

**HIST 702/SXS 702: Sexuality in Historical Perspective**  
Spring 2016

Marc Stein

Class: Tues. 4:10-6:55

Room: Science 270

Course Website: <https://ilearn.sfsu.edu/ay1516/course/view.php?id=15252>

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Office Hours: Tues./Thurs. 1:00-2:00

This course introduces M.A. students to the history of sexuality in the United States. Among the topics discussed are:

- definitions and conceptions of sex, gender, and sexuality;
- sexual desires, behaviors, 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; monoracial and interracial sex; abortion, birth control, fertility, marriage, reproduction, and sterilization; commercial sex, obscenity, pornography, prostitution, and sex work; sexual health and disease; sexual exploitation and 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.

After an introductory week that addresses key concepts and theories, the course is organized historiographically, moving through key themes and major works in the field from the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s before turning to more recent scholarship. This is meant to highlight the ways in which scholarship on the history of sexuality has been influenced by recent historical developments, the extent to which older works have influenced newer ones, and the degree to which newer works have effectively characterized their relationships to older scholarship. The historiographic organization is also meant to encourage students to conceptualize scholarly debates and discussions as conversations that develop over time.

### Readings

All of the assigned readings are available via the SFSU library, the course website, and/or internet links. Students are responsible for making sure that they have the assigned readings available in class, either in printed or electronic format. The readings will serve as the basis for class discussion, so they must be accessible during seminar discussions.

### Grading

Grades will be based on the following:

Seminar Participation	Feb. - May	30%
Seminar Presentations (2)	Feb. - May	10%

Short Essays (2)	Feb. – May	10%
Paper Proposal and Bibliography	Apr.	10%
Major Paper	May	30%
Best Graded Component (Participation or Paper)	Feb. - May	10%

Class participation is critically important since the seminar will not feature lectures and much of the learning will happen in discussion and dialogue. Students are expected to attend every class meeting (except in cases of serious illnesses and emergencies), make up missed work, come to class on time, remain present until the end of class, complete all readings assigned before class, come to class prepared to discuss the readings, respond constructively and respectfully to the comments and presentations of other seminar participants, and help create a positive learning environment for the class as a whole.

**Seminar Presentations:** Over the course of the semester, each student will have two opportunities to introduce a reading. Reading selections will be made in the first two weeks of the semester (April 12 is excluded). Students may not select a reading for the two weeks when they are submitting short essays. Each presentation should be approximately ten minutes. The presentation should provide a summary of the essay (covering at minimum the topic, period, sources, approach, and argument), highlight its major contributions, and introduce critical questions or comments.

**Short Essays:** Over the course of the semester, each student will prepare two five-page (1250 word) essays that summarize, assess, compare, and contrast two or more of the assigned readings for that week. Papers must be submitted at the beginning of the class that addresses the readings. Students may not select readings that are assigned for the weeks when they are doing seminar presentations.

**Paper Proposal:** By the middle of April students should submit a 750-word proposal for a historiography paper on a specific topic, period, or approach in the history of sexuality. Footnotes should be used but not counted for the word limit. The proposal should indicate the topic of the paper, the importance/significance of the subject, the historiographic questions that will be addressed, and the key works that will be discussed. Students should focus primarily or exclusively on assigned course readings; additional readings may be added with the permission of the instructor. Students are encouraged to discuss their paper topics with the instructor in advance.

**Major Paper:** In May, students will submit a major historiography paper. The length of the paper should be approximately 15-20 pages (3750 to 5000 words), not counting footnotes. The paper should discuss or reference a minimum of 15 assigned readings (up to 5 out of the 15 may be referenced in passing or in footnotes). The papers should address how major works in the history of sexuality have addressed (or not addressed) a particular topic or period (or how they have adopted (or not adopted) a particular approach, how the scholarship has (or has not) changed over time, what the contributions (and limitations) of these works have been, and what scholarship on this topic could or should address in the future.

In preparing your written work, students are expected to read and follow the guidelines set forth in Marc Stein, “Writing History,” which will be distributed in class.

### Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is a fundamental principle of the university. Academic dishonesty, in the form of cheating or plagiarism, represents an attempt to gain an unfair advantage and it is expressly

prohibited by the SFSU Student Code of Conduct. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, gaining unfair access to answers to exams, fabrication of work, helping other students to cheat, etc. Plagiarism can be defined as using another person's words or work without proper acknowledgment (see also <http://conduct.sfsu.edu/plagiarism> for more information on avoiding plagiarism). Students who are found to have cheated or plagiarized will be subject to discipline ranging from receiving a failing grade for the specific assignment to referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs and Student Discipline to possible suspension or expulsion. All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the Department Chair and College Dean. Students are responsible for knowing the SFSU regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism, found in the University Bulletin and online at: <http://conduct.sfsu.edu/standards>.

### Accommodations

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email [dprc@sfsu.edu](mailto:dprc@sfsu.edu).”

### Sexual Violence, Sex Discrimination, and Gender Discrimination

SFSU fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the Dean of Students. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact: The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208; [http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe\\_plc/](http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc/) Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338-2208; <http://psyservs.sfsu.edu/> For more information on your rights and available resources: <http://titleix.sfsu.edu/>.”

### Student Learning Objectives

This course is designed to promote various student learning objectives. After successfully completing the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate an advanced understanding of historical ways of knowing, historical methods of research and writing, and the concept of historiography
- be familiar with major theories and methodologies that have influenced and been influenced by scholarship on the history of sexuality
- understand the major contributions and limitations of key works on the history of sexuality in the United States
- identify, read, interpret, and discuss secondary scholarship on the history of sexuality
- present strong and original arguments about the history of sexuality in oral and written formats
- have a broad understanding of the history of sexuality in the United States and its relationship to the histories of class, gender, race, and (dis)ability
- think critically about the history of sexuality as it relates to U.S. social, cultural, and political history

### 2 Feb.: 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 is available through the SFSU Library. Please also spend a little time familiarizing yourself with the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, the Notches blog (<http://notchesblog.com/>), the website of the Committee on LGBT History (<http://clgbthistory.org/>), and the website Outhistory (<http://outhistory.org/>).

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*

#### 9 Feb.: Marxist, Feminist, and Psychoanalytic 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, 217-244.

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.

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.

#### 16 Feb.: Foucault's History of Sexuality

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

#### 23 Feb.: Histories of Abortion, Birth Control, and Reproduction in the 1970s and 1980s

Daniel Scott Smith, "Family Limitation, Sexual Control, and Domestic Feminism in Victorian America," *Feminist Studies* 1, nos. 3-4 (Winter/Spring 1973): 40-57.

Linda Gordon, "The Politics of Population: Birth Control and the Eugenics Movement," *Radical America* 8, no. 4, (July-August 1974): 61-98.

Paul Lombardo, "Three Generations, No Imbeciles: New Light on *Buck v. Bell*," *New York University Law Review* 30 (April 1985): 30-62.

Jessie Rodrique, "The Black Community and the Birth Control Movement," in *Passion and Power: Sexuality in History*, ed. Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons (Philadelphia: Temple Univ. Press, 1989), 138-154.

Cornelia Hughes Dayton, "Abortion and Gender Relations in an Eighteenth-Century New England Village," *William and Mary Quarterly* 48, no. 1 (Jan. 1991): 19-49.

#### 1 Mar.: Histories of Sexuality in the 1980s: Sex Wars and Race Politics

Allan M. Brandt, "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study," *Hastings Center Report* 8, no. 6 (Dec. 1978): 21-29.

Ellen Carol Dubois and Linda Gordon, "Seeking Ecstasy on the Battlefield: Danger and Pleasure in Nineteenth-Century Feminist Sexual Thought," *Feminist Review* 9, no. 1 (Spring 1983): 7-25.

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.

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, 3-38, 85-108, 202-221.

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.

#### 8 Mar.: Gay History in the 1980s and 1990s

John D'Emilio, *Making Trouble: Essays on Gay History, Politics, and the University* (New York: Routledge, 1992), 17-95.

George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay World, 1890-1940* (New York: Basic, 1994), 1-127.

