The course will examine changing categories of sex and gender from the mid-eighteenth century to the homosexual and women’s right movements of the 1960s. We will focus on the emergence of nineteenth century sexual science, the impact of war and industrialization on changing notions of masculinity and femininity, on Sigmund Freud and the concepts of intersexuality and bisexuality, and on the often-perceived threat to society from sexual variations.

I. Required Readings:


Selected readings on ereserve in Jackson Library (indicated by author below):


II. Learning outcomes

The course will teach you to think critically about the historical relationships among individuality, sexuality, science, and society in the modern period. The modern Western intellect often attempts to measure and categorize different “kinds” of people, as, for example, “masculine”, “feminine”, “gay”, “straight”, or “abnormal.” You will develop an understanding of the historical origins of modern social standards for masculinity, femininity, and sexual diversity or deviance, and of the social movements that at times challenged, and at times fortified such standards.
III. Course Requirements
Your grade will be based on three exams (30% each), and your class participation, which will be worth 10% of your grade.

Please come prepared to talk in class. There is no attendance policy; but the participation portion of your grade may suffer from poor attendance. Before each week’s reading I will post at least one discussion question on the course page in Blackboard. To express your understanding of the readings, please come prepared to address the questions. Your exams will cover the topics discussed, and we will use the topics to illustrate how to frame an informed answer on an essay exam. So both the participation portion of your grade and your exam performance will benefit from regular attendance.

I do not give late exams without a documented medical or family emergency. So, please contact me immediately if you have an emergency.

Please be courteous and turn off your cell phones in class.

III. Tentative Course Schedule

Week


Aug. 21: Medicalization, Degeneration and Social Darwinism:
Terry, Chapters 1 and 2

Aug. 28: Race and Sexuality: Schiebinger. “Theories of Race and Gender”

Sept. 5: Freud, Hirschfeld, “Deviance”, and Sexual Reform:
Freud “Infantile Sexuality”

Sept. 11: Visualization, The body and the Threat to Masculinity:
Mosse, Chapters 1-2

Sept. 18: Countertypes versus the Masculine Ideal:
Mosse, Chapters 3 and 4

Sept. 25: Flaunting the countertype: Mosse, Chapter 5, Review

Exam One: Oct. 3, 2006

Oct 5: Sexuality and the War; Grayzel, Chapters 2-4

Oct 7- Oct 10 Fall Break
Oct 12:  Aftermath of War and Pacifism; Grayzel, Chapters 5-7

Oct 16:  The Masculine Ideal, War and the Rise of Fascism  
          Mosse, Chapters 6-8

Oct 23:  The Rise of American Social Science; Terry, Chapters 3-5

Oct 30:  Eugenics and Sexual Variety; Terry, Chapters 6-7;  
          Larson, “Eugenic Seeds”

Second Exam, November 7

Nov. 9:  Policing sexuality: Perversion; Terry, Chapter 8,  
          D’Emilio & Freeman, “Sexual Politics”

Nov 13:  Kinsey and the Backlash; Terry, Chapters 9 & 11

Nov. 20:  Conspiracy and the Rise of the Sexual Rights;  
          Terry, Chapter 12

Thanksgiving Break, November 22-25

Nov 27:  Post Modern Males and Sexual Freedom:  
          Mosse, Chapter 9; Terry, Chapter 12 and Epilogue

Reading day: December 5, 2006

Final Exam: Thursday, December 7

IV. Grading Policy: The standard University grading scale will be used to convert your  
numerical scores into letter grades.

The scale is as follows:
A = 100-93%   B = 87-83%   C = 77-73%   D = 67-60%
A- = 92-90%   B- = 82-80%   C- = 72-70%   F = 59% and below
B+ = 89-88%   C+ = 79-78%   D+ = 69-68%