This course will explore both "classic" and more recent writings on the history of sexuality, focusing on the experiences, ideas, and conflicts that have shaped modern gay and lesbian identities. It will explore such questions as: What is the lesbian and gay past? How have historians recovered the stories of lesbians and gay men who lived in societies and eras vastly different from our own? What can we learn from history about gender and sexuality, repression and resistance, deviance and acceptance, identity and community? We will use films, primary and secondary readings, discussions, and written assignments to begin to answer these and other questions.

The success of this course depends on everyone's informed presence. Therefore, attendance and active participation in class will be a major part of your grade.

Class meets on Tuesdays, from 3:35-6:35 in 109 Boucke. Please be prompt.

The following books are required reading. All are in paperback and should be available used. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are on electronic reserve and are also required.

George Chauncey, Gay New York
Leslie Feinberg, Stone Butch Blues
Radclyffe Hall, The Well of Loneliness
Kathy Peiss, Major Problems in the History of American Sexuality
David Savage, The Kid
Mab Segrest, Memoir of a Race Traitor
WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS

In addition to expanding our knowledge of lesbian and gay history, this course will stress critical reading, research, and writing skills. The following are the assignments for undergraduate and graduate students.

I: UNDERGRADUATES

Each undergraduate student will write six 2-3 page response essays on a particular week's readings (5% each), a 3-5 page book, lecture, or film review (15%), and a 10-15 page final paper (25%). All due dates are listed below.

II: GRADUATE STUDENTS

Each graduate student will, in addition to the six response papers, write a 20-25 page research paper based on primary and secondary sources. The following schedule will be strictly observed:

1. Consultation with me on your research idea by Feb. 3.
2. A typed proposal, including the central questions, a plan for research, and a preliminary bibliography, due March 2.
3. A draft of the paper, due April 6.
4. Presentations at our final class on April 27.
5. A final paper (due during finals week)

Grades will be based on class participation and on the written assignments. Only outstanding effort and quality work (clear, insightful, sophisticated, and error-free) will get you an A in this course. Late assignments will be graded down. You must complete all the work to pass the course.

Other info: OutHistory.org, a new website based at City University of New York and directed by Jonathan Katz, is sponsoring a contest for online exhibits in local lgbt history. If anyone wants to take on such a project as a final assignment, please consult the website and talk to me early in the semester. http://www.outhistory.org/wiki/Main_Page
SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND CLASSES:

Jan. 12: \textbf{INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE}  
FILM: "BEFORE STONEWALL"

Jan. 19: \textbf{WHAT IS LESBIAN AND GAY HISTORY?}  
Rictor Norton, "Essentialism and Queer History," in Peiss, \textit{Major Problems}, 10-16  
*John Boswell, "Revolutions, Universals, & Sexual Categories," \textit{Hidden from History}, 17-36  

Paper #1 due

Jan. 26: \textbf{PREINDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES}  
Kathleen Brown, "'Changed ... into the Fashion of Man,'" in Peiss, \textit{Major Problems}, 80-92  
*Randolph Trumbach, "The Birth of the Queen," \textit{Hidden from History}, 129-140  
Documents: Peiss, \textit{Major Problems}, 70-80

Feb. 2: \textbf{THE NINETEENTH CENTURY: SEX AND DOMESTICITY}  
Nancy Cott, "Passionlessness," in Peiss, \textit{Major Problems}, 131-141  
Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual," in Peiss, \textit{Major Problems}, 201-214  
*Martin Duberman, "'Writhing Bedfellows," \textit{Hidden from History}, 153-168

Paper #2 due
Feb. 9:  
**THE NINETEENTH CENTURY: REDEFINITIONS**  
*George Chauncey, "From Sexual Inversion to Homosexuality," Salmagundi Fall 1982/Winter 1983: 114-146  
**Documents:** Peiss, *Major Problems*, 109-17, 188-201, 338-48

Feb. 16:  
**THE MAKING OF A GAY MALE WORLD**  
George Chauncey, *Gay New York*

**Paper #3 due**

Feb. 23:  
"WILLFUL WOMEN": ROLES, REPRESSION, & REBELLION  
Radclyffe Hall, *The Well of Loneliness*  
*Esther Newton, "The Mythic, Mannish Lesbian," Hidden from History, 281-293

Mar. 2:  
**ODD GIRLS AND TWILIGHT LOVERS**  
*Shari Benstock, "Paris Lesbianism and the Politics of Reaction," Hidden from History, 332-346  
*Estelle Freedman, "Miriam Van Waters and the Burning of Letters"

**Paper #4 due**

**GRADUATE STUDENTS' PROPOSALS DUE**

Mar. 9:  
**SPRING BREAK**
Mar. 16:  

**WORLD WAR II AND WARS AT HOME**

*Allan Berube, Coming out Under Fire, chaps. 5 & 6, pp. 128-174*


*Jeffrey Escofier, "Popular Sociology, Reading, and Coming Out," in Peiss, Major Problems, 393-403*

**Documents:** Peiss, *Major Problems*, 368-381

**FILM:** "COMING OUT UNDER FIRE"

**Paper #5 due**

Mar. 23:  

**WOMEN'S LIBERATION, GAY LIBERATION, AND IDENTITY**

Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues*

**Documents:** Peiss, *Major Problems*, 381-84, 406-422

Mar. 30:  

**PASSOVER: NO CLASS**

Apr. 6:  

**GAY COMMUNITIES, GAY POLITICS**

Mab Segrest, *Memoir of a Race Traitor*

**Documents:** Peiss, *Major Problems*, 406-422

**FILM:** "THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK"

Undergraduates’ Review Essays Due

Graduate Students’ Drafts Due

Apr. 13:  

**THE REAGAN ERA: SEXUAL MINORITIES and AIDS**


Michael Specter, "The Vaccine"  

**Documents:** Peiss, *Major Problems*, 446-460

**Paper #6 due**
Apr. 20: BACKLASH AND ASSIMILATION

http://hnn.us/articles/1539.html
Kath Weston, "Gay Families as the ‘Families we Choose,’” Peiss, Major Problems, 497-505
David Savage, The Kid

Documents: Peiss, Major Problems, 485-492

Apr. 27: FINAL CLASS: PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION

FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE DURING FINALS WEEK.