#### 15 Mar.: Lesbian History in the 1980s and 1990s

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, *Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1985), 245-296.

Madeline Davis and Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy, "Oral History and the Study of Sexuality in the Lesbian Community: Buffalo, New York, 1940-1960," *Feminist Studies* 12, no. 1 (Spring 1986): 7-26.

Jennifer Terry, "Theorizing Deviant Historiography," *GLQ* 3, no. 2 (Summer 1991): 55-74.

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.

Karen V. Hansen, "'No Kisses Is Like Youres': An Erotic Friendship between Two African-American Women During the Mid-Nineteenth Century," *Gender and History* 7 (Aug. 1995): 153-182.

#### 29 Mar.: The Queer Turn of the 1990s

Lisa Duggan, "Making It Perfectly Queer," *Socialist Review* 22, no. 1 (Jan.-Mar. 1992): 11-31.

Lisa Duggan, "The Discipline Problem: Queer Theory Meets Lesbian and Gay History," *GLQ* 2, no. 3 (1995): 179-191.

Jeffrey Escoffier, Regina Kunzel, and Molly McGarry, "Editors' Introduction," *Radical History Review*, no. 62 (Spring 1995): 1-5.

Martha Umphrey, "The Trouble with Harry Thaw," *Radical History Review*, no. 62 (Spring 1995): 8-23.

Donna Penn, "Queer: Theorizing Politics and History," *Radical History Review*, no. 62 (Spring 1995): 24-42.

Henry Abelove, "The Queering of Lesbian/Gay History," *Radical History Review*, no. 62 (Spring 1995): 44-57.

Leila J. Rupp, "Everyone's Queer," *OAH Magazine of History* 20, no. 2 (Sep. 2006): 8-11.

#### 5 Apr.: Histories of Heterosexuality in the 1990s and 2000s

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.
- Sharon Block, "Lines of Color, Sex, and Service: Comparative Sexual Coercion in Early America," in *Sex, Love, Race: Crossing Boundaries in North American History*, ed. Martha Hodes (New York: New York University Press, 1998), 141-163.
- Sarah Barringer Gordon, "The Mormon Question: Polygamy and Constitutional Conflict in Nineteenth-Century America," *Journal of Supreme Court History* 28, no. 1 (2003): 14-29.
- Estelle Freedman, "'Crimes Which Startle and Horrify': Gender, Age, and the Racialization of Sexual Violence in White American Newspapers, 1870-1900," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 20, no. 3 (2011): 465-497.

#### 12 Apr.: Emma Goldman, Sexual Radicalism, and Archival Politics

- Emma Goldman, *Marriage and Love* (New York: Mother Earth, 1911).
- Candace Falk, "Emma Goldman: Passion, Politics, and the Theatrics of Free Expression," *Women's History Review* 11, no. 1 (2002): 11-26.
- Marc Stein, "Canonizing Homophile Sexual Respectability: Archives, History, and Memory," *Radical History Review*, no. 120 (Fall 2014): 52-73.
- Glen Martin, "One Fewer Radical at Berkeley: Emma Goldman Papers Forced to Go Elsewhere," *California Magazine*, Feb. 2015, <http://alumni.berkeley.edu/california-magazine/just-in/2015-02-20/one-fewer-radical-berkeley-emma-goldman-papers-forced-go>.

#### 19 Apr.: New Histories of Same-Sex Sexuality in the 1990s and 2000s

- Will Roscoe, "Was We'wha a Homosexual?" *GLQ* 2, no. 3 (1995): 193-235.
- Richard Godbeer, "'The Cry of Sodom': Discourse, Intercourse, and Desire in Colonial New England," *William and Mary Quarterly* 52, no. 2 (Apr. 1995): 259-286.
- 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.
- Nayan Shah, "Between 'Oriental Depravity' and 'Natural Degenerates': Spatial Borderlands and the Making of Ordinary Americans," *American Quarterly* (Sep. 2005): 703-725.

