

Professors Kathryn Babayan & Helmut Puff
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Winter 2010, TU/TH 2:30-4:00
Class meeting: 1400 CHEM (lecture)

The History of Sexuality **(History 327 / Women's Studies 327)**

Does sex have a history? This course proposes to respond to this provocative question by demonstrating how modern notions of sexuality have emerged historically. In that sense, sex is not part of nature, it is part of culture, or rather cultures and their histories. We will cast our net widely, exploring histories and cultures whose sexual orders differ greatly from what we know in the modern West. But also within Western societies, we will discover a wealth of sexual cultures and practices that will help us transform our understanding of modern societies. Our approach will be both thematic and chronological. We will cover fields such as homosexuality, matrimony, prostitution, pornography, and gender identity. Along the way, we will be taking note of the interaction of sexuality with race, class, and gender. Rather than following a strict chronology, we will run through the history of sexuality within four thematic units, each driven by its own set of problems and each including a broad sweep of historical and international examples. The units are titled: Knowledges, Marriage, Love, and Power, and divide the syllabus into four roughly equal parts.

Attendance and participation: Class discussion represents an important component of this course. Attendance at lectures and in sections is required, and student attendance/participation will be graded. More than two unexcused absences will automatically affect your grade. For each additional absence, your grade will be reduced by one third of a letter grade. Discussion will be based on readings and occasional film viewings, and it is therefore important to read all material in advance of the class session in which it is listed. Assigned reading material should be brought to class for reference.

Multitasking during class time is disruptive. What is more, it is not conducive to absorbing and engaging the materials or lectures. Please, refrain from all activity unrelated to class during class time.

Assignments: Four written assignments will be graded. These include: a journal of interpretive responses to all readings in unit one (20%); a midterm exam on Thursday, February 25 (20%); one short paper (2-3 pages typed, double-spaced) interpreting source material (20%); and a final exam (20%). Class participation accounts for 20%. Some assignments may be submitted on CTools as indicated, but all have specific deadlines, and late assignments not excused in advance will be penalized.

Exams: Please, make sure that you can make the scheduled times for the in-class midterm and final in this class. Enter the respective dates into your calendars at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Integrity: “Academic integrity” refers to the standards of community behavior expected of all participants in this class. Any form of cheating on examinations or plagiarism on writing assignments (borrowing ideas or language from a published source, including an internet source, without citation) constitutes a violation of these standards, and is implicitly unfair to every student in class doing his or her own work. Any cases where a serious breach of academic integrity standards is suspected will be considered seriously by both professors and may be passed on to the Dean overseeing academic integrity issues. The College makes resources available to you to help you understand what your responsibilities are, when and how sources are to be cited appropriately, and other relevant information. You can find the code of academic integrity at <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/academicintegrity/> and other useful resources at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/academic-integrity>.

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Course Materials and Books: Much of the required reading for the class is included in pdf files distributed to you via the CTools site. In addition to these materials, three required books (Freud, *Three Essays*, Chauncey, *Why Marriage?* and Plato’s *Symposium*), each marked with an asterisk below, are on sale at various bookstores in town (see Wolverine Access).

Please note: The purpose of this course is to take the topic of sexuality into serious intellectual consideration. Many of these readings contain explicit sexual language, and we will also look at and discuss sexually explicit images, including some in films. If this is a concern, please see your instructors.

Class attendance is mandatory, and participation in discussion section is an important component of student performance in this class.

