

Urban Sexualities in U.S. History
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Fall 2018

Professor Timothy Stewart-Winter, tims@rutgers.edu
Office: 314 Conklin Hall
Class meeting time: Wednesday 6:00PM-9:00PM
Class location: Conklin 302
Office Hours: 314 Conklin Hall, Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:00PM

Course description

This course surveys the changing relationship between urban space, sexual identities, and everyday life in the modern United States. We will examine how sexuality intersected with a variety of forms of cultural diversity and economic inequality, the social consequences of a changing built environment, and the cultural meanings of gender, race, and region in U.S. history.

Learning Goals

- Through a combination of discussion, lecture, and written assignments, students will learn about the history of urban physical and cultural landscapes.
- Students will gain familiarity with the history of sexual categories and practices.
- Students will gain experience analyzing a variety of types of historical sources, including fiction and film, alongside secondary sources (written by historians).
- Students will develop familiarity and comfort with some key concepts in the history of modern American culture.

Grading Breakdown

Attendance and Participation: 25%
Reading Responses: 25%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 25%

You must complete all assignments in order to pass this class.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required. There will be no make-up opportunities for missed classes.

The Rutgers-Newark Undergraduate catalog (http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_current/pg576.html) 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. I realize that delays are sometimes inevitable, and I would rather that you come to class late than not at all, so I will give you two free passes for a late arrival; after this, however, the above policy will kick in. Leaving early without prior permission will count as an unexcused absence.

If you are coming from another class at NJIT (causing you to pass through the current construction on your way to this class) and are concerned that it may cause you to be late, you must inform me of this fact (in an email containing the location of the class you are registered for prior to this one and the route you take) within the first two weeks of class.

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. Any student who misses four or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course to avoid an F.

Reading Responses

To aid students in preparing for the class discussion, students are required to post a 1-2 page Reading Response on the readings for individual sessions. The Reading Responses are to answer the discussion prompts, which will be posted on Blackboard under the Assignments menu. Reading Responses are due on Blackboard by the start of class. I will not accept late Reading Responses except in cases of proven emergency. The Reading Responses are designed to help you keep up with the readings and to prompt participation in class discussion. This is why they cannot be handed in later than the beginning of the class when they are assigned. (But you can always hand in an assignment early.) I also understand that we all sometimes face unforeseen circumstances: to take this into account, I will count only the top 8 out of 11 Reading Responses for the course grade.

Class Rules

I expect students to behave in a manner that shows respect for the classroom, and for others' needs and desire to learn. Any behavior that might be disruptive to other students, making it difficult for them to hear or distracting them from the lecture, or in any way intimidates them from participating in class, will be counted against the participation grade.

This means, in concrete terms:

- no talking in private conversations (even in whispers),
- no cell phone use or any other form of texting,
- no use of computers or laptops for any purpose except to take notes or review assigned readings under discussion,
- no working on other course homework.

Studies consistently show that using computers in class for anything other than that class—in other words, “multitasking”—lowers comprehension and affects not just the person who’s using the computer but everyone else around him or her. For this reason, you may not use laptops, cell phones, or other digital devices for anything besides this class, including email, Facebook, or

work in other classes. If I notice that the attention in class seems to be dwindling, escaping through the computers and cell phones and tablets and out into the ether, I may ask you to put your devices away.

Arriving at class late or leaving early is extraordinarily disruptive to other students, and is only acceptable in an emergency situation.

Policy on Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarism)

Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. Cheating is both a moral and an ethical offense. It violates both your own integrity and the ethics of group commitment: when you cut corners and cheat, you undermine those students who took the time to work on the assignment honestly. As a standard minimum penalty, students who are suspected of cheating or plagiarism are reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Pending investigation, further penalties can 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 assignment.”

Resist the urge to cut and paste, either literally or figuratively by using other people’s ideas. If I find that you have used other people’s ideas (e.g., Wikipedia, Amazon reviews, book jacket descriptions, etc.), I will not accept the assignment because I will not be able to consider it your own work. You will get a failing grade (0 points) for that assignment and will not be able to make it up.

