Course Description and Goals

This course explores the construction, articulation, and politics of queer sexual desire in Europe from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. By placing queer sexualities in their broader social and political context, the course examines the ways in which sexuality has become central to questions of identity – both personal and national – in modern European societies. Topics include: the role of the new science of sexology in specifying various ‘sexual perversions’ in the late nineteenth century; the rise of sexual undergrounds in the context of European urbanization; the birth of modern campaigns for ‘homosexual emancipation’; the attempts to regulate and suppress ‘deviant’ sexualities, especially under the fascist regimes in the 1930s; the effects of the postwar consumer revolution on the practices of sexual selfhood; postwar sex change procedures and debates; the politics of 1950s homophile organizing, the 1970s Gay Liberation Movement, and queer life in 1980s East Germany; the recent politics of homonormalization and the articulation of queer Muslim identities in contemporary Europe. The course will focus primarily on Britain, Germany, and France, and to a lesser extent on Italy and Russia and other parts of Europe. The readings for the course will be drawn from sexological texts, political tracts, memoirs, and the writings of recent historians and theorists. Several films will also be screened for the course, central to the various themes that will be addressed.

In addition to offering a chronological history of modern ‘queer Europe’, the course will also interrogate the meanings of the term ‘queer’ and explore what queer historical practices look like, or should look like. In addition to tracing the history of those individuals who would claim to occupy various, recognizable categories of identity, the course will also explore how those identity categories have been brought into existence and how we might begin to make sense of historical understandings of the self that might appear alien to us today.
The Course and the Exploring Diversity Initiative

‘Queering Europe’ meets the requirements of the Exploring Diversity Initiative insofar as it explores how sexual difference has been constituted, contested, and experienced and how what we assume to be the ‘sexual norm’ has a profoundly political history.

Assigned Readings

The following three books have been ordered for HIST 332 / WGSS 331 and are available for purchase in Water Street Books:


Dagmar Herzog’s *Sexuality in Europe* will serve as our starting point, providing valuable context and a general overview of the history of sexuality in modern Europe. The course is divided into five broad topics (parts 1-5) organized largely chronologically, albeit with the initial topic focusing more on methodology. Prior to each of these five topics specific pages from Herzog’s text have been assigned; these should be read before we immerse ourselves in the topics for which Herzog’s text serves as an introduction. For some of our class meetings, you are asked to refamiliarize yourself with specific pages from Herzog’s text that are germane to the topic of that meeting.

Most of the readings for HIST 332 / WGSS 331 are to be found in the general course reader, available from Office Services at 51 Park Street (open only from 9:00-3:30). The course reader consists of excerpts from various books, articles, and primary documents, all organized in the order to be read for the course. Given that there are only three books to be purchased for the class, the course reader is a weighty tome and assembled in three volumes. Volume one consists of readings for Topics One and Two; volume two consists of readings for Topic Three; and volume three consists of readings for Topics Four and Five. The first volume will be available when classes begin; the second and third volumes will be available when required, later in the semester.

All readings should be undertaken in the order listed on the syllabus. All readings from the three books ordered for the course are marked with an asterisk (*) on the syllabus; readings from the three-volume reading packet are marked with a plus sign (+).

All readings should be brought to class so that specific pages and passages can be referred to in our discussions.

Films

In addition to completing all the readings for the class, you are expected to view five films and complete the various readings related to them for class discussion. The viewing of these films is a mandatory part of the class. Each of the films will be screened for the class as a group (the date and time are listed on the syllabus, below). The films are also on reserve in Sawyer Library and can be viewed outside of the formal class screening (although they will not be available during the period when they will be removed for the public screenings). All five films can also be watched on YouTube (with English subtitles for the German films), although not always of the highest quality. Specific links to the version of each film that should be watched can be found on the course’s GLOW page.
Guest Lecture

Dagmar Herzog, Professor of History at the City University of New York and author of the main text for the course and of many other books and articles on German history and the history of sexuality, will be speaking at Williams on **Monday 15th September, from 4:30-6:00**. The topic of her talk is ‘Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History – and a History of the Present’. Attendance at her talk is mandatory.

