History 5591
History of Sexuality in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe
Graduate Program in History, York University
Winter 2010
Marc Stein

Seminar: M1130-230
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This course introduces graduate students to the history of sexuality in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe. The primary focus is 18th, 19th, and 20th century history. Among the topics discussed are:

- definitions of sex, gender, and sexuality;
- sexual desires, behaviours, identities, communities, and movements;
- relationships between sexual discourses and sexual practices;
- intersections of sexuality with class, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, and sex;
- links between sexuality and capitalism, colonialism, nationalism, and imperialism;
- connections between sexuality and culture, economics, law, politics, and society.

The readings focus on same-sex and cross-sex sexualities; reproduction, abortion, birth control, and fertility; commercialized sex, pornography, prostitution, and sex work; sexual health and disease; and sex and gender change. Most of the texts assigned were authored by historians, but works by anthropologists, literary critics, and sociologists are also considered. Readings and discussions are informed by multiple theoretical schools, including feminism, marxism, psychoanalysis, critical race theory, poststructuralism, postcolonialism, and queer theory.

Readings
Except where indicated, all readings on the syllabus are required. Most books are available on reserve at Scott Library.

Grade Breakdown

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Two Reaction Papers (750-1000 Words)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Paper (15-20 Pages)</td>
<td>45%</td>
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Reaction Papers: In reaction papers, your tasks are to think creatively and critically about the works assigned, present an argument clearly and coherently, and demonstrate that your writing skills will put you in a position to prepare a successful major paper. Above all, you should show that (1) you understand the works and (2) you have developed a perspective on the works. Reaction papers may cover one course reading or multiple readings, and they may refer back to previous readings. You are encouraged to focus on a particular idea or argument presented; highlight tensions, contradictions, and gaps within an author's work; explore points of agreement and disagreement between and within texts; consider definitions and language; and discuss theoretical assumptions of historical works and historical applications of theoretical
works. Reaction papers are due at the beginning of class on the day a particular reading or set of readings is assigned; papers will not be accepted after the seminar discussion. You are free to select which texts to cover, but I recommend that you allow time to review my comments on a previous paper before turning in the next one. Reaction papers are not formal reviews or summaries. Unlike reviews and summaries, they may assume that the reader is familiar with the text(s) under discussion and they need not provide a comprehensive review and evaluation of the text(s).

**Participation:** You are expected to attend all class meetings and participate actively in seminar discussions. Silent attendance is not acceptable. Some seminars will begin with each student being asked to highlight what they would like to discuss. At a minimum, each student should be prepared to summarize the main arguments and contributions of the readings assigned. In some cases discussion questions will be circulated in advance and individual students will be asked to prepare brief responses. Participation is especially valued when students (1) distill the main arguments of the readings, (2) refer to specific passages in the readings, (3) respond to one another, (4) make links between different readings, (5) show that they are thinking independently, and (6) show that they are thinking collectively.

**Major Paper:** Your assignment is to present a primary, historiographic, or theoretical essay on a topic related to the subject of the course. Primary research papers that offer an in-depth analysis of a limited set of texts are encouraged. Historiographic papers are expected to review critically the development over time of scholarship on a particular subject. Theoretical papers should define, discuss, and analyze a conceptual problem in the history of sexuality. Historiographic and theoretical essays must review five or more books (with two articles or book chapters counting as the equivalent of one book); at least two of the books (or the equivalent in articles) must not be assigned course readings. All paper topics must be approved by 15 April (preferably after consulting with me earlier). Papers are due on 9 June.

**4 Jan.: Introduction**

Note: Several of the following readings are taken from the *Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History in America*, ed. Marc Stein (New York: Scribners, 2003). Electronic access to the encyclopedia and the other readings is available through York University libraries.

Nichole Prescott, “Essentialism and Constructionism,” *ELGBT*
Bruce Freeman, “Gender and Sex,” *ELGBT*
Kevin White, “Homosexuality and Heterosexuality,” *ELGBT*
Lisa Duggan, “Sexual Orientation and Preference,” *ELGBT*

**11 Jan.: Marxism, Psychoanalysis, and the History of Sexuality**

18 Jan.: Feminism and the History of Sexuality

25 Jan.: Nationalism, Citizenship, Politics, and the State

1 Feb.: Race and the History of Sexuality
8 Feb.: Violence, Pleasure, and Danger

22 Feb.: Historicizing Same-Sex Sexualities

1 Mar.: Queer History
8 Mar.: Historicizing Cross-Sex Sexualities


15 Mar.: Sexuality and Disease

Susan M. Reverby, Tuskegee’s Truths: Rethinking the Tuskegee Syphilis Study (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2000), 1-33, 251-275, 299-395, 509-524, 559-603.

22 Mar.: Changing Sex, Gender, and Sexuality


29 Mar.: Sexuality and Migration

Eithne Luibheid, Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border (Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2002).
Marc Stein, “Boutilier and the U.S. Supreme Court’s Sexual Revolution,” Law and History Review 23, no. 3 (Fall 2005): 491-536.

5 Apr.: Sexual Colonialism, Sexual Imperialism, Sexual Globalization

Adele Perry, On the Edge of Empire: Gender, Race, and the Making of British Columbia,
1849-1871 (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 2001), selections.