Welcome to the class! This course covers the development of concepts of gender and sexuality in the West from ancient Mesopotamia until the early modern period (c. 1650). Both of these concepts are cultural constructs that evolve from a variety of different power relationships that exist on a macro-level (political and religious institutions) to a micro-level (local community and family life). By studying these ideas we can better understand a wide variety of cultural features in the civilizations we will be discussing, from social mores to hierarchical relationships to political strategies and religious beliefs.

Learning Outcomes
After taking this course, students will be able to:

• read critically and interpret primary sources
• analyze how historians use “gender” and “sexuality” for studying the premodern Western world using both primary sources and modern secondary analyses
• identify major historical events that affected men and women differently
• communicate historical interpretation in written form
• devise a research plan culminating in a research project and presentation

There is no textbook to purchase for this course. All reading materials and videos listed below are posted in Canvas.

Research paper (30% of overall grade)
Students will write a research paper of at least 2,000 words. The research paper provides you with the opportunity to pursue further a particular theme you find interesting in the course. While the paper is due at the end of the semester, you will be working on it throughout the semester with several small assignments building up to its completion. Specific instructions on the research paper are found in Canvas in the Research Paper module.

Scaffolding assignments (15% of overall grade, 3 Assignments in all at 5% each)
Scaffolding is the process of breaking down a larger research assignment into smaller components. As you work on your research paper, you will have three scaffolding assignments to complete. The first assignment is a brief (250 words) description of the topic on which you are writing. The second assignment is the bibliography of the primary and secondary sources you are using for your research paper. The third scaffolding assignment is an outline and general overview of how the research paper is progressing, including any changes or new revelations that you discovered while researching your topic.

Research Presentation (15% of overall grade)
On the last day of class, you will make a 5-7 minute presentation on your research. Presentations should include a Power Point and/or some other kind of visuals. Students should be prepared for a short Q & A session on their research by fellow classmates and me at the end of their presentations.
Class Participation and Classwork (20% of overall grade)
As a seminar course, a large chunk of class time will be spent on discussion and in-class reflective writing. As such, you must come to class having read and viewed materials due on that particular day as noted in the schedule below.
At the end of each class, I will lecture briefly about the historical context of the following week’s lesson thereby providing the class with the historical context to understand the readings.

Journal (20% of overall grade)
Each week there will be a journal prompt that you will write on in the Journal section of Canvas. The prompt will be based on the readings and videos found in Blackboard and classroom discussion. The journal prompt will be posted in Canvas Wednesdays evenings and your entry will be due by Sunday evening, no later than 8:00 PM. Journal entries should be at least 250 words long.

Breakdown of Grades

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<tr>
<th>Grade Scale</th>
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<td>90-100 A</td>
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<td>87-89 B+</td>
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Attendance Policy
Attendance is required. There will be no make-up opportunities for missed classes.

Excused vs. Unexcused absences: The Rutgers-Newark Undergraduate catalog states: “The recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.” If you plan to claim a religious holiday as an excused absence, you must inform me of this fact within the first two weeks of class.

I will take attendance at the beginning of every class. If you arrive late, after I have taken attendance, I will give you half credit for being in class. This means that two late arrivals will count as one unexcused absence. Leaving early without prior permission will count as an unexcused absence.

Please keep in mind that this course meets once a week, so each class meeting is actually the equivalent of two classes. After two unexcused absences, your overall course grade will be lowered by a partial grade (from B+ to B, for example) for every further unexcused absence. With four absences, the stakes change: Any student who misses four or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will have missed more than a quarter of the class time and will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course to avoid an F.

Academic Integrity/Behavior
Rutgers expects and requires all its students to act with honesty and integrity and respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. Plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense and will not be tolerated. Cases of plagiarism will immediately be sent to the appropriate college dean for review.
You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with Rutgers policy on plagiarism at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/ for more information.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment.”

**Accommodation and Support Statement**

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

**For Individuals with Disabilities:** The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Individuals who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Absence Verification:** The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to University Policy 10.2.7 for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries:** The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu.

**For English as a Second Language (ESL):** The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.

**For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University’s Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/.
For support related to interpersonal violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a confidential resource and does not have an obligation to report information to the University’s Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being: The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out TAO at Rutgers-Newark for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.