Evaluation

HIST 332 / WGSS 331 will be taught primarily via discussion, with very brief lectures at the end of each class framing the reading for the next meeting. Demonstration in-class of a familiarity with the reading is essential and students will be called on during our discussions and are expected regularly to be full participants in class discussion.

Formal evaluation in the course will be based on the following criteria:

1) **Four response papers and class discussion**
   Students are expected to prepare **FOUR response papers** (of approximately 250-300 words each), both identifying the major themes addressed in the readings for four class meetings of their choice and raising questions about those readings to be discussed in class. Students can choose which four class meetings they wish to write about; a sign-up list will be circulated on the second day of classes. **All four response papers MUST be posted on the course’s GLOW site (or circulated via email to everybody in class) BY 9:00 pm ON THE EVENING BEFORE THE CLASS MEETING IN WHICH THE READINGS WILL BE DISCUSSED. Papers will be penalized by one-third of a grade for each two-hour period they are late.** No more than two students will be permitted to write on any one session. The grades for the response papers and participation in class discussion will, combined, account for 25% of the student’s final grade.

2) **Two 7-8 page interpretive essays**
   TWO 7-8 page interpretive essays will be assigned, each counting 25% of the final grade. The first essay will be due on **Monday 13th October**, during Fall Reading Period; the second essay will be due on **Sunday 16th November**. A choice of several topics will be offered for each essay assignment, all based on the material we have read for and discussed in class. **Papers will be penalized one-third of a grade for each day (24-hour period) they are late, including weekends.**

3) **A final research paper of 12-15 pages**
   A final research paper on a topic of the student’s own choosing (arranged in discussions with the instructor) will be the culminating assignment for the course, due during final exam period and no later than **Friday 12th December**.
Some Final Points

Given that this course, more than most, is cumulative in nature – that what we do builds upon what we have already done – regular attendance and participation in class discussions will be stressed and absences will be noted accordingly. *Your final grade will be dropped by 1/3 of a grade point after each TWO absences.*

The use of LAPTOPS and other electronic devices in class is not customarily permitted.

All written work undertaken for the class must be your own and in your papers the work of others must be appropriately cited. I draw your attention to the important provisions of the Honor Code as detailed in the College’s *Student Handbook*; all cases of plagiarism will be reported accordingly.
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

session one: Thursday 4th September
COURSE INTRODUCTION
No reading.

PART ONE
CONCEPTUALIZING QUEER EUROPE:
SOME STARTING POINTS

background preparation:
* Dagmar Herzog, Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History (2011), introduction (pp. 1-5)

session two: Tuesday 9th September
GAY / LESBIAN / QUEER:
FRAMEWORKS (70 pages +)
* [review Herzog, Sexuality in Europe, introduction (pp. 1-5).]
+ Annamarie Jagosse, Queer Theory (1996), introduction (pp. 1-6), chaps. 7-8 (pp. 72-126).
[In addition to the readings for both today and Thursday, begin reading Michel Foucault’s book, Herculine Barbin, as we will be discussing the book in its entirety next Tuesday.]

session three: Thursday 11th September
GAY / LESBIAN / QUEER:
HISTORICAL PRACTICES (75 pages)
+ Laura Doan, Disturbing Practices: History, Sexuality, and Women’s Experience of Modern War (2012), introduction (pp. 1-6 and 11-17 only), chap. 1 (pp. 27-32 only), chap. 2 (pp. 58-71, 76-80, and 89-93 only).
special session:
Monday 15th September, 4:30-6:00
Professor Dagmar Herzog (CUNY),
‘Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History – and a History of the Present’

session four: Tuesday 16th September
HERCULINE BARBIN:
NARRATIVES OF THE SELF (200 pages)
* Michel Foucault, Herculine Barbin, Being the Recently Discovered Memoirs of a Nineteenth-Century French Hermaphrodite (1980), entire.