#### 26 Apr.: New Histories of Sexually-Transmitted Diseases in the 2000s

- Robert Padgug, "Gay Villain, Gay Hero: Homosexuality and the Social Construction of AIDS," in *Passion and Power: Sexuality in History*, ed. Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons (Philadelphia: Temple Univ. Press, 1989), 293-313.
- Susan Reverby, "More Than Fact and Fiction: Cultural Memory and the Tuskegee Syphilis Study," *Hastings Center Report* 13, no. 5 (Sep. 2001): 22-28.
- Deborah B. Gould, *Moving Politics: Emotion and ACT UP's Fight Against AIDS* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2009), 1-175.

#### 3 May: 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), 1-129.

Elizabeth Reis, "Impossible Hermaphrodites: Intersex in America, 1620-1960," *Journal of American History* 92, no. 2 (2005): 411-441.

Susan Stryker, "(De)Subjugated Knowledges: An Introduction to Transgender Studies," in *The Transgender Studies Reader*, ed. Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle (New York: Routledge, 2006), 1-17.

#### Option 1 - 10 May: New Histories of Western Genders and Sexualities

Peter Boag, "Go West Young Man, Go East Young Woman: Searching for the Trans in Western Gender History," *Western Historical Quarterly* (2005): 477-497.

Whitney Strub, "The Clearly Obscene and the Queerly Obscene: Heteronormativity and Obscenity in Cold War Los Angeles," *American Quarterly* 60, no. 2 (2008): 373-398.

Nan Alamilla Boyd, "San Francisco's Castro District: From Gay Liberation to Tourist Destination," *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change* 9, no. 3 (2011): 237-248.

Pablo Mitchell, *West of Sex: Making Mexican America, 1900-1930* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2012), 1-59.

Clare Sears, *Arresting Dress: Cross-Dressing, Law, and Fascination in Nineteenth-Century San Francisco* (Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 2015), 1-60.

#### Option 2 - 10 May: New Histories of Sexuality, Marriage, Family, and Domesticity

Ariela Dubler, "From *McLaughlin v. Florida* to *Lawrence v. Texas*: Sexual Freedom and the Road to Marriage," *Columbia Law Review* (2006): 1165-1187.

Daniel Rivers, "'In the Best Interests of the Child': Lesbian and Gay Parenting Custody Cases, 1967-1985," *Journal of Social History* 43, no. 4 (2010): 917-943.

Lauren Jae Gutterman, "Another Enemy Within: Lesbian Wives, or the Hidden Threat to the Nuclear Family in Post-war America," *Gender & History* 24, no. 2 (2012): 475-501.

Gillian Frank, "'The Civil Rights of Parents': Race and Conservative Politics in Anita Bryant's Campaign against Gay Rights in 1970s Florida," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 22, no. 1 (2013): 126-160.

Rachel Hope Cleves, "'What, Another Female Husband?': The Prehistory of Same-Sex Marriage in America," *Journal of American History* 101, no. 4 (2015): 1055-1081.

Stephen Vider, "'The Ultimate Extension of Gay Community': Communal Living and Gay Liberation in the 1970s," *Gender & History* 27, no. 3 (2015): 865-881.

#### Option 3 - 10 May: New Histories of Sexual Representations

April Haynes, "The Trials of Frederick Hollick: Obscenity, Sex Education, and Medical Democracy in the Antebellum United States," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 12, no. 4 (2003): 543-574.

Gillian Frank, "Discophobia: Antigay Prejudice and the 1979 Backlash against Disco," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 16, no. 2 (2007): 276-306.

Carrie Pitzulo, "The Battle in Every Man's Bed: Playboy and the Fiery Feminists," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 17, no. 2 (2008): 259-289.

Whitney Strub, "'The Clearly Obscene and the Queerly Obscene: Heteronormativity and Obscenity in Cold War Los Angeles,'" *American Quarterly* 60, no. 2 (2008): 373-398.

Brian Hoffman, “‘A Certain Amount of Prudishness’: Nudist Magazines and the Liberalisation of American Obscenity Law, 1947–58,” *Gender & History* 22, no. 3 (2010): 708-732.

David Johnson, “Physique Pioneers: The Politics of 1960s Gay Consumer Culture,” *Journal of Social History* 43, no. 4 (2010): 867-892.