Technology Resources for Students: https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/technology-resources-for-students/
Contact information for OIT-Newark Help Desk: https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

September 6: Introduction to the course and each other

September 13 Mesopotamia, Hebrews and Persians
Excerpt from “Women in Middle East, 8,000 BCE-CE 1800” by Guity Nashat in Women in the Middle East and North Africa
“Sexuality and Religion in Mesopotamia” by Gwendolyn Leick in Religion Compass (2008)

Primary Sources
Excerpts from the “Code of Hammurabi” (Just read laws #117-194)
https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/hamcode.asp
“Advice of an Akkadian Father to his Son”
https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/2200akkad-father.asp

September 20 Ancient Greece
“Women and the City of Athens” in Goddesses, Whores, Wives and Slaves: Women in Classical Antiquity
by Sarah Pomeroy
“Classical Athens: The Politics of Sex” in Sexuality in Greek and Roman Culture by Marilyn Skinner
“Spartan Women: Women in a Warrior Society” in Women in the Classical World

Primary Sources: Excerpts from Xenophon’s Constitution of the Lacedaemonians “The Education of Spartan Mothers” and the “The Advantages of Spartan Education and Marriage Customs” in Women’s Life in Greece & Rome by Mary Lefkowitz and Maureen Fant
“The Past Activities of a Courtesan” in Women’s Life in Greece & Rome by Mary Lefkowitz and Maureen Fant
September 27  Rome
“Republican Rome I: From Marriage by Capture to Partnership in War – The Proud Women of Early Rome” and “Women, Family, and Sexuality in the Age of Augustus and the Julio-Claudians” in Women in the Classical World

**Primary Sources:** “The Rape of Lucretia”, “Early Roman Republic” and “On the Julian Marriage Laws” in Women’s Life in Greece & Rome by Mary Lefkowitz and Maureen Fant

October 4  Greco-Roman Medicine and Philosophy
“Medicine: The “Proof” of Anatomy by Lesley Dean-Jones in Women in the Classical World
Women Philosophers in the Ancient Greek World: Donning the Mantle by Kathleen Wider in “Who were the Pythagorean Women” in Pythagorean Women: Their History and Writings by Sarah Pomoroy

**Primary sources:** Excerpts from “The Hippocratic Corpus” by Hippocrates, “On the Usefulness of the Parts of the Body” by Galen and “Educating Women” by Plato in Women's Life in Greece & Rome by Mary Lefkowitz and Maureen Fant

October 11  Early Christianity

**First Scaffolding Assignment Due: Title and Description of Research Project**
“Christian Baptism in the Fourth Century: The Conversion of the Body” and “’Becoming Male’: Women Martyrs and Ascetics in Carnal Knowing: Female Nakedness and Religious Meaning in the Christian West by Margaret Miles

**Primary Sources** Comparison of Eve and Mary
“Early Church Fathers” in Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages by Martha Brozyna
“Penitential of Cummean” and “Penitential of Theodore” in Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages by Martha Brozyna
“The Martyrdom of Saints Perpetua and Feliciatas”

October 18  Early Germanic Peoples and the Merovingians
“Wives and Mothers in Merovingian Society” in Women in Frankish Society: Marriage and the Cloister by Suzanne Fonay Wemple
“Histories of Barbarian Queens” in Women in Early Medieval Europe by Lisa Bitel
Fredugund and Brunhilde https://www.laphamsquarterly.org/roundtable/killer-queens

**Primary Sources:** Excerpt from “Germania” by Tacitus, “History of the Franks” by Gregory of Tours and “History of the Lombards” by Paul the Deacon in Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages by Martha Brozyna

October 25  Carolingians and New Invasions
“The Ascent of Monogamy” in Women in Frankish Society: Marriage and the Cloister by Suzanne Fonay Wemple
“The Take-Off: Mobility and Economic Opportunity” in Women in Early Medieval Europe by Lisa Bitel
“Women at the Court of Charlemagne: A Case of Monstrous Regimen?” By Janet Nelson in Medieval Queenship
“Regardless of Sex: Men, Women, and Power in Early Northern Europe” by Carol Clover in Speculum 1993
“Gender, Material Culture, and Identity in the Viking Diaspora” by Marie Louise Stig Sørensen in Viking and Medieval Scandinavia (2009)