Graduate Student Instructors:

Trevor Hoppe thoppe@umich.edu

Christine Walker cmwalker@umich.edu

Discussion Sections:

Section 2: Tu 4:00PM - 5:00PM 3314 MH (TH)

Section 3: We 10:00AM - 11:00AM 3230 USB (TH)

Section 4: We 11:00AM - 12:00PM 1636 Chem (TH)

Section 5: Tu 4:00PM - 5:00PM 3333 MH (CW)

Section 6: We 1:00PM - 2:00PM 2412 MLB (CW)

Section 7: We 11:00PM - 12:00PM B114 MLB (CW)

Office hours will be announced in class and on the Ctools website.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 7: INTRODUCTION

Readings

Dagmar Herzog, "Anxiety Nation," in *Sex in Crisis: The New Sexual Revolution and the Future of American Politics* (New York, 2008): 1-30, 187-95; Anna Clark, "Twilight Moments," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 14:1/2 (2005): 139-160.

UNIT ONE: KNOWLEDGES

Questions:

What is the relationship of our conception of sexuality to different kinds of knowledge?

What are the different frames of reference for sexual knowledge? What is their relationship? How does their relationship change over time?

How is the possession of these kinds of knowledge related to authority or power?

Assignment: The graded writing assignment for this unit will consist of an interpretive journal of all of the assigned readings for this section. This will be turned in at the end of the unit, but we expect it to be written as you read the material. The journal entries should very concisely summarize the core significance of each reading and also offer some interpretive angle on the material. This can take the form of questions the reading raises for you, comparison to other material you have encountered, or relating the material to the questions heading this unit or other questions raised in the class. Notes on any given reading may be brief, but please note that you should have some notes on every single reading, including both primary and secondary sources, assigned between January 12th and February 2nd.

Tuesday, January 12: The Nineteenth-Century Science of Sex

Readings

Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, *Researches on the Riddle of Man-Manly Love*, vol. I [1864] (New York, 1994): 31-41; Jonathan Ned Katz, "'Homosexual' and 'Heterosexual': Questioning the Terms," in *A Queer World: The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, ed. Martin Duberman (New York: 1997): 177-180; Harry Oosterhuis, "Medical Science and the Modernisation of Sexuality," in *Sexual Cultures in Europe: National Histories*, ed. Franz. X. Eder et al. (Manchester, 1999): 221-41.

Thursday, January 14: Psychoanalysis (Guest Lecture, Andreas Gailus)

Readings

Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* [1905] (New York, 2000).*

Tuesday, January 19: Ars Erotica

Readings

Walter Andrews and Mehmet Kalpakli, "Seduction and Reversal," in *The Age of Beloveds* (Durham, 2005): 217-250.

Thursday, January 21: Pornography IReadings

John Cleland, *Fanny Hill* [1748/49] (New York, 1963): 3-49; Robert Darnton, "Sex for Thought," in *Sexualities in History: A Reader*, ed. Kim Phillips and Barry Reay (New York, 2002): 203-21.

Tuesday, January 26: Visual Representations of Masculinity in Premodern Europe (Guest Lecture, Patricia Simons)Readings

Joan Cadden, *Meanings of Sexual Difference in the Middle Ages: Medicine, Science, and Culture* (Cambridge, 1993): 117-30; Patricia Simons, "Manliness and the Visual Semiotics of Bodily Fluids in Early Modern Culture," *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 39 (2009): 331-73.

Thursday, January 28: Pornography IIReadings

Vatsyayana Mallanga, *Kamasutra* translated by Wendy Doniger and Sudhir Kakar: (Oxford, 2002) excerpts. Sheikh Nefzaoui, *The Perfumed Garden*, translation made by the Kama Shastra Society of London and Benares in the early 1800s, excerpts.

Monday, February 1, 7pm: Screening of *Kinsey* (Bill Condon, 2004)**Tuesday, February 2: Discussion of *Kinsey*****Thursday, February 4 Assignment: Journals are due today****UNIT TWO: MARRIAGE**Questions:

What are the historical processes that have turned sexual activity into something in need of regulation? What can we count as the 'rules' governing sexual conduct in diverse societies?

How have sexual relations and norms been organized in relation to larger institutional frameworks such as society, religions, or state?

How have these institutions shaped 'desires,' 'drives,' 'attractions,' or 'activities'?

