this common courtesy will be asked to leave class and counted absent for that day. **You may not use a laptop during class unless you have documentation from DSS that you require one.**

Special Situations: Any student who requires accommodations should go to the Office of Disability Support Services (<http://www.udel.edu/DSS/>). You may find additional resources from the Office of Academic Enrichment (ae.udel.edu) and the Writing Center (<http://www.cas.udel.edu/writing-center/Pages/default.aspx>).

CLASS SCHEDULE

- 8/28 Introduction / Early American Encounters and Roles
- 8/30 Bodies in Doubt
- Reis, Chapter 1
- 9/4 Anglo-American Colonies
- Reis, Chapter 2
- 9/6 Sexual Revolutions: Fertility, Fornication, and Freedoms in the 18th Century
- Reis, Chapter 3
- 9/11 Race, Class, and Sexual Power in the Old South
- Hodes, Chapters 2 and 3
 - **Reading Quiz #1 (in class)**
- 9/13 Utopian Sexual Experiments
- Reis, Chapter 4
- 9/18 Sexual Cultures / Sexual Conflict in the Urban North
- Reis Chapter 6
- 9/20 Bodies, Rights, and Power, 1840-1900
- Hodes, Chapter 4
- 9/25 Discussion of *White Women, Black Men*
- Hodes, Chapters 7 and 8, Epilogue
- 9/27 Ideals of Victorian Marriage & Romantic Friendship
- **Book review #1 due (Students who observe Yom Kippur may submit their papers via SAKAI on 9/28.)**
- 10/2 Same-Sex Desires in 19th-Century America
- Reis, Chapter 5
- 10/4 Obscenity and the Purity Crusades
- Reis, Chapter 11
 - **Primary Source Analysis due**
- 10/9 Immigration, Interracial Marriage, and White Slavery
- Reis, Chapter 9
 - **Reading Quiz #2**

- 10/11 Birth Control and Venereal Disease in the Early 20th Cen.
• Odem, Introduction and Chapter 1
- 10/16 Eugenics / Review
• Odem, Chapters 2 and 3
- 10/18 **Midterm Exam** (will not include material from *Delinquent Daughters*)
- 10/23 Desire and Deviance in the Interwar Years
• Odem, Chapter 4
• Reis, Chapter 12—Documents only
- 10/25 Discussion of *Delinquent Daughters*
• Odem, Chapter 6 and Epilogue
- 10/30 Policing, Defining, and Identifying Homosexuality, 1930-1960
• Reis, Chapter 13
• **Book Review #2 Due**
- 11/1 Masculinity and Femininity, 1930-1960
• Reis, Chapter 15
- 11/6 **Election Day – Classes Suspended**
- 11/8 Sexual Revolutions, Part I: Gay Liberation and Gay Rights
• Thompson, Introduction and Part I
- 11/13 Transsexuality (Documentary film *Screaming Queens* shown in class)
- 11/15 Sexual Revolutions, Part II: The Women’s Movement
• Thompson, Part II
• **Reading Quiz #3**
- 11/20 Counterrevolutions
• Thompson, Part III and Epilogue
- 11/22 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**
- 11/27 Redefining Sexuality in the 21st Century
• **Book Review #3 due**
- 11/29 AIDS—*Guest Lecturer John Hatchett* **12:30 – 1:45 p.m.:**
• Reis, Chapter 16 **Lunch with John Hatchett (optional)**
• “The Denver Principles” (PDF File—SAKAI)
• “A History of the People with AIDS Self-Empowerment Movement” (PDF File – SAKAI)
- 12/4 Review and Discussion
Final Exam: December 13, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.