

## **Research Seminar: Gender and Sexuality in United States History**

Rutgers, Newark: Spring 2015

21:510:490, section 1

Tuesday 2:30-5:20

Conklin 448

Professor: Whitney Strub

Office: Conklin 243 (in the Women's & Gender Studies office)

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### **Course description:**

This course builds on the readings from fall semester, and is primarily focused on the writing of a significant research paper, using the research skills and methodologies that we have been examining together.

We will meet periodically as a class, and engage in group peer-review. Students will also meet individually with the professor at *least* once per calendar month, by appointment, for progress reports, feedback, and discussion (I'm also available to meet more often—office hours will be by appointment this semester, but my schedule is very flexible).

### **Course Requirements:**

**Attendance and Punctuality:** You are expected to attend every formal class meeting, from start to finish. Attendance is mandatory. Your overall course grade will be lowered by one full letter for each unexcused absence beginning with the second one. Only *documented* emergencies and medical occasions, or officially school-sanctioned activities, will qualify as excused absences.

**Class Participation.** All students are required to participate in the discussions and peer review exercises. This factors significantly into the overall course grade.

**Final Paper.** This is discussed in more detail at the end of the syllabus.

**Grading Breakdown:** Participation in peer review/Class citizenship 20%  
Weekly progress reports 10%  
Final research paper 70%

Weekly progress reports are to be posted on Blackboard each week in the appropriate discussion thread. This is graded, and you will be penalized for missing a week.

**Required Texts:** none (this course is based on individual research agendas)

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

You are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy, available at <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. Likewise for cheating on exams; these are behaviors for which I have no sympathy, and should they occur, they will be handled in a suitably draconian manner. 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.

### **Policy on Disabilities**

**This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation.** Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Students should contact Assistant Dean Genevieve Sumski at (973) 353-5300 to certify documentation of disability and arrange for appropriate accommodations. Information can be found at <http://roberson.rutgers.edu/studentlife/disability.html>.

If navigating university bureaucracy is confusing, let me know and I will help in any way that I can.

### **Class Meetings and Due Dates**

(Due dates marked with asterisks \*\*\*)

**JANUARY 20:** Meet as class, get situated

**Jan. 21-Feb. 10** individual meetings

**\*\*\*February 9: full outlines due to professor; posted on Blackboard for class to share**

**Feb. 10:** class meets, peer review of outlines

**\*\*\*March 2: Introduction/thesis paragraphs due to professor**

**March 3 (and possibly 10):** class meets, peer review of thesis paragraphs

**\*\*\*April 6: full rough drafts due to professor**

**April 14 (and probably 21):** meet as class to review drafts; this will have advance written component, to be discussed in advance (each student will be responsible for a few written commentaries to peers).

**\*\*\*MAY 12, 5pm: Final papers due**

**PLEASE NOTE: NO LATE PAPERS CAN BE ACCEPTED, SO THAT DEADLINE IS ABSOLUTELY AND UTTERLY FINAL. DO NOT MISS IT.**

**Framework for final research paper**

Length: approximately 25 pages, in 12-point print, double-spaced, standard margins. This does NOT include the bibliography, which is a necessary component. Papers shorter than 22 or longer than 28 pages will be penalized.

Citation style should be Chicago, with **endnotes**, NOT footnotes, in standard numbering (1,2,3...).

Criteria for grading will include:

How clearly does the paper present its thesis? How strong and thoughtful is the thesis?

How effectively does it position itself in regard to the existing secondary literature? How well informed by the secondary literature is it? Does it make good use of what scholars have already written?

What is the research base? Is it well chosen, and deeply researched? Does it make use of archival material or other primary sources based on rigorous historical methods?

Does the paper effectively use evidence to support its thesis?

Is the paper well organized and clear?

Is the writing strong, compelling, and effective?

Are the formal aspects, such as citations, properly done?

Ultimately, has this paper brought new light to bear on its subject and convincingly persuaded its reader?