

# History of Sexuality

Course:  
History of Sexuality  
01:512:392:02  
Mon/Weds 4:30-5:50p  
Spring 2008  
FH-B1

Instructor:  
Alex Warner  
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732-213-3284  
OH: VD222 Weds 6-7:30p  
& DC Tues 4:30-5:30

## **Overview**

The history of sexuality is not only provocative and controversial but also critical to understanding any given culture. The United States has a rich, complicated history of sexuality, which we will explore through the use of both primary and secondary sources while at the same time investigating some of the major questions and issues surrounding the history of sexuality in general. Weaving together a number of different histories, students will uncover various themes and patterns in the history of US American sexuality and also learn numerous theoretical frameworks useful for understanding and analyzing historical phenomenon and works. As an upper level history class, this course will also develop students' historical skills, including but not limited to historical research and writing. With successful completion of this course, students will have gained both a comprehensive knowledge of the history of US American sexualities and first-hand experience as a historian by creating original historical research.

## **Requirements**

Students are expected to both attend and participate in all class meetings which will often involve class discussion, individual inquiry and group work. Additionally, students should arrive prepared by having completed the readings and any written assignments.

## **Required Reading**

There are four required books for this course:

Benjamin, Jules A Student's Guide to History (0-312-44674-8)

D'Emilio and Freedman Intimate Matters (0-226-14264-7)

Peiss, Kathy Major Problems in the History of American Sexuality (0-395-90384-X)

Rupp, Leila A Desired Past (0-226-73156-1)

## Grading

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Attendance & CP:	20
Reaction Papers:	30
Research Project:	20
Final Paper:	30

Class Participation/Group Work: 20%

In order for a class like this to work, you must participate in it. In-class discussions will be a critical part of your successful completion of this course. Also, you will be assigned to a group with other students. At various points throughout the semester, you will be asked to summarize and present readings, as well as participate in a variety of activities. This portion of your grade will be determined based on your level of involvement in class discussions and group activities, which may sometimes result in written work.

Reaction Papers: 30%

Throughout the course of the semester, you will write five three-page reaction papers in which you discuss the readings and how it has affected/shifted/shaped your thinking. These are due at the beginning of the class for which you have prepared them and will be graded on a scale of 0 to 6. In order to be able to give you useful feedback, you must complete at least one by February 13th, another by March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Research Project: 20%

For this part of the course, you will be asked to choose and carry out your own research project regarding a subject in the very broad field of the history of sexuality. As a class, we will move through the process of identifying, researching and writing a historical paper. More detailed instructions will be handed out in class.

Final Paper: 30%

On the last day of class, you will receive the final paper assignment. Due one week later, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, this will be a single question that will ask you to synthesize information from the entire course into a 10 to 12 page answer.

Date	Topic	Monday	Wednesday
Jan 23	Intro to Class		Review Syllabus
Jan 28 & 30	Intro to History of Sexuality	Benjamin, C. 1 Info card due	DF, Both Introductions Peiss, C. 1 Rupp, C. 1
Feb 4 & 6	First Encounters: Colonial Sexuality & Historical Writing	DF, C. 1 Peiss, C. 2 Rupp, C. 2	Benjamin, C. 2 & 3
Feb 11 & 13	Sex Regulation and Reform	DF, C. 2 Peiss, C. 3	DF, C. 3 Peiss, C. 4
Feb 18 & 20	Racialized Sex	DF, C. 4 & 5 Peiss, C. 5	Benjamin, C. 4; **Class meets at Alexander library** Rm 413 & 415
Feb 25 & 27	Research Week	No Class Meeting	Will discuss research, Benjamin, C. 4 & 2 page description of topic and bibliography DUE
Mar 3 & 5	19 <sup>th</sup> C: Gendered Relationships & Free love and its discontents	Peiss, C. 6 DF, C. 6 Rupp, C. 3	DF, C. 7 Peiss, C. 7 Rupp, C. 4
Mar 10 & 12	Sex and Morality in The New Century	DF, C. 8, 9 Peiss, C. 8	Benjamin C. 5 **Individual meetings Tues-Thurs**
Mar 24 & 26	Research/ Film Screening	No Class Meeting—Use time for research & writing!	“Before Stonewall”
Mar 31 & Apr 2	Politics of Reproduction & “Normal” and its Deviances ...	Research Paper Outline Due DF, C. 10 Peiss, C. 9	Rupp, C. 5 DF C. 11 Peiss, C. 10
Apr 7 & 9	Kinsey & Rise of Homophile Groups	DF C. 12 Peiss, C. 11 Rupp, C. 6	Discussion of Kinsey
Apr 14 & 16	Second Wave, Gay Liberation and the Right	DF, C. 13 Peiss, C. 12	DF, C. 14 Rupp, C. 7
Apr 21 & 23	Research Paper Presentations	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
Apr 28 & 30	The 90s into Today	DF, Afterword Peiss, C. 13 & 14; ITWCT I & II	Wrap-up

## Course Policies and Suggestions:

- Arrive on time, prepared for the class meeting.
- Turn off your cell phone—no calls, texts, web searching, etc. during class.
- Attendance in this course is both mandatory and important. Excused absences include documented medical or legal appointments, serious personal emergencies or religious observances. Students who miss class for any of these reasons should notify me via email ahead of time (or if not possible, shortly thereafter and no later than 48 hours after class) of the reason for their absence. Attendance will be taken sporadically throughout the course and students who have more than six unexcused absences will automatically fail the course. That said, please do not come to class when you are ill or have been exposed to someone else who is sick. You will be delaying your recovery and infecting your classmates and me.
- Print out all written assignments ahead of time. Late assignments will be graded down one half a grade per business day. Unless otherwise specifically indicated, emailed assignments will not be accepted.
- Please, don't cheat. If you do, you will be turned into the Department and your Dean and you will fail this class.