

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

Contact Information: 234 Founders College, 416-736-5123, x33218, mrstein@yorku.ca

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

Two Reaction Papers (750-1000 Words)	10%
Participation	45%
Major Paper (15-20 Pages)	45%

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

Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality: An Introduction, trans. Robert Hurley (New York: Pantheon, 1978).

John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity," in Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality, ed. Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharon Thompson (New York: Monthly Review, 1983), 100-113.

18 Jan.: Feminism and the History of Sexuality

- Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1985), 53-76, 90-128, 217-296.
- Nancy F. Cott, "Passionlessness: An Interpretation of Victorian Sexual Ideology, 1790-1850," Signs 4, no. 2 (1978): 219-236.
- Kathy Peiss, "'Charity Girls' and City Pleasures: Historical Notes on Working-Class Sexuality, 1880-1920," in Passion and Power: Sexuality in History, ed. Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons (Philadelphia: Temple Univ. Press, 1989), 57-69.
- Jessie M. Rodrique, "The Black Community and the Birth Control Movement," in Passion and Power, 138-154.
- Evelyn Hammonds, "Toward a Genealogy of Black Female Sexuality: The Problematic of Silence," in Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures, ed. M. Jacqui Alexander and Chandra Talpade Mohanty (New York: Routledge, 1997), 170-182.

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

- George L. Mosse, "Nationalism and Respectability: Normal and Abnormal Sexuality in The Nineteenth Century," Journal of Contemporary History 17, no. 2 (Apr. 1982): 221-246.
- Marybeth Hamilton Arnold, "'The Life of a Citizen in the Hands of a Woman': Sexual Assault in New York City, 1790-1820," in Passion and Power, 35-56.
- John D'Emilio, "The Homosexual Menace: The Politics of Sexuality in Cold War America," in Passion and Power, 226-240.
- Marc Stein, "'Birthplace of the Nation: Imagining Lesbian and Gay Communities in Philadelphia, 1969-70,'" in Creating a Place for Ourselves, ed. Brett Beemyn (New York: Routledge, 1997), 253-288.
- Steven Maynard, "The Maple Leaf (Gardens) Forever: Sex, Canadian Historians and National History," Journal of Canadian Studies 36, no. 2 (Summer 2001): 70-105.
- Margot Canaday, "Building a Straight State: Sexuality and Social Citizenship under the 1944 G. I. Bill," Journal of American History 90, no. 3 (Dec. 2003): 935-957.

1 Feb.: Race and the History of Sexuality

- John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America (New York: Harper and Row, 1988), xi-xx, 3-14, 85-108.
- Anne duCille, "'Othered' Matters: Reconceptualizing Dominance and Difference in the History of Sexuality in America," Journal of the History of Sexuality 1, no. 1 (1990): 102-127; John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman's response, 128-129.
- Hazel Carby, "'It Jus Be's Dat Way Sometime': The Sexual Politics of Women's Blues," Radical America 20, no. 4 (1986): 3-22.
- Will Roscoe, "Was We'wha a Homosexual?" GLQ 2, no. 3 (1995): 193-235.
- Gary B. Nash, "The Hidden History of Mestizo America," Journal of American History 82, no. 3 (Dec. 1995): 941-962.
- Siobhan B. Somerville, Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture (Durham: Duke University Press, 2000), 1-38.

8 Feb.: Violence, Pleasure, and Danger

- Ellen Carol Dubois and Linda Gordon, "Seeking Ecstasy on the Battlefield: Danger and Pleasure in Nineteenth-Century Feminist Sexual Thought," Feminist Studies 9, no. 1 (Spring 1983): 7-25.
- Judith R. Walkowitz, City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late-Victorian London (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992), ix-xiv, 1-134, 191-245.
- Elise Chenier, "Seeing Red: Immigrant Women and Sexual Danger in Cold War Canada," Atlantis 24, no. 2 (Spring 2000): 51-60.