PART TWO

THE SEXOLOGICAL MOMENT
LOVE, LUST, SCIENCE, AND SCANDAL, c.1850-1920

background preparation:
* Dagmar Herzog, Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History (2011), chap. 1 (pp. 6-44)
session five: Thursday 18th September
BETWEEN WOMEN:
THE QUEER WORLD OF WOMEN’S FRIENDSHIPS IN VICTORIAN BRITAIN (115 pages)
+ Martha Vicinus, Intimate Friends: Women Who Loved Women, 1778-1928 (2004), introduction (pp. xv-xxix only), chap. 1 (pp. 5-11 only), chap 4 (pp 85-88 and 98-108 only).
+ Sharon Marcus, Between Women: Friendship, Desire, and Marriage in Victorian England (2007), introduction (pp. 1-2 and 5-22 only), chap. 1 (pp. 25-32 and 43-62 only), chap. 3 (pp. 111-16 and 149-66 only), chap. 5 (pp. 193-204 and 222-26 only), conclusion (pp. 257-62).

session six: Tuesday 23rd September
CATALOGUING DEVIANTS:
RICHARD VON KRAFFT-EBING AND THE SEXOLOGICAL SUBJECT (100 pages +)
* [review Herzog, Sexuality in Europe, pp. 28-35.]

session seven: Thursday 25th September
THE SOTADIC ZONE:
RICHARD BURTON AND THE QUEERNESS OF STRANGERS (100 pages)
+ Dane Kennedy, The Highly Civilized Man: Richard Burton and the Victorian World (2005), introduction (pp. 1-9), chap. 7 (pp. 206-47).

session eight: Tuesday 30th September
THE SEDUCTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN:
WILHELM VON GLOEDEN AND FREDERICK ROLFE (BARON CORVO)
IN ITALY (80 pages)
+ F.R. Rolfe, Baron Corvo, The Venice Letters, edited and introduced by Cecil Woolf (1974), introduction (pp. 7-13) and excerpts from letters 2, 6, 7, 10, 11 (pp. 16-18, 28-40, 44-6, 50-3).
+ Vincenzo Mirisola and Guiseppe Vanzella, Sicilia Mitica Arcadia: Von Gloeden e la ‘Scuola’ di Taormina (2004), excerpts from introductory essays by Mirisola and Vanzella (English translations, even pages, pp. 8-12, 16, 24-38).
[ALSO, study the photographs by von Gloeden on the course’s GLOW site, where you will find a copy of the article by Dominic Janes in which many of the Christmas cards are in full color.]
session nine: Thursday 2nd October

SCANDAL IN WILDE TIMES:
OSCAR WILDE AND HIS LEGACY  (115 pages +)
* [review Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe*, pp. 35-41.]
+ Neil Bartlett, *Who Was That Man? A Present for Mr Oscar Wilde* (1988), introduction (pp. xix-xxii), chap. 1 (pp. 23-37), chap. 2 (pp. 39-54 only), chap 5 (pp. 93-103, 125-49, and 159-62 only), chap. 6 (pp. 163-71), chap. 9 (pp. 211-13).

session ten: Tuesday 7th October

FROM URANIANS AND INVERTS TO HOMOSEXUALS:
THE COMPETING CLAIMS OF EDWARD CARPENTER, HAVELOCK ELLIS, AND SIGMUND FREUD  (75 pages)

session eleven: Thursday 9th October

QUEER SELVES, QUEER WORLDS IN LATE TSARIST AND REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA  (100 pages)
+ Dan Healey, *Homosexual Desire in Revolutionary Russia: The Regulation of Sexual and Gender Dissent* (2001), chaps. 1-4 (pp. 21-125).

Monday 13th October  *** FIRST ESSAYS DUE ***
FIRST ESSAYS DUE MONDAY 13th OCTOBER BY 5:00 pm in MY OFFICE DOOR BOX OR SENT AS AN EMAIL ATTACHMENT (word or pdf document).

