

## Sexuality in Historical Perspective

HIS 359-01: Fall 2006

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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:

Jennifer Terry, *An American Obsession: Science, Medicine and Homosexuality in Modern Society*. U. Chicago Press, 1999.

George Mosse, *The Image of Man. The Creation of Modern Masculinity*. Oxford University Press, 1996.

Susan Grayzel, *Women and the First World War*. Pearson Education, 2002.

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

Anne Fausto-Sterling. "The Five Sexes. Why Male and Female Are Not Enough." *The Sciences*, March/April, 1993, Pp. 20-25.

Oosterhuis, H. from *Stepchildren of Nature*, Chapter 1, "The emergence of sexual science.", University of Chicago Press, 2000.

L. Schiebinger. Chapter 5, "Theories of Race and Gender", from *Nature's Body: Gender in the making of Modern Science*. Beacon Press, 1993, pp. 143-183.

J. D'Emilio & E. Freedman. Chapter 7, "Sexual Politics", from *Intimate Matters*. University of Chicago Press, 1998. Pp. 139-167.

E. J. Larson. Chapter 2, "Eugenic Seeds", from *Sex, Race and Science*. Johns Hopkins Press, 1996. Pp. 18-39.

S. Freud. *Three essays on the Theory of Sexuality*. Essay II, "Infantile Sexuality," from Peter Gay, Ed. *The Freud Reader*, Pp. 258-267. (originally published in 1905)

### 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 14:       **The Construction of Sexual Identity: Science, Sexuality and Modernity:** Fausto Sterling, "Five sexes"; Larson, "Sexual Science", Terry, Introduction

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%	