22 Feb.: Historicizing Same-Sex Sexualities

- John D'Emilio, Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970 (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1983), 1-10, 57-125, 149-249.
- Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline Davis, "The Reproduction of Butch-Fem Roles: A Social Constructionist Approach," in Passion and Power, 241-256.
- Eric Garber, "A Spectacle in Color: The Lesbian and Gay Subculture of Jazz Age Harlem," in Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past, ed. Martin Bauml Duberman, Martha Vicinus, and George Chauncey (New York: New American Library, 1989), 318-331.
- George Chauncey, Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay World, 1890-1940 (New York: Basic, 1994), 1-29, 99-127.
- Karen V. Hansen, "'No Kisses Is Like Youres': An Erotic Friendship Between Two African-American Women During the Mid-Nineteenth Century," Gender and History 7 (Aug. 1995): 153-182.
- Steven Maynard, "'Horrible Temptations': Sex, Men, and Working-Class Male Youth in Urban Ontario, 1890-1935," Canadian Historical Review 78, no. 2 (Jun. 1997): 191-235.
- Marc Stein, "Theoretical Politics, Local Communities: The Making of U.S. LGBT Historiography," GLQ 11, no. 4 (2005): 605-625.

1 Mar.: Queer History

- Lisa Duggan, "Making It Perfectly Queer," Socialist Review 22, no. 1 (Jan.-Mar. 1992): 11-31.
- Lisa Duggan, "The Trials of Alice Mitchell: Sensationalism, Sexology, and the Lesbian Subject in Turn-of-the-Century America," Signs 18, no. 4 (1993): 791-814.
- Lisa Duggan, "The Discipline Problem: Queer Theory Meets Lesbian and Gay History," GLQ 2, no. 3 (1995): 179-191.
- Henry Abelove, "The Queering of Lesbian/Gay History," Radical History Review, no. 62 (Spring 1995): 44-57.
- David M. Halperin, "How to Do the History of Male Homosexuality," GLQ 6, no. 2 (2000): 87-124.
- Leila J. Rupp, "Toward a Global History of Same-Sex Sexuality," Journal of the History of Sexuality 10, no. 2 (Apr. 2001): 287-302.
- Martha Vicinus, Intimate Friends: Women Who Loved Women, 1778-1928 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004), xv-xxxii, 229-238.

8 Mar.: Historicizing Cross-Sex Sexualities

- Henry Abelow, "Some Speculations on the History of Sexual Intercourse during the Long Eighteenth Century in England," Genders 6 (Fall 1989): 125-130.
- Karen Dubinsky, Improper Advances: Rape and Heterosexual Conflict in Ontario, 1880-1929 (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1993), 1-112, 163-169.
- Jonathan Ned Katz, The Invention of Heterosexuality (New York: Dutton, 1995), 1-32.
- Jennifer Ting, "Bachelor Society: Deviant Heterosexuality and Asian American Historiography," in Privileging Positions: The Sites of Asian American Studies, ed. Gary Y. Okihiro, et al. (Pullman: Washington State Univ. Press, 1995), 271-279.
- Mary Louise Adams, The Trouble with Normal: Postwar Youth and the Making of Heterosexuality (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1997), 3-52.

15 Mar.: Sexuality and Disease

- Henry Abelow, "Freud, Male Homosexuality, and the Americans," Dissent 33, no. 1 (Winter 1985-1986): 59-69.
- Elizabeth Fee, "Venereal Disease: The Wages of Sin?" in Passion and Power, 178-198.
- Robert Padgug, "Gay Villain, Gay Hero: Homosexuality and the Social Construction of AIDS," in Passion and Power, 293-313.
- 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

- Joanne Meyerowitz, How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2002).
- Kathleen Brown, "'Changed...into the Fashion of Man': The Politics of Sexual Difference in a Seventeenth-Century Anglo-American Settlement," Journal of the History of Sexuality 6 (1995): 171-193.

29 Mar.: Sexuality and Migration

- Eithne Luibheid, Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border (Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2002).
- Margot Canaday, "'Who Is A Homosexual?': The Consolidation of Sexual Identities in Mid-Twentieth-Century American Immigration Law," Law and Social Inquiry 28, no. 2 (Spring 2003): 351-386.
- 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

- Philippa Levine, "Sexuality, Gender, and Empire," in Gender and Empire, ed. Philippa Levine (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2004), 134-155.
- Laura Briggs, Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2003), selections.
- Adele Perry, On the Edge of Empire: Gender, Race, and the Making of British Columbia,

1849-1871 (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 2001), selections.