**Primary Sources:** Excerpts from Laxdaela Saga and Njal’s Saga in Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages by Martha Brozyna
November 1
Islamic World
“Women and the Rise of Islam” in Women and Gender in Islam by Leila Ahmed
“Prescursors of Islamic Male Homosexualities” by Will Roscoe in Islamic Homosexualities
“Muhammad and Male Homosexuality” by Jim Wafer in Islamic Homosexualities
**Primary Sources:** “Islamic Religion and Law” in Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages by Martha Brozyna

November 8
New Millennium, New Landscapes and Formation of Kingdoms
“Becoming a Man” in Formations of Masculinity Late Medieval Europe by Ruth Mazo Karras
“Introduction” in The Romance of Adultery: Queenship and Sexual Transgression in Old French Literature by Peggy McCracken and Ruth Mazo Karras
“The Courtly Model” by Georges Duby in A History of Women: Silences of the Middle Ages
**Primary sources:** Excerpts from Orderic Vitalis’ Ecclesiastical History, Hugo Falcandus’ The History of the Tyrants of Sicity, Salimbene de Adam’s Chronicle and Jean Froissart’s Chronicles in Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages by Martha Brozyna
“Courtly Love” in Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages by Martha Brozyna

November 15
Christianity in the High Middle Ages
**Second Scaffolding Assignment Due: Bibliography of Primary and Secondary Sources for Research Project**
“Angels Incarnate: Clergy and Masculinity from Gregorian Reform to Reformation” by R.N. Swanson in Masculinity in Medieval Europe
**Primary Sources:** Excerpts from First Council of Nicaea, Second Council of Nicaea and Fourth Lateran Council in Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages by Martha Brozyna
Excerpts from The Register of Eudes of Rouen in Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages by Martha Brozyna

November 22
No class. Rutgers follows Thursday schedule

November 29
Town Life and New Spiritualities in the High Middle Ages
“Life in the Late Middle Ages” by Claudia Opitz in A History of Women: Silences of the Middle Ages
“Women’s Education and Literacy in England, 1066–1540” by Megan Hall in Education Quarterly (2021)
“The Formation of Beguinages” in Community of Ladies: Beguine Communities in the Medieval Low Countries
**Primary Sources:**
Excerpts from the “Visions of Hadewijch”, “The Flowing Light of the Godhead” by Mechthild of Magdeburg and Revelations of Divine Love” by Julian of Norwich in Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages by Martha Brozyna
Excerpts from Records from the University of Krakow in Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages by Martha Brozyna

December 6
Renaissance
Rise of Witchcraft
**Third Scaffolding Assignment Due: Overview of Progress of Research Project**
“Renaissance Woman Restored”, PBS
https://www.pbs.org/video/renaissance-woman-restored-y1ttdh/
“Making Problems: Preoccupations and Controversy over Sodomy in the Early Fifteenth Century” in *Forbidden Friendship: Homosexuality and Male Culture in Renaissance Florence* by Michael Rocke
“Witchcraft and Fantasy in Early Modern Germany” by Lyndal Roper

**Primary Sources:** Excerpt from Baldasarre Castiglione’s *Book of the Courtier* “Ideal Man” and “Ideal Woman”
Excerpt from *Malleus Maleficarum (The Hammer of Witches)*

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**December 13**  
Reformation and Counter Reformation
“Luther: Sex, Marriage and Motherhood” by Lyndal Roper *History Today* (1983)
“Lustful Luther: Male Libido in the Writings of the Reformer” by Merry Wiesner-Hanks
“Bones of Contention: Cloistered Nuns, Decorated Relics and the Contest over Women’s Place in the Public Sphere of Counter-Reformation Munich” by Ulrike Strasser
“’Bodily Things’ and Brides of Christ: The Case of the Early Seventeenth Century Nun ‘Lesbian Nun’ Benedetta Carlini” by Patricia Simons in *Sex, Gender and Sexuality in Renaissance Italy*

**Primary Sources:** “Luther on Marriage and Family” in *Luther on Women*

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**December 20**  
Research Paper is Due

**6:20-9:20 PM**  
Research Presentations