

Topics in European History: Gender and Sexuality in Modern Europe

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Course description

This course gives students an overview of the politics surrounding gender and sexuality in modern Europe. Our focus will be on the period from the mid-nineteenth century, through the twentieth century, and into the twenty-first century. We will cover a wide range of topics in the class, including but not limited to prostitution, homosexuality, inversion, venereal disease, contraception, abortion, sex education, the 'New Woman', perversions, AIDS, sexual revolutions, sexual conservatism, birth rates, sex ratios etc. In each instance we will focus on how we can understand each of these aspects of sexuality by thinking about the historical context of each given moment, and how distinctly gendered the history of sexuality always is. In our exploration of these themes we will read about and compare distinct national contexts, ranging from Great Britain, France, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Russia, Austria, Switzerland, to name a few and think about whether we can see transnational movements regarding gender and sexuality or whether a national context can override outside influences. Finally, we will compare more recent developments in Europe regarding gender and sexuality to our current era and the often contradictory nature of renewed sexual conservatism and the explosion of internet sex.

Through class discussion, students will interact with the materials, the instructor, and their peers. In the process, they will practice both their public speaking skills, and learn how to engage critically with the arguments and evidence of the texts. As this is a writing intensive course students will also regularly practice their writing skills in two short papers, two longer paper, and a final take home paper. Students will learn how to use both primary and secondary sources in these writing exercises as well as further develop their research skills, especially when it comes to locating relevant academic secondary sources. In both the written assignments and the class discussions, students will develop their analytical skills by identifying the course readings' main theses, supporting arguments, evidence, assumptions, and rhetorical strategies.

Course Requirements

Participation: The course is heavily based on reading and discussing the assigned texts. It is therefore imperative that you come prepared to class, having read and thought about the assigned reading before each class.

Participation is therefore graded not only on how much you ask questions and offer comments in class, but also on how clearly you show that you gave the texts some thought beforehand.

Short Assignments: There are two short written assignments, both expecting you to respond to a film or a novel and make an effort to put each piece into its historical context. Each should be 2-3 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font.

Longer Assignments: There are two longer papers in the class. Each paper is expected to be 5-6 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font. The topics for each paper will be distributed 2 weeks in advance.

Final Take-Home Exam: The final take home exam will be cumulative and will ask you to address larger questions of gender and sexuality in the period we have covered.

Grading:

Participation:	10%
Short Assignment 1:	10%
Short Assignment 2:	10%
Paper 1:	20%
Paper 2:	20%
Final Take Home Exam:	30%

Required Books:

Dagmar Herzog: *Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History*. Cambridge University Press. 2011. ISBN: 9780521691437

Robert A. Nye (ed.): *Sexuality*. Oxford University Press. 1999. ISBN: 9780192880192

Recommended book:

Michel Foucault: *The History of Sexuality Vol. 1. An Introduction*. Vintage. 1990. ISBN: 9780679724698

The books have been ordered at New Jersey Books, 167 University Avenue, and at the University bookstore. They have also been placed on two hour reserve at the Dana library.

The rest of the required readings will be on Blackboard (BB) under 'Course documents'

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is required. If you miss more than four classes, your grade will be lowered by a third of a grade (from B+ to B, for example). If you miss more than six classes, your grade will be lowered by one full grade (B+ to C+, for example). Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the class.

Late assignments:

Assignments are due on the dates announced in class or indicated below. Unless problems are discussed with me IN ADVANCE, late assignments will have their grades lowered.

Policy on Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarism):

Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. The standard minimum penalties for students who cheat or plagiarize include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University. 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 examination / assignment."

Syllabus:

Thurs. Sept. 4th: Introduction

Mon. Sept. 8th: Western Models of Sexuality

Readings:

Nye: p. 23-26 (Halperin); 28 (Foucault); 44-46 (Baldwin, Cadden); 48-50 (Payer); 56-59 (Roper, Farr); 65-66 (Van der Meer); 75-77 (Schiebinger).

Thurs. Sept. 11th: Rise of Bourgeois Sexuality

Readings:

Nye: p. 78-109 (McLaren, *Use*, Hunt, Pateman, Foucault, Hull, Segalen, Frykman/Lövgren, Weeks, Mort, Mason, Kern, Maynard, Gay, Gillis, Smith-Rosenberg)

Mon. Sept. 15th: The Discovery of 'Sexuality'

Readings:

Nye: 115-127 (de Swaan, Pick, Donzelot, Gilman, Carter, Matlock, Micale, Drinka)

BB: Foucault: *History of Sexuality: Volume 1* (Excerpt)

Thurs. Sept. 18th: Perversions

Readings:

Nye: p. 143-149 (Birken, Ellis, Davidson, Krafft-Ebing), 161-167 (Krafft-Ebing, Sacher-Masoch)

BB: Richard von Krafft-Ebing: *Psychopathia Sexualis* (Excerpts)

Mon. Sept. 22nd: Inversion and 'Uranism'

Readings:

Nye: p. 150-160 (Lydston, Moll, Gibson, Symonds)

BB: Becchalossi: *Female Sexual Inversion* (Excerpt); Havelock Ellis: *Sexual Inversion* (Excerpt)

Thurs. Sept. 25th: Colonialism and European Images of the 'other'

Readings:

BB: Anne McClintock: *Imperial Leather* (Excerpts); Anne Stoler: *Race and the Education of Desire* (Excerpt); Lora Wildenthal: *German Women for Empire* (Excerpt).

