

TR: 5:00-6:15, Spring, 2011

## HIS 359-01: Sexuality in Historical Perspective

**Professor Cheryl Logan**  
E mail: calogan@uncg.edu

**Office: MHRA, Rm 2116**  
Office Hours: Wed. 3:30-5pm: Friday 3:30-4:30

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 on concepts of intersexuality, homosexuality, and on perceived threats to society from sexual women and sexual variety.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** The course will teach you to think and read critically about the historical relationships among individuality, sexuality, science, and society in the modern period. Modern Western society often attempts to measure and categorize different "kinds" of people, as, for example, "the masculine," "the feminine," "the gay", "the straight," or "the 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 trends that at times challenged, and at times fortified such standards.

**EVALUATION AND GRADING:** Your grade in the course will be based on exam scores, in-class writing and participation:

90% 3 exam grades  
10% in class writing and participation

There will be 3 exams, including the final; each will count 30% of your grade. The final exam will be cumulative and it will occur during the scheduled final exam period. I will evaluate your work based on:

- Your written explanation of concepts, theories and historical trends gleaned from the readings
- Your effective explanations of the problems raised by historical changes in concepts of sexuality and sexual morality
- Your understanding and synthesis of historical trends larger historical trends

### I. Required Readings:

Text: Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization*. University of Chicago Press, 1995. (ISBN 0226041395)

### Readings on ereserve

Jeffrey Weeks. "Sexuality and the Historian." Chapter 1, from *Sex, politics, and society: The regulation of sexuality since 1800*, 2nd edition, 1989. Longman Press. Pp.1-14.

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

Laura Abrams and Laura Curran. "Wayward Girls and Virtuous Women: Social Workers and Female Juvenile Delinquency in the Progressive Era." *Affilia*, 2000 15: 49-64.

Jeffrey Weeks. "The Sacramental Family: Middle class men, women, and children."

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Chapter 3, from *Sex, politics, and society: The regulation of sexuality since 1800*, 2nd edition, 1989. Longman Press. Pp. 38-56.

Jennifer Terry, "Medicalizing homosexuality", Chapter 2. *An American Obsession. Science Medicine and Homosexuality in Modern Society*. U. Chicago Press, pp. 40-73.

Jennifer Terry. "The Committee for the Study of sex variants", Chapter 6. *An American Obsession. Science Medicine and Homosexuality in Modern Society*. U. Chicago Press, pp. 178-219.

Freud, S. *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*, Essay II (Excerpts). Norton Press, 1925/1953.

**ATTENDANCE: Please come to class having read the assignment, and be prepared answer questions about it in class.** Your participation grade is directly tied to attendance. Your exams will cover the topics discussed, and as we discussing the readings we will practice writing good answers and describing historical trends. Short in class writing exercises will occur about every other week; they will be based on the readings, and they will affect your participation grade.

I do not give late exams without a documented medical excuse or family emergency. So, please contact me immediately via email if you have an emergency. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, if you contact me later (by a few days or more) you will not be permitted to take a make up.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:** You will be required to sign the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work that you submit for this course. Please check the UNCG Undergraduate Bulletin for a full statement of that policy at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

**BEHAVIOR IN CLASS:** Please be courteous and turn off your cell phones in class. If you bring a laptop to class, use it for class work. If you use to check email, surf the web, etc., during class, I will ask you to leave because your behavior can very distracting for students sitting near you who are trying to pay attention.

### **Topics and Tentative Schedule:**

#### ***Week***

- |             |                                                                                                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 10: | The Construction of Sexual Identity: Categories and Essentialism:<br>Fausto Sterling, "The five sexes" |
| January 18: | Science, Sexuality and Modernity:<br>Weeks, "Sexuality and the Historian."                             |
| January 24: | Threats to Masculinity: Sexuality and Degeneration:<br>Bederman, Chapter 1                             |
| January 31: | Racial Challenge: Bederman, Chapter 2                                                                  |

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February 7: Neurasthenia, Degeneration, and Self Restraint: Bederman, Chapter 3

February 14: **First Exam, Feb. 15**

February 21: Femininity: Reproduction and the Family:  
Weeks, "The Sacramental Family"

February 28: Feminism and Racism: Bederman, Chapter 4

**Spring Break, March 7-13**

March 14: Roosevelt and American Masculinity: Bederman, Chapter 5

March 21: Crime and Sexual Morality: Abrams & Curran, "Wayward Girls"

March 28: **Second Exam, March 31**

April 4: Degeneration and Sexual Deviance: Psychiatry and Sexuality  
Terry, "Medicalizing homosexuality"

April 11: Freud and Sexuality: Freud, "Three essays (II)"

April 18: Science Addresses Deviance:  
Terry. "The Committee for the Study of Sex Variants"

April 25: Lewis Terman, Sex and Personality: Pronatalism in the 50s.

**Reading Day, April 27**

**Final Exam: Saturday, April 30, 3:30-6:30 (cumulative)**

Course Grading Scale: (for assigning exam grades and final course grades)

99-100%	A+
92-98%	A
90-91%	A-
88.5-89.5%	B+
82-88	B
80-81.5%	B-
78.5-79.5%	C+
72-78%	C
70-71.5%	C-
68-69.5	D+
62-67%	D
59-61.5%	D-
58% and below	F

By remaining in this course, I confirm that I will agree to the conditions stated in this syllabus and to abiding by UNCG's academic integrity policy.