

26:050:502 / 26:510:534  
**Sexuality and Sexual Politics**

Class meeting time: Wed 5:30-8:10  
Class location: Conklin 448

Professor Timothy Stewart-Winter  
Office: 314 Conklin Hall  
Office Hours: Wed 3-5  
Email: timsww@andromeda.rutgers.edu

**\* TENTATIVE DRAFT SYLLABUS \***

Course Description:

This graduate seminar will examine classic and more recent texts dealing with sexuality and power, primarily in the U.S. but with attention to transnational phenomena and experiences. Readings will be drawn from a variety of disciplines and will attend closely to the intersections of sexuality with gender and gender identity, science, race, class, social movements, literature, and urban and suburban cultures and politics. Students will also gain experience in analyzing of primary documents in relation to histories of sexuality and gender.

Required Books

The books are available at the Rutgers University-Newark Bookstore, at Bradley Hall, 110 Warren Street (973-353-5377). Of course, you should try to get these books as inexpensively as possible. It is important to come to every class with your own copy of that week's readings so we may refer to them in our discussions.

- Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, Volume 1 (Vintage, 1978) [ISBN 9780679724698]
- Estelle Freedman, *Redefining Rape: Sexual Violence in the Era of Suffrage and Segregation* (Harvard, 2013) [ISBN 9780674088115]
- George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (Basic, 1994) [ISBN 9780465026210]
- Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth Century America* (Princeton, 2009) [ISBN 9780691149936]
- David K. Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government* (Chicago, 2004) [ISBN 9780226401904]
- Amanda Littauer, *Bad Girls: Young Women, Sex, and Rebellion Before the Sixties* (North Carolina, 2015) [ISBN 9780691149936]
- Jeffrey Q. McCune, Jr., *Sexual Discretion: Black Masculinity and the Politics of Passing* (Chicago, 2014) [ISBN 9780226096537]

If you feel you would benefit from additional background on the history of sexuality in the U.S., you may wish to consult the following:

- John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America* (1998)
- Kathy Peiss, ed., *Major Problems in the History of Sexuality* (2001)

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### **Online Readings**

These will be made available on Blackboard under Course Documents. You *must* have copies of these readings available to you during class in either hard-copy or electronic form. All reading assignments are subject to change; please keep your email address updated on Blackboard so that you will be aware of any revisions.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

### **Attendance and Participation:**

This crucial component of the class includes *attendance*, completing reading by assigned dates, and thoughtful, consistent participation in class discussions. More than one unexcused absence may affect your final grade. Please be in touch in advance, when possible, if you know that you will not be able to be in class.

This course depends on your willingness to come to class having completed the assigned readings and prepared to discuss them thoughtfully. If you have questions about how best to participate in class, please ask.

### **Discussion Facilitation:**

Twice during the semester, you will, working with a colleague, launch our discussion by preparing a few questions for discussion and posing them at the beginning of class. These questions should be at least potentially *controversial* questions suitable for discussion and debate – not ones that have a clear-cut answer. You are encouraged to send the instructor an outline/list of possible questions ahead of time, though this is not required. The schedule for these discussions will be set during the second week of class.

### **Written assignments:**

For all the writing assignments in this course, please use Times New Roman, 12-point font with 1-inch margins and submit your work in **Microsoft Word or RTF format only**.

1) **Response papers** (Due weekly, except weeks when you're facilitating discussion): Because the course depends on thoughtful engagement with the material, students will prepare for each class by writing a **response paper of 1-2 single-spaced pages** addressing the readings assigned for that week. Papers must be submitted via Dropbox by **noon** on the day of class. If you are facilitating discussion you do *not* also have to write a response paper that week. Your response should refer to the assigned texts – either by paraphrasing in your own words or by **brief quotations**; regardless, you should follow each reference with a parenthetical citation of the **page number(s) in the book's print edition** to which you are referring. If you cite works other than the texts assigned for that week, use **footnotes in Chicago style** (for a basic guide, see [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)); **no bibliography** is needed.

2) **Final essay** (Due Wed, May 10 at 5PM via Dropbox): You will analyze a primary document/source, or set of documents, in the context of the history of sexuality, in an analytical essay of approximately 20 double-spaced pages. More detailed instructions will be provided before spring break; in the meantime, please begin to think about what topics interest you and what kinds of document(s) you might be interested in writing about. The source need not be

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unpublished, but it must be a *primary document*, not a work of scholarship, and it should be hefty enough to merit consideration at this level of depth. A one-page paper proposal is due on **XXX**, and a draft of the paper is due on **XXX**. We will discuss each others' paper drafts in class on **XXX**. For this essay, you should use footnotes in Chicago style (for a basic guide, see [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)), and also attach a bibliography on a separate page (which does not count toward your paper's length).

### **Grading:**

Attendance and participation: 50%

Written assignments: 50%

### **Policy on Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarism):**

You are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any use of the ideas or words of another person without proper acknowledgment of credit will result in penalties up to and possibly including a course grade of F. I will turn *all* instances of plagiarism over the university authorities. Note that the uncited usage of uncopyrighted material such as Wikipedia entries still constitutes plagiarism.

### **Classroom Etiquette:**

Inevitably, as we discuss the texts that we will read in this class, I expect there to be a variety of perspectives, disagreements, and debates. This is to be expected; dialogue across our disagreements can help us understanding the readings (and life) more deeply. But please also remain respectful. When challenging someone else's perspective, try to refrain from personal attacks or blistering scorn. If someone makes what you consider an offensive or disrespectful comment, this does not absolve you from adhering to the ironclad rule of being respectful in responding.

### **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 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.

### **Students with 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 contact Kate Torres at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus

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Center, in suite 219 or by contacting [odsnewark@rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@rutgers.edu).

### **Electronic Equipment:**

The use of electronic equipment is permitted for class purposes only, with the exception of cell phones, which are not permitted for any reason during class. Using your cell phone for any reason during class will negatively affect your participation grade.

### **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 drop by to say hello. The only thing I discourage is visiting to cover material from a missed class period; for that, consult fellow classmates. All else is warmly welcomed. If your schedule conflicts with my office hours, we can set up an appointment at a mutually agreeable time.

## **SCHEDULE**

Where applicable, assigned articles will be posted on the course Blackboard site under Course Documents. You are responsible for making sure you have access to course readings. Additional suggested readings may be added. **You must bring copies of all required readings to class.**

Wed, Jan 18

- Introductions

Wed, Jan 25

- TBD

Wed, Feb 1

- Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, Volume 1 (Vintage, 1978)

Wed, Feb 8

- Estelle Freedman, *Redefining Rape: Sexual Violence in the Era of Suffrage and Segregation* (Harvard, 2013) [ISBN 9780674088115]

Wed, Feb 15

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

Wed, Feb 22

- Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth Century America* (Princeton, 2009)

Wed, Mar 1

- Amanda Littauer, *Bad Girls: Young Women, Sex, and Rebellion Before the Sixties* (North Carolina, 2015) [ISBN 9780691149936]

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Wed, Mar 8

- David K. Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government* (Chicago, 2004) [ISBN 9780226401904]

**SPRING BREAK**

Wed, Mar 22

**PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**

Wed, Mar 29

- Jeffrey Q. McCune, Jr., *Sexual Discretion: Black Masculinity and the Politics of Passing* (Chicago, 2014) [ISBN 9780226096537]

Wed, Apr 5

- TBD

Wed, Apr 12

- TBD

Wed, Apr 19

- TBD

Wed, Apr 26

- TBD

Final Paper DUE on Wednesday, May 10 at 5pm