Office Hours

If you have questions about the syllabus or any aspect of this class, please feel free to email me or come to my office hours. My office hours are for you; stop by with any questions you have about assignments, readings, classroom discussions, other pertinent topics, or just to say hello. If you need to cover material from a missed class, however, please consult a classmate instead. If your schedule conflicts with my office hours, we can set up an appointment at a mutually agreeable time.

Email

It is your responsibility to maintain an email account that is able to receive messages I send the class from Blackboard. If you need help with this, please contact the NCS Campus Help Desk (<http://ncs.newark.rutgers.edu/helpdesk>, help@newark.rutgers.edu). Please do feel free to email me at any time, with any question, but also check the syllabus and/or Blackboard first to see if your question might be answered there.

Names and Pronouns

An important part of creating a respectful learning environment is knowing and using the name you use, which may differ from your legal name, as well as the gendered pronouns you use (for example, I go by he/him/his). Please feel free to let me know your name and/or the pronouns you use at any time.

Disabilities

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or contact odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

Required Readings

There are two required books to be purchased:

- Valerie Taylor, *The Girls in 3-B* (reprint edition, Feminist Press, 2003), ISBN 978-1558614567
- Darnell L. Moore, *No Ashes in the Fire: Coming of Age Black and Free in America* (Nation Books, 2018), ISBN 978-1568589480

All other required readings are on Blackboard under Course Documents.

Schedule of Classes (subject to change)

**Reading Response due*

Wed, Sep 5: Introduction

***Wed, Sep 12: Migration, Pleasure and Danger in the Early 20th Century**

- Peiss, "Charity Girls and City Pleasures: Historical Notes on Working-Class Sexuality, 1880-1920"
- Hunter, "'Wholesome' and 'Hurtful' Amusements"

In-class movie: *It* (1927, dir. Clarence G. Badger)

***Wed, Sep 19: The Growth of Urban Queer Subcultures**

- D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity"
- Chauncey, *Gay New York*, introduction
- "Dr. La Forest Potter Describes a Drag Ball, 1933"

***Wed, Sep 26: The 1950s I**

- Taylor, *The Girls in 3-B*, Chapters 1-14

***Wed, Oct 3: The 1950s II**

- Taylor, *The Girls in 3-B*, Chapters 15-25 and Afterword

***Wed, Oct 10: Gay Liberation and Women's Liberation**

- Carl Wittman, “Refugees from Amerika: A Gay Manifesto”
- “Rapping with a Street Transvestite Revolutionary: An Interview with Marsha P. Johnson”
- Whitney Strub and Timothy Stewart-Winter, “Remembering One Eleven Wines,” http://www.slate.com/blogs/outward/2017/11/30/remembering_one_eleven_wines_liquors_a_pre_stonewall_win_against_homophobic.html

***Wed, Oct 17: Resisting Sexual Violence**

- Anne Enke, “Taking Over Domestic Space: The Battered Women’s Movement and Public Protest”
- Del Martin, “How to Set Up a Refuge (and Prepare a Funding Proposal)” from *Battered Wives*
- Abbey Lincoln, “To Whom Will She Cry Rape?”

In-class movie: *Born in Flames* (1983, dir. Lizzie Borden)

Wed, Oct 24: Midterm (in-class)

***Wed, Oct 31: The Politics of Pornography**

- Delany, *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue*, excerpt
- Whitney Strub, *Star-Ledger* op-ed on Newark’s Little Theater, https://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2018/07/this_little_jersey_porn_movie_house_learned_to_sur.html

***Wed, Nov 7: The AIDS Crisis**

- Readings TBA

***Wed, Nov 14: The Mass Incarceration Era**

- Film (watch via Kanopy on the Rutgers libraries website): *Out in the Night* (dir. Blair Doroshwalter)
- Additional reading TBA

Wed, Nov 21: NO CLASS

Wed, Nov 28: The Present as History I

- Moore, *No Ashes in the Fire*, Prologue and Chapters 1-4

Wed, Dec 5: The Present as History II

- Moore, *No Ashes in the Fire*, Chapters 5-8 and Epilogue 2, part 2

Wed, Dec 12

- Wrap-Up and Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 19, 6:20-9:20PM