Tuesday 14th October

NO CLASS – FALL READING PERIOD (but note the evening film screening).

special session – film screening:
Tuesday 14th October, 7:00 pm
*Anders als die Andern* (dir. by Richard Oswald, Germany, 1919, 50 min.)
PART THREE
QUEER LIVES IN WAR AND PEACE, c.1914-1945

background preparation:
* Dagmar Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History* (2011), chap. 2 (pp. 45-95)

session twelve: Thursday 16th October
MAGNUS HIRSCHFELD AND THE SEXUAL TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR (70 pages +)
* [review Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe*, pp. 45-56.]
+ Magnus Hirschfeld, *The Sexual History of the World War* (1941 English language edition), introduction (pp. 11-22), chap. 7 (pp. 124-40).
+ James D. Steakley, 'Cinema and Censorship in the Weimar Republic: The Case of *Anders als die Andern*', *Film History* 11, no. 2 (1999), pp. 181-203.
session thirteen: Tuesday 21st October
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE CITY: LONDON’S QUEER URBAN PRACTICES (170 pages)
* Matt Houlbrook, *Queer London: Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis, 1918-1957* (2005), introduction (pp. 1-13); part one ('Policing'), chap. 1 (pp. 19-31 only); part two ('Places'), intro. (pp. 40-2), chap. 2 (pp. 43-67), chap. 3 (pp. 68-92), chap. 4 (pp. 93-102 only); part three ('People'), intro. (pp. 136-7), chap. 6 (pp. 139-66), chap. 7 (pp. 167-94), chap. 8 (pp. 195-208 only); part four ('Politics'), chap. 9 (pp. 221-36 only); conclusion (pp. 264-71).

session fourteen: Thursday 23rd October
FINDING ONESELF IN INTERWAR BRITAIN – FOUR STORIES:
VIOLET DOUGLAS-PENNANT, KATHERINE EVERETT, COLONEL BARKER, AND MISS OGILVY (85 pages +)
* [review Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe*, pp. 56-61 and 75-82.]

special session – film screening:
Sunday 26th October, 7:00 pm
*Mädchen in Uniform* (dir. by Leotine Sagan and Carl Froelich, Germany, 1931, 84 min.)

session fifteen: Tuesday 28th October
FEMALE MASCULINITY IN INTERWAR GERMANY (90 pages)
+ Katie Sutton, *The Masculine Woman in Weimar Germany* (2011), introduction (pp. 1-24), chap. 1 (pp. 25-52 only), chap. 3 (pp. 90-125), chap. 4 (pp. 126-9 and 142-7 only).

session sixteen: Thursday 30th October
DEGENERATES:
NAZI GERMANY, FASCIST ITALY, AND THE HOMOSEXUAL ‘PROBLEM’ (115 pages +)
* [review Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe*, pp. 61-75 and 83-86.]
PART FOUR
FROM THE RESPECTABLE HOMOPHILE TO GAY LIBERATION AND BEYOND, c.1945-1989

background preparation:
* Dagmar Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History* (2011), chaps. 3-4 (pp. 96-175), chap. 5 (pp. 176-95 only)
session seventeen: Tuesday 4th November
DOMESTICITY, RESPECTABILITY, AND THE SOCIAL:
HOMOPHILE IDENTITIES AND POLITICS IN BRITAIN AND FRANCE  (115 pages +)
  * [review Herzog, Sexuality in Europe, pp. 117-26 (mid-page).]
  * Matt Houlbrook, Queer London: Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis, 1918-1957 (2005), chap. 10 (pp. 241-63).
  + Julian Jackson, Living in Arcadia: Politics and Morality in France from the Liberation to AIDS (2009), introduction (pp. 1-15); part two, introduction (pp. 56-7), chap. 3 (pp. 58-68 only), chap. 5 (pp. 111-33), chap. 6 (pp. 134-40, 145-7, and 149-50 only); conclusion (pp. 242-53).

special session – film screening:
Tuesday 4th November, 7:00 pm
Anders als Du und Ich (dir. by Veit Harlan, West Germany, 1957, 92 min.)

session eighteen: Thursday 6th November
RESPECTABILITY DENIED:
THE POLITICS OF QUEER EROS IN THE NEW FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (95 pages +)
  * [review Herzog, Sexuality in Europe, pp. 126 (‘also...’) -31.]
  + Clayton Whisnant, Male Homosexuality in West Germany: Between Persecution and Freedom, 1945-69 (2012), chap. 2 (pp. 15-17, 22-36, and 43-63 only) – pay careful attention to pp. 51-2 on the film.