Thursday, February 4: Virginity, Chastity, CelibacyReadings

Augustine, "Holy Virginity" [c. 400 CE], in *Marriage and Virginity*, ed. David G. Hunter (Hyde Park, 1999): 68-87; Peter Brown, "The Notion of Virginity in the Early Church," in *Christian Spirituality*, ed. Bernard McGinn and John Meyendorff (New York, 1985): 427-43.

Tuesday, February 9: Celibacy and Marriage in Medieval Islam

Readings

Al-Ghazali, "On the Etiquette of Marriage," (Salt Lake City, 1984): 45-77, "A Discourse on Sexual Desire," (Islamic Text Society, 1997): 165-70 and "An Exposition of the Aspirant's Obligation Regarding the Renunciation or Undertaking of Marriage," 171-82

Thursday, February 11: Regulating Sex during the European Reformation

Readings

Martin Luther, "The Estate of Marriage (1522)," in *Luther's Works*, vol. 45, ed. Walter T. Brandt, Helmut T. Lehmann (Philadelphia, 1962): 13-49; Lyndal Roper, "Discipline and Respectability: Prostitution and the Reformation in Augsburg," in *Feminism and History*, ed. Joan Wallach Scott (Oxford, 1996): 333-365.

Tuesday, February 16: Racialization, Slavery and Interracial Marriage in the U.S. (Guest lecture, Martha Jones)

Readings

"Statues on Slave Descent," in *Roots of Bitterness: Documents of the Social History of American Women*, ed. Nancy Cott (Boston, 1996), 29-31; John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, "Race and Sexuality," in *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America* (Chicago, 1988), 85-108; Martha Hodes, "Marriage: Nell Butler and Charles," *White Women, Black Men: Illicit Sex in the Nineteenth-Century South* (New Haven, 1997): 19-38.

Thursday, February 19: Temporary Marriages

Readings

Shahla Haeri, *The Law of Desire* (Syracuse, 1989): 1-8, 49-60; "Interview and Life Stories," 105-31, 163-82

Tuesday, February 23: Same-Sex/Marriage

Readings

George Chauncey, *Why Marriage?* 59-166

Thursday, February 25: In-class Midterm Exam

Winter Recess, Saturday, February 26 – Friday, March 5

UNIT THREE: LOVE

Questions:

How can we imagine a world where love is the bond that creates communities of brothers and sisters?

How do we distinguish among friends, pals, lovers, spouses?

How might we conceptualize different 'systems' of sexual desire and practice? How can we contextualize these historically?

Tuesday, March 9: The Origins of Love (Guest Lecture, David Halperin)

Readings

Plato, *Symposium*, trans. Christopher Gill [ca. 385 BCE] (London, 2003).*

Thursday, March 11: Courtly Love

Readings

Andreas Capellanus, *The Art of Courtly Love* [1180/90] (New York, 1960): 28-36; Medieval Love Poetry from *An Anthology of German Literature*, vol. 1, ed. Kim Vivian et al. (Prospect Heights, 1998): 205-216, 223-24 (Dietmar von Eist, Anon., Der von Kurenberg, Friedrich von Hausen, Heinrich von Morungen, Reinmar von Hagenau, Wolfram von Eschenbach, Walther von der Vogelweide); Joachim Bumke, "Courtly Love," in *Courtly Culture: Literature and Society in the High Middle Ages* (Woodstock, 2000): 380-413.

Tuesday, March 16: Mystical Brotherhoods

Readings

Dror Ze'evi, "Morality Wars: Orthodoxy, Sufism and Beardless Youths," in *Producing Desire* (Berkeley, 2007): 77-98; Ali Asghar Seyed-Gohrab, "The Ascetic and the Lover," in *Layli and Majnun: Love, Madness and Mystical Longing in Nizami's Epic Romance*, (Leyden, 2003): 89-113.

