Oberlin College
Department of History

History 265: American Sexualities
Fall 2011
MWF 10:00-10:50
Instructor: Pablo Mitchell

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Office Hours: W 11:15-12:00, TH 11-12
(and by appointment)

This course will examine the creation, maintenance, and reproduction of sexual differences and identities over a broad time span in North American history, beginning with colonial American sexual practices and social formations, and stretching through the "modernization" of sex. Major topics will include marriage, changing gender roles, the intersection of sexuality with race and ethnicity, commercialized sex, reproduction, same sex sexual practices, contraception, sexual violence, heterosexism, danger, desire, and pleasure. Note: This course counts toward the GSFS major.

Required Texts:
John D’Emilio, Estelle Freedman, Intimate Matters
Lisa Duggan, Sapphic Slashers
Pippa Holloway, Sexuality, Politics, and Social Control in Virginia, 1920-1945

Textbooks are available at the college bookstore. Readings are available on reserve at Mudd Library and through Blackboard.

Grading:
Class Participation/Attendance 20 points
Quizzes 30 points
Paper #1 50 points
Paper #2 50 points
Paper #3 50 points

Final Grade will be out of 200 total points.

Class Participation:
Regular attendance and thoughtful, prepared, respectful participation in classroom discussion are required features of the class. Discussions will alternate between small groups and the entire class. Please be prepared to discuss the readings on the assigned date. Students will also be required to turn in book or essay reviews (1-2 pages in length) describing the assigned readings at the beginning of the scheduled discussion section.

Attendance (and absences) will be considered in determining your final grade. Students will be allowed one absence, excused or unexcused, over the course of the semester without affecting the final grade for the course. The second absence will result in a loss of two points from the participation grade. Students missing three or more classes can receive no higher than a B+ for the course. Students who miss five or more classes will not receive credit for the course. Under special circumstances (prolonged illness, death in the family, etc), exceptions can be arranged through consultation with the instructor and the Dean of Students’ office.

Quizzes
Scheduled reading quizzes (see below for dates) covering the readings and lecture material will focus on critical events, individuals, and locations in the history of American sexualities.

Written Assignments:
The major written assignments for the course will consist of three 5 page papers. Students will choose one of several essay topics (to be provided by the instructor) based on selected primary and secondary sources. Papers must be legibly typed or word-processed, with reasonable fonts, double-spacing, and 1 inch margins. Please attempt to stay within the assigned page limits. Late papers will be penalized 2 points for every 24 hour period the papers are late. Papers more than ten days late will not be accepted. Students must complete all written assignments (including book reviews) in order to receive credit for the course.
Honor Code
All work in this class is governed by the Honor Code of Oberlin College. The honor code is available at:
http://new.oberlin.edu/students/policies/2011-2012/11-Policies-Honor.pdf. If you have questions about how the code applies to
any assignment or work done for the class, please feel free to consult the instructor.

Schedule and Reading Assignments:
WEEK 1
9/7          Introduction
9/9          Frameworks for the Course

WEEK 2
9/12         Colonial America, 1500-1780
D'Emilio, Freedman, Introduction-Chapter 1

September 12    Public Presentation: Estelle Freedman (4:30pm, West Lecture Hall)
9/14         Colonial America, 1500-1780
Myles, “Border Crossings” (available on Blackboard)
D’Emilio, Freedman, Chapter 2

September 14   Public Presentation: Estelle Freedman (12:00pm, King 106)
9/16         Discussion Sections (9am and 10am)
Reis, “Hermaphrodites and ‘Same-Sex Sex’ in Early America” (available on Blackboard)
Lyons, “Mapping an Atlantic Sexual Culture” (available on Blackboard)

WEEK 3
9/19         Revolutionary America, 1780-1820
D’Emilio, Freedman, Chapter 3
9/21         Revolutionary America, 1780-1820
D’Emilio, Freedman, Chapters 4-5
9/23         Discussion Sections (9am and 10am)

WEEK 4
9/26         Antebellum America, 1820-1860
D’Emilio, Freedman, Chapters 6-7
9/28         Civil War America
9/30         Quiz #1: D'Emilio/Freedman Parts I,II; Myles, Reis, Lyons

WEEK 5
10/3          Birth of Modern America, Part I, 1880-1900
D’Emilio, Freedman, Chapters 8-9
10/5          Writing Workshop
Bring Introductory Paragraph of Paper #1 to Class
10/7 Birth of Modern America, Part I, 1880-1900
1st paper due Friday, October 7, 2011 by 5pm.

WEEK 6

10/10 Birth of Modern America, Part I, 1880-1900
Duggan, Introduction-Chapter 1

10/12 Birth of Modern America, Part II, 1900-1930
Duggan, Chapters 2-3

10/14 Birth of Modern America, Part II, 1900-1930
Duggan, Chapter 4
Peter Boag, "Go West Young Man, Go West Young Woman" (available on Blackboard)

WEEK 7

10/17 Birth of Modern America, Part II, 1900-1930
Duggan, Chapters 5-6
Nayan Shah, "Between ‘Oriental Depravity’ and ‘Natural Degenerates’" (available on Blackboard)

10/19 Birth of Modern America, Part II, 1900-1930
Duggan, Chapter 7-end

Book Discussion Sections (Times and Dates to be Determined)
Bring Duggan Book Review to Discussion Section

10/21 No Class

WEEK 8 FALL RECESS: NO CLASS

WEEK 9

10/31 Birth of Modern America, Part II, 1900-1930
D’Emilio, Freedman, Chapter 10
Holloway, Introduction, Chapters 1-3

11/2 New Deal America, 1930-1945
Holloway, Chapter 4

11/4 New Deal America, 1930-1945
Holloway, Chapter 5

WEEK 10

11/7 Discussion Sections (9am and 10am)
Bring Holloway Book Review to Discussion Section

11/9 Cold War America, 1945-1960

11/11 Quiz #2: Duggan; Boag, Shah, D’Emilio/Freedman Part III, Holloway
WEEK 11

11/14  Cold War America, 1945-1960
Joanne Meyerowitz, “Sex Research at the Borders of Gender” (available on Blackