

HIST 26:510:553 / AMST 26:050:530
RACE AND SEXUAL POLITICS IN THE MODERN UNITED STATES

Class Location: Conklin 447
Class Meeting Time: Tuesdays 5:30-8:10PM

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This graduate reading course surveys the cultural and social history of race and sexuality as intersecting categories that have organized life and politics in the United States since the early twentieth century. Readings analyze the development of racial and sexual classifications, their place in American culture, and how Americans embraced, resisted, and transformed their normative meanings. The course is organized chronologically, beginning roughly at the turn of the twentieth century, when millions of African Americans began moving from the rural South to Northern cities and an expanding world of commercial entertainment allowed some city-dwellers to experiment with new configurations of sex and gender. Topics include the politics of respectability in communities of color and among whites; definitions of sexual health; reproductive and marital norms; the changing status of sex and marriage across the color line; sexual harassment and violence; HIV/AIDS; and the sexual politics of social movements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Participation (25% of final grade)

As a graduate seminar, this course depends on your willingness to come to class having completed the assigned readings and ready to discuss them thoughtfully. Each week, all students are required to submit to the instructor three discussion questions on that week's readings via e-mail (due no later than noon of the day we meet), demonstrating that you have grappled with the authors' major arguments and evidence. Please put your questions in the body of your e-mail and use the subject line "Questions."

II. Book Review and Presentation (25%)

Selecting from the supplemental readings below, students will write a book review of approximately 1000 words and present a condensed version of the review orally to the class. For examples of appropriate style for this book review, sample those in the *Journal of American History*. Due in class the week of your presentation.

III. Final Historiographical Essay (50%)

Students will write a historiographical paper of approximately 15-20 pages on one of several topics that will be distributed later in the semester. The paper should analyze and synthesize several texts of your choice, and is due on Monday, May 9, at noon.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books are available for purchase at NJ Books and the Rutgers Bookstore. Assigned articles will be posted on Blackboard.

- Michele Mitchell, *Righteous Propagation: African Americans and the Politics of Racial Destiny After Reconstruction* (North Carolina, 2004)
- Siobhan Somerville, *Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture* (Duke, 2001)
- Chad Heap, *Slumming: Sexual and Racial Encounters in American Nightlife, 1885-1940* (Chicago, 2009)
- Alexandra Minna Stern, *Eugenic Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in Modern America* (California, 2005)
- Katherine H.S. Moon, *Sex Among Allies: Military Prostitution in U.S.-Korea Relations* (Columbia, 1997)
- Renee C. Romano, *Race Mixing: Black-White Marriage In Postwar America* (Harvard, 2003)
- Eithne Luibheid and Lionel Cantú, eds., *Queer Migrations: Sexuality, U.S. Citizenship, and Border Crossings* (Minnesota, 2005)
- Rickie Solinger, *Wake Up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy and Race Before Roe v. Wade* (Routledge, 2000)
- Danielle L. McGuire, *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance, A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power* (Knopf, 2010)
- Regina Kunzel, *Criminal Intimacy: Prison and the Uneven History of Modern American Sexuality* (Chicago, 2008)
- Martin F. Manalansan IV, *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora* (Duke, 2003)
- Jennifer Brier, *Infectious Ideas: U.S. Political Responses to the AIDS Crisis* (North Carolina, 2009)
- Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Duke, 2007)

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 – Tue, Jan 18 – Introduction

WEEK 2 – Tue, Jan 25 – Reproduction and Racial Destiny

Michele Mitchell, *Righteous Propagation: African Americans and the Politics of Racial Destiny After Reconstruction* (North Carolina, 2004)

“AHR Forum: Amalgamation and the Historical Distinctiveness of the United States,” *American Historical Review* 108 (December 2003), 1362-1414

Supplemental:

Hannah Rosen, *Terror in the Heart of Freedom: Citizenship, Sexual Violence, and the Meaning of Race in the Postemancipation South* (North Carolina, 2008)

Martha Hodes, *White Women, Black Men: Illicit Sex in the Nineteenth-Century South* (Yale, 1997)

Tera W. Hunter, *To 'Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors After the Civil War* (Harvard, 1997)

Hazel V. Carby, *Race Men* (Harvard, 2000)

WEEK 3 – Tue, Feb 1 – Defining Normal

Siobhan Somerville, *Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture* (Duke, 2001)

Rogers Brubaker and Frederick Cooper, “Beyond ‘Identity,’” *Theory and Society* 29 (2000), 1-47

Supplemental:

Tavia Nyong'o, *The Amalgamation Waltz: Race, Performance, and the Ruses of Memory* (Minnesota, 2009)

Roderick A. Ferguson, *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique* (Minnesota, 2004)

WEEK 4 – Tue, Feb 8 – Urban Subcultures

Chad Heap, *Slumming: Sexual and Racial Encounters in American Nightlife, 1885-1940* (Chicago, 2009)

Hazel V. Carby, “Policing the Black Woman’s Body in an Urban Context,” *Critical Inquiry* 18:4 (Summer 1992), 738-755

Supplemental:

Monica L. Miller, *Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity* (Duke, 2009)

Shane Vogel, *The Scene of Harlem Cabaret: Race, Sexuality, Performance* (Chicago, 2009)

WEEK 5 – Tue, Feb 15 – Science and Public Health

Alexandra Minna Stern, *Eugenic Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in Modern America* (California, 2005)

Joanne Meyerowitz, “‘How Common Culture Shapes the Separate Lives’: Sexuality, Race, and Mid-Twentieth-Century Social Constructionist Thought,” *Journal of American History* 96:4 (March 2010), 1057–1084

Supplemental:

Nayan Shah, *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco’s Chinatown* (California, 2001)

Susan Reverby, *Examining Tuskegee: The Infamous Syphilis Study and Its Legacy* (North Carolina, 2009)

Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico* (California, 2002)

WEEK 6 – Tue, Feb 22 – The Cold War Era and U.S. Empire

Katherine H.S. Moon, *Sex Among Allies: Military Prostitution in U.S.-Korea Relations* (Columbia, 1997)

Jane Dailey, “Sex, Segregation, and the Sacred after *Brown*,” *Journal of American History* 91 (2004), 119-144

Supplemental:

Beth Bailey and David Farber, *The First Strange Place: Race and Sex in World War II Hawaii* (Free Press, 1992; rpt. Johns Hopkins, 1994)

Karen Anderson, *Little Rock: Race and Resistance at Central High School* (Princeton, 2009)

WEEK 7 – Tue, Mar 1 – Marriage

Renee C. Romano, *Race Mixing: Black-White Marriage In Postwar America* (Harvard, 2003)

Siobhan B. Somerville, “Queer Loving,” *GLQ* 11:3 (2005), 335-370

Supplemental:

Peggy Pascoe, *What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America* (Oxford, 2009)

Ji-Yeon Yuh, *Beyond the Shadow of Camptown: Korean Military Brides in America* (NYU, 2004)

WEEK 8 – Tue, Mar 8 – Borderlands and Border Crossings

Eithne Luibheid and Lionel Cantú, eds., *Queer Migrations: Sexuality, U.S. Citizenship, and Border Crossings* (Minnesota, 2005)

Nayan Shah, “Between ‘Oriental Depravity’ and ‘Natural Degenerates’: Spatial Borderlands and the Making of Ordinary Americans,” *American Quarterly* 57:3 (September 2005), 703-725

Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America* (Princeton, 2009), Chapter 6

Supplemental:

Ramon Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846* (Stanford, 1991)

Pablo Mitchell, *Coyote Nation: Sexuality, Race, and Conquest in Modernizing New Mexico, 1880-1920* (Chicago, 2005)

Lionel Cantu, Jr., *The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossings and Mexican Immigrant Men* (NYU, 2009)

Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America* (Princeton, 2009)

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9 – Tue, Mar 22 – The Politics of Reproduction

Rickie Solinger, *Wake Up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy and Race Before Roe v. Wade* (Routledge, 2000)

Ruth Feldstein, “I Wanted the Whole World to See: Race, Gender, and Constructions of Motherhood in the Death of Emmett Till,” in *Not June Cleaver: Women and Gender in Postwar America, 1945-1960*, ed. Joanne Meyerowitz (Temple, 1994), 263-303

Supplemental:

Susan K. Cahn, *Sexual Reckonings: Southern Girls in a Troubling Age* (Harvard, 2007)

Marc Stein, *Sexual Injustice: Supreme Court Decisions from Griswold to Roe* (North Carolina, 2010)

WEEK 10 – Tue, Mar 29 – Civil Rights and Public Space

Danielle L. McGuire, *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance, A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power* (Knopf, 2010)

Thaddeus Russell, “The Color of Discipline: Civil Rights and Black Sexuality,” *American Quarterly* 60:1 (March 2008), 101-128

Whitney Strub, “Black and White and Banned All Over: Race, Censorship, and Obscenity in Postwar Memphis,” *Journal of Social History* 40:3 (Spring 2007), 685-715

Supplemental:

John Howard, *Men Like That: A Southern Queer History* (Chicago, 1999)

Winifred Breines, *The Trouble Between Us: An Uneasy History of White and Black Women in the Feminist Movement* (Oxford, 2007)

Anne Enke, *Finding the Movement: Sexuality, Contested Space, and Feminist Activism* (Duke, 2007)

Martin Meeker, *Contacts Desired: Gay and Lesbian Communications and Community, 1940s-1970s* (Chicago, 2006)

WEEK 11 – Tue, Apr 5 – The Carceral State

Regina Kunzel, *Criminal Intimacy: Prison and the Uneven History of Modern American Sexuality* (Chicago, 2008)

Russell K. Robinson, “Racing the Closet,” *Stanford Law Review* 61 (April 2009), 1463-1533

Supplemental:

Bernard E. Harcourt, *Against Prediction: Profiling, Policing, and Punishing in an Actuarial Age* (Chicago, 2007)

Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism* (Routledge, 2005)

WEEK 13 – Tue, Apr 12 – Theorizing Intersections

Martin F. Manalansan IV, *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora* (Duke, 2003)

David Valentine, *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category* (Duke, 2007), Chap. 3

Supplemental:

José Esteban Muñoz, *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics* (Minnesota, 1999)

Lawrence LaFountain-Stokes, *Queer Ricans: Cultures and Sexualities in the Diaspora* (Minnesota, 2009)

Gayatri Gopinath, *Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures* (Duke, 2005)

Kathryn Bond Stockton, *Beautiful Bottom, Beautiful Shame: Where ‘Black’ Meets ‘Queer’* (Duke, 2006)

WEEK 14 – Tue, Apr 19 – The Late Twentieth Century

Jennifer Brier, *Infectious Ideas: U.S. Political Responses to the AIDS Crisis* (North Carolina, 2009)

Christina B. Hanhardt, “Butterflies, Whistles, and Fists: Gay Safe Streets Patrols and the New Gay Ghetto, 1976-1981,” *Radical History Review* 100 (Winter 2008), 60-85

Supplemental:

Alice Echols, *Hot Stuff: Disco and the Remaking of American Culture* (Norton, 2010)

Cathy J. Cohen, *The Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics* (Chicago, 1999)

WEEK 15 - Tue Apr 26 – The Present as History

Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Duke, 2007)

Joseph Massad, “Re-Orienting Desire: The Gay International and the Arab World,” *Public Culture* 14:2 (2002), 361-385

Supplemental:

Judith Halberstam, *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives* (NYU, 2005)

Heather K. Love, *Feeling Backward: Loss and the Politics of Queer History* (Harvard, 2007)