

**Sexual Encounters: The Middle East and Europe**  
**History 201G/301G**  
**Winter 2010**  
**T 4:15 – 6:05**  
**Room 160-314**

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This class explores relations between the Middle East and Europe through sex, sexuality, and gender. After an introduction to the history of sexuality and Orientalism, the course focuses on formative points of contact between these two regions. Tracing their relationship from the early modern to the modern periods, topics span race, homosexuality, love, the harem, prostitution, marriage, travel, and war.

The central question of the course is: what does a history of sex offer, and what can it tell us about cross-cultural relations that other frames of inquiry may not? To answer it, we will read a variety of sources—literary, autobiographical, historical, and philosophical—investigating sexual encounters from multiple dimensions.

### **Assignments and Grading**

#### **Writing Workshops**

Writing will be an important component of this course. With the goal of improving all of our written work, we will devote the last 30 minutes of each class to analyzing approaches to argument, evidence, and style. Your own papers will provide the basis for these informal discussions.

Alternating weeks, students will write three short response papers (150 words) that summarize the readings and make a concise argument about their relation to the themes of the course. These papers are to be emailed directly to the instructors by 5pm on Monday, and will then be sent out to the rest of the class with the names removed. Everyone is required to read the responses, while students rotate leading discussion of them. The purpose of this exercise is to consider different methods of writing, and we will discuss the details of these assignments in more depth as the quarter progresses.

#### **Final Paper**

The writing workshops will culminate at the end of the course in one research paper based on primary sources (10 double-spaced pages) due March 18. Students are encouraged to meet with us early and often in their writing process.

## Participation

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate actively in discussions. Any absence will severely affect a student's attendance and participation grade. If a student has a prolonged illness, varsity athletic competition, or a personal situation that might lead to an absence, the student should contact the instructors *in advance*.

The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Weekly Attendance and Participation	15%
Presentation of Reading Responses	20%
Reading Responses	30%
Final Paper	35%

Late assignments will be penalized as much as a full letter grade for each day late.

## Policies

### Advance Accommodations

Please contact us directly if you have a disability or scheduling conflict for which you require advance accommodation. Students who have a disability that requires the use of auxiliary aids and services in class must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education's Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend appropriate accommodations, and prepare a verification letter dated in the current academic term in which the request is being made. Please contact the DRC as soon as possible; timely notice is needed to arrange for appropriate accommodations (phone 723-1066; TDD 725-1067).

### Honor Code

Students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code and to Stanford's guidelines on plagiarism. You are responsible for understanding the University rules regarding academic integrity. Please refer to the following should you have any questions in this regard:

<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/vpsa/judicialaffairs/guiding/honorcode.htm>

<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/vpsa/judicialaffairs/students/plagiarism.sources.htm>

## Readings

### Books

The following eight texts are required for the course. They are available for purchase through the bookstore and also widely available through other vendors. They are also on reserve in Green Library.

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction*, trans. Robert Hurley (New York: Vintage Books, 1990).

Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* (New York: Basic Books, 2000).

Mikhail Lermontov, *A Hero of Our Time* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2001).

Joseph A. Massad, *Desiring Arabs* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *The Turkish Embassy Letters* (London: Little, Brown Book Group, 1994).

Edward W. Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage Books, 1979).

Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North* (New York: New York Review of Books Classic, 2009).

*Tales from the Thousand and One Nights* (New York: Penguin Classics, 1973).

All other readings listed below will be made available by the instructors.

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## Schedule of Readings

### January 5 – Introduction

### January 12 – Why a History of Sex?

-Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction*

### January 19 – Orient-ations

-Edward W. Said, *Orientalism*, 1-110.

-Reina Lewis, *Gendering Orientalism: Race, Femininity, and Representation* (London: Routledge, 1996), 1-52.

### **January 26 – Bedtime Stories**

- Tales from the Thousand and One Nights*, 15-76, 106-112, 163-164, 237-242, 405-407.
- Saree Makdisi and Felicity Nussbaum, “Introduction,” *The Arabian Nights in Historical Context*, 1-24.
- Robert Irwin, “Sexual Fictions,” *The Arabian Nights: A Companion*, 159-177.
- Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*, 1-38.

### **February 2 – Travelers**

- Natalie Zemon Davis, *Trickster Travels: A Sixteenth-Century Muslim Between Worlds* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2006), 3-13, 125-152, 191-222.
- Linda Colley, *The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh: A Woman in World History* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2007), xix-xxxii, 41-86.

### **February 9 – Harem Tales**

- Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *The Turkish Embassy Letters*, 3-167

### **February 16 – The Soldier’s Passion**

- Mikhail Lermontov, *A Hero of Our Time*

### **February 23 – Heart of Darkness in Reverse**

- Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*

### **March 2 – A Gay International?**

- Joseph A. Massad, *Desiring Arabs*

### **March 9 – Encounters Sexual**

- Joan Wallach Scott, *The Politics of the Veil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007), 1-41, 151-74.
- Paul Rabinow, *Reflections of Fieldwork in Morocco* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977), 1-69.
- Anne McClintock, “Paranoid Empire: Specters from Guantánamo and Abu Ghraib,” *Small Axe* 28 (2009): 50-74.