Thursday, March 18: Comparative Sapphisms

Readings

The Trial of Katharina Hetzeldorfer (1477); Laura Gowing, "Lesbians and Their Like in Early Modern Europe," in *Gay Life and Culture: A World History*, ed. Robert Aldrich (London, 2006): 124-43.

Tuesday, March 23: Women in Enclosures: Convents and Harems

Readings

Walter Andrews and Mehmet Kalpakli, "Women and the Art of Love," in *The Age of Beloveds*, 163-216.

Thursday, March 25: Among Men, Among Women

Readings

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations between Women in Nineteenth-Century America," *Signs* 1 (1975): 1-29; Alan Bray, "A

Traditional Rite for Blessing Friendship,” in *Love, Sex, Intimacy, and Friendship*, ed. Katherine O’Donnell, Michael Rourke (New York, 2003): 87-98.

Tuesday, March 30: Historical Mobilizations of ‘Public Health’ Against Public Sex Venues (Trevor Hoppe)

Readings

Priscilla Alexander, “Bathhouses and Brothels: Symbolic Sites in Discourse and Practice,” in *Policing Public Sex*, ed. Dangerous Bedfellows (Boston, 1996): 221-49; Gayle Rubin, “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality,” in *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, ed. Henry Abelove et al. (New York, 1993): 3-44.

Assignment: Receive essay questions for Unit 3.

UNIT FOUR: POWER

Questions:

How does power intersect with eroticism?

What are the ways, deliberate or unconscious, in which political world-views and claims intersect with discourses of sexuality?

How can sexual discourses be regarded as discourses of power? What is their potential in relation to forms of oppression or liberation?

Thursday, April 1: Colonial Encounters (Christine Walker)

Readings

Kirsten Fischer, “White Reputations ‘Blacken’d & Made Loose,’” in *Suspect Relations: Sex, Race, and Resistance in Colonial North Carolina* (Ithaca, 2002): 131-158; Kathleen Brown, “The Anglo-Indian Gender Frontier,” in *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, & Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia* (Chapel Hill, 1996): 42-74.

Tuesday, April 6: Nationalism and Sexualities

Readings

Afsaneh Najmabadi, “Women’s Veil and Unveil,” in *Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards* (Berkeley, 2005): 132-55; George Mosse, *Nationalism and Sexuality: Respectability and Abnormal Sexuality* (New York, 1985): 1-20

Thursday, April 8: Borderlands (Guest Lecture, Anthony Mora)

Readings

Pablo Mitchell, “Carnal Knowledge,” in *Coyote Nation: Sexuality, Race, and Conquest in Modernizing New Mexico, 1880-1920* (Chicago, 2005): 52-80.

Tuesday, April 13: Sex/City

Readings

W. T. Stead, "The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon" (1885), excerpts; Seth Koven, *Slumming: Sexual and Social Politics in Victorian London* (Princeton, 2004): 1-18; Michael Warner, "Zoning Out Sex," in *The Trouble with Normal: Sex, Politics, and the Ethics of Queer Life* (Cambridge, 1999): 149-94.

Thursday, April 15: The Plasticity of Sex

Readings

Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the U.S.* (Cambridge, 2002): 1-13, 130-67, 289, 314-20; *Inside Out*, Zohreh Shayesteh, 39 minutes (Film Documentary).

Tuesday, April 20: Sexual Revolutions, Sexual Rights, Sexual Utopias

Readings

George Chauncey, "What Gay Studies Taught the Court: The Historians' Amicus Brief in *Lawrence v. Texas*," *GLQ* 10.3 (2004): 509-38; Chauncey, *Why Marriage?* 1-58; Dagmar Herzog, "Anxiety Nation," in *Sex in Crisis: The New Sexual Revolution and the Future of American Politics* (New York, 2008): 1-30, 187-95; Anna Clark, "Twilight Moments," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 14:1/2 (2005): 139-160.

Final Exam: April 28, 1:30-3:30, in the classroom.