SXS 702 Sexuality in Historical Perspective

Fall 2014, Wednesday 4:10-6:55

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Office Hours: by appointment only via the faculty webpage, click on the appointments tab

Though sexuality has existed throughout time, only since the 1990s have historical studies of sexuality gained intellectual legitimacy. This course traces the growing scholarship on the historical study of sexuality in the U.S. Readings will consider sex broadly as both gender and desire. The course will introduce students to a variety of historical studies and assess the validity and value of the works. Specifically, the course addresses the following issues. How have sexual ideologies differed through time and across space? How have historians’ approach to sexuality shifted. Why are studies of sexuality important in history? Is the history of sexuality relevant to issues in the 21st century?

Requirements for the course include assigned readings, six response papers, and a final project. Students will also be responsible for facilitating one discussion. Your final course grade will based on your participation/attendance and one facilitation (20%), response papers (40%) and the final assignment (40%). Students who miss more than four classes will be subject to no credit for participation.

*Participation/attendance:*

Students are required to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Take notes and bring your questions or issues about the reading to seminar. If you are shy, make an effort to make at least one comment each class. Students who miss more than three classes will be subject to no credit for participation.

*Facilitation:*

Students are required to facilitate one discussion. Facilitators must lead the class in summarizing the main argument of the assigned reading and the evidence, assessing whether the reading convincingly conveys its arguments, and discussing its strengths and weaknesses. Facilitators are encouraged to do as little talking as possible and encourage broad student participation.

*Readings:*

Students are required to read the texts below for the appropriate week. If there is an “Or” option you are required to only read ONE of the two cited books. The choice is yours. Students are additionally required to locate and analyze two academic reviews for each reading. Academic book reviews can be found easily in databases such as JSTOR through the SFSU library website. These reviews can be useful in shaping the discussion or your response papers on the significance of the work.

*Response papers:*

Complete six response papers on any six of the assigned books to be turned in at the beginning of class the reading is due. No late response papers will be accepted. Response papers should be two pages double-spaced and consist of a one-paragraph summary of the readings; a two-paragraph critical analysis of the issues; and a concluding paragraph on how the reading’s argument and concepts are important, contradictory, or provocative for your own thesis topic. Response papers will be graded credit/no credit.

*Final assignment:*

Students will choose one of the following options for the final assignment.

Option 1 - Create a syllabus for an undergraduate history of sexuality class. A two-page, single-spaced description outlining the purpose of each week and justifying the assigned readings should accompany the syllabus. Students will be required to research outside class materials to select readings appropriate for an undergraduate audience.

Option 2 – Write an 8 to 10 page double-spaced research paper based on FOUR oral histories detailing a single moment, community, or theme in history. Interviews should be between one to two hours long but do not have to be transcribed for the purposes of completing this assignment. From the interviews formulate a coherent argument that brings new insight into the history of sexuality.

Option 3 - Write an 8 to 10 page double-spaced paper discussing the assigned reading material on a topic of your own choosing. The paper should be historiographical in content. For this option no outside reading is necessary.

The final assignment will be due during finals week on Thursday, December 19th at noon in my office in EP 121.

*On Student Conduct:*

Please see the Office of Student Conduct website at <http://conduct.sfsu.edu/> for the code of student conduct including definitions of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and sexual misconduct, which you have agreed to follow upon matriculation to SFSU.

*DPRC:*

All classes at SFSU make accommodations for individuals with learning and physical disabilities. Register with the Disability Programs and Resource Center for resources to assist you with your disability. See <http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprc/> for more details.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Week 1 – August 27**

Introduction and course guidelines

**Week 2 – September 3**

Ramon Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1991)

**Week 3 – September 10**

Clare A. Lyons, *Sex among the Rabble: An Intimate History of Gender and Power in the Age of Revolution, 1720-1830* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006)

**Week 4 – September 17**

Deborah Gray White, *Ar’n’t I a Woman: Female Slave in the Plantation South* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1999)

**Week 5 – September 24**

Jane Simonsen, *Making Home Work: Domesticity and Native American Assimilation in the American West, 1860-1919* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006)

**Available online through SFSU website**

**Week 6 – October 1**

Susan Johnson, *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2000)

Or

Peter Boag, *Re-Dressing America’s Frontier Past* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2011)

**Week 7 – October 8**

Mary Ting Yi Lui, *The Chinatown Trunk Mystery: Murder, Miscegenation, and Other Dangerous Encounters in Turn-of-Century New York City* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005)

Or

Amy Sueyoshi, *Queer Compulsions: Race, Nation, and Sexuality in the Affairs of Yone Noguchi* (Honolulu: University of Hawai’I Press, 2012)

**Week 8 – October 15**

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

# Week 9 – October 22

Kevin Mumford, *Interzones: Black and White Sex Districts in Chicago and New York in the Early Twentieth Century* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997)

# Week 10 – October 29

Nancy MacLean, *Behind the Mask of Chivalry: The Making of the Second Ku Klux Klan* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994)

**Available online through SFSU website**

# Week 11 – November 5

Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline D. Davis, *Boots of Leather Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community* (New York: Routledge, 1993)

Or

Marcia Gallo, *Different Daughters: A History of Daughters of Bilitis and the Rise of Lesbian Rights Movement* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2006)

# Week 12 – November 12

Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex Changed: A* ***History of Transsexuality in the United States* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002)**

**Week 13 – November 19**

Jennifer Brier, *Infectious Ideas: U.S. Political Responses to the AIDS Crisis* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009)

**Available online through SFSU website**

**Week 14 – November 26**

**Fall recess, no class**

**Week 15 – December 3**

Brenda Stevenson, *The Contested Murder of Latasha Harlins: Justice, Gender, and the Origins of the LA Riots* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013)

**Available online through SFSU website**

**Week 16 – December 10**

Andrea Smith, *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide* (Cambridge: South End Press, 2005)

# Finals Week

# Final assignments due in hard copy in my office in EP121 by noon on Wednesday, December 17th.