Mon. Sept. 29th: Prostitution, Venereal Disease, and the Double Standard

Readings:

Herzog: p. 6-18.

Nye: p. 128-136 (Walkowitz, Nead, Corbin, Pankhurst)

Thurs. Oct. 2nd: Separating Sex From Reproduction

Readings:

Herzog: p. 18-28

BB: Marie Stopes (Excerpts)

Mon. Oct. 6th: Sexual Hygiene and early sex education materials

Paper 1 due

In class viewing and discussion: A variety of early sex education films

Thurs. Oct. 9th Rethinking Sexual Orientation

Readings:

Herzog: p. 28-41

Nye: 141-142 (Freud); 254-260 (Freud, Stanley Hall)

Mon. Oct. 13th: World War I and its Aftermath

Readings:

Herzog: p. 45-53

Nye: p. 329-341 (Hall, Jackson, Van de Velde)

BB: Elsa Herrmann: "This is the New Woman"

Thurs. Oct. 16th: Pronatalism and Return to Family Politics

Readings:

Herzog: p. 53-61

Nye: p. 320-328 (Horn, Roberts, Grossmann)

BB: Georg: "The Right to Abortion"; Tergit: "Paragraph 218: A Modern Gretchen Tragedy"

Mon. Oct. 20th: Fascism and Nazism

Readings:

Herzog: p. 61-83

BB: R.W. Darré: "Marriage Laws and the Principles of Breeding"; de Grazia: *How Fascism Ruled Women* (Excerpt)

Thurs. Oct. 23rd: The Holocaust and World War II

Readings:

Herzog: p. 83-94

BB: Günter Grau (ed.): *The Hidden Holocaust* (Excerpts)

In class film excerpt: 'Paragraph 175'

Mon. Oct. 27th: Return to Conservatism

Readings:

Herzog: p. 96-106

BB: Elizabeth Heineman: *What Difference Does a Husband Make* (Excerpt); Maria Höhn: *G.I.'s and Fräuleins* (Excerpt)

In class film excerpt: Fassbinder: 'The Marriage of Maria Braun'

Thurs. Oct. 30th: Contraception and the Rise of Romance

Readings:

Herzog: p. 106-117

BB: Simone de Beauvoir: *The Second Sex* (excerpts); Sex Surveys (Excerpts)

Mon. Nov. 3rd: Rise of Reform and Gay Persecution

Readings:

Herzog: p. 117-131

Nye: p. 345-347 (Kinsey)

BB: Robert Moeller: "The Homosexual Man is a 'Man', the Homosexual Woman is a 'Woman'"

Thurs. Nov. 6th: Different From You and Me

Home Viewing:

FILM: 'Different From You and Me' (*Anders als du und ich*) (1957)

Short Assignment 1 due

Mon. Nov 10th: Market of Desires

Readings:

Herzog: p. 133-146.

BB: Heineman: "The Economic Miracle in the Bedroom"

Thurs. Nov: 13th: Revolutionary Theories of Sexuality and Legal Changes

Readings:

Herzog: p. 146-160

Nye: p. 348-355 (Marcuse, Greer); 358-363 (Neville, Grant, Jeffreys)

In class film excerpt: 'W.R.: Mysteries of the Organism'

Mon. Nov. 17th: The sexual revolution in visual media

Paper 2 due

In class viewing and discussion: Examples of the use of visual media to educate and provoke.

Thurs. Nov. 20th: Gay Liberation

Readings:

Herzog: p. 168-171

Nye: p. 364-369 (Weeks)

BB: Houlbrook: *Queer London* (Excerpt); Jackson: *Living in Arcadia* (Excerpt).

Mon. Nov. 24th: 1970s Backlash and Debates On Pornography

Readings:

Herzog: p. 161-168; 172-174

Nye: p. 381-385 (Bataille); 388-391 (Rubin, McClintock)

Tues. Nov. 25th: AIDS

Readings:

Herzog: p. 176-183

Nye: p. 395-408 (Shilts, Crimp, Rotello, Watney)

Mon. Dec. 1st: Fall of Communism: War Rapes and the Rise of Human Trafficking

Readings:

Herzog: p. 183-195.

BB: Sofi Oksanen: *Purge* (excerpts)

Short Assignment 2 due

Thurs. Dec. 4th: Postfascist Lessons and the Reimagining of Islamic Sexuality

Readings:

Herzog: p. 195-205.

BB: Scott: *Politics of the Veil* (Excerpt); Massad: *Desiring Arabs* (Excerpt).

Mon. Dec. 8th: Romantic Liberality versus New Conservatism

Readings:

Herzog: p. 205-215.

BB: Bourq: "French Pedophilic Discourse of the 1970s"

Take Home Final distributed.

Take-Home Final: DUE December 15th by 6pm.