session nineteen: Tuesday 11th November
GENDER, SELFHOOD, AND SEX CHANGE:
THE CASE OF ROBERTA COWELL  (110 pages)
  + Roberta Cowell, Roberta Cowell's Story by Herself (1954), preface (pp. ix-xi), chap. 1 (pp. 1-6 and 10-12 only), chap. 4 (pp. 58-60 only), chap. 5 (pp. 61-2 and 64-81 only), chaps. 6 (pp. 82-87 and 89-91 only), chap. 7 (pp. 96-104 only), chap. 8 (pp. 112-15 and 117-21 only), chaps. 9-11 (pp. 122-54).

special session – film screening:
Tuesday 11th November, 7:00 pm
The Killing of Sister George (dir. by Robert Aldrich, USA/UK, 1968, 140 min.)
session twenty: Thursday 13th November
‘BUTCHES’ AND PREJUDICE:
DOCUMENTING THE ‘LESBIAN’ IN BRITAIN’S SWINGING ‘SIXTIES’ (70 pages)
+ Rebecca Jennings, *Tomboys and Bachelor Girls: A Lesbian History of Postwar Britain 1945-71* (2007), introduction (pp. 1-6 only), chap. 4 (pp. 106-33).
+ Jill Gardiner, *From the Closet to the Screen: Women at the Gateways Club, 1945-85* (2003), chap. 7 (pp. 132-55).

Sunday 16th November *** SECOND ESSAYS DUE ***
SECOND ESSAYS DUE SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER by 5:00 pm in MY OFFICE DOOR BOX OR SENT AS AN EMAIL ATTACHMENT (word or pdf document).

session twenty-one: Tuesday 18th November
DOCUMENTS OF GAY LIBERATION:
BRITAIN AND ITALY IN THE 1970s (105 pages +)
* [review Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe*, pp. 146-52 and 168-71.]
+ Mario Mieli, *Homosexuality and Liberation: Elements of a Gay Critique*, translated by David Fernbach (1977; English trans. 1980), preface (pp. 18-19), chap. 1 (pp. 21-38 only), chap. 2 (pp. 53-72), chap. 3 (pp. 106-21 only), chap. 7 (pp. 212-17 and 228-30 only).

special session – film screening:
Tuesday 18th November, 7:00 pm
*Coming Out* (dir. by Heiner Carow, East Germany, 1989, 108 min.)

session twenty-two: Thursday 20th November
‘COMING OUT’ IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC:
THE PROTOKOLLIERUNG OF EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE TIME OF COMMUNISM (90 pages +)
* [review Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe*, pp. 183-7.]
+ Kenneth Plummer, *Telling Sexual Stories: Power, Change and Social Worlds* (1994), chap. 4 (pp. 49-50 and 52-8 only), chap. 6 (pp. 81-96).
PART FIVE
QUEER PASTS / QUEER PRESENT

background preparation:
* Dagmar Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History* (2011), chap. 5 (pp. 195-217 only), epilogue (pp. 218-21)

session twenty-three: Tuesday 25th November (or Sun. 23rd or Mon. 24th Nov.)
FROM JEWISH COMMUNITY TO QUEER COMMUNITY:
LONGING AND BELONGING IN PARIS (110 pages +)
  * [review Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe*, pp. 176-83.]
  + David Caron, *My Father and I: The Marais and the Queerness of Community* (2009), prologue (pp. 1-21), chap. 1 (pp. 25-46 and 55-74 only), chap. 2 (pp. 75-109), chap. 4 (pp. 150-60 only), chap. 5 (pp. 183-206).

Thursday 27th November
   NO CLASS. Happy Thanksgiving!

session twenty-four: Tuesday 2nd December
BURTON REVISITED; OR, EUROPEAN HOMONORMATIVITY AND QUEER MUSLIMS (70 pages +)
  * [review Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe*, pp. 195-205.]
  + Joseph A. Massad, *Desiring Arabs* (2007), introduction (pp. 1-11 and 37-47 only), chap. 3 (pp. 160-90).
session twenty-five: Thursday 4th December
EUROVISIONS AND HOMOMONUMENTS (65 pages +)

* * [review Herzog, Sexuality in Europe, pp. 218-21.]

[Explore the Eurovision Song Contest on the web, and especially last year’s winner, Conchita Wurst.]

**** FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY DECEMBER 12th BY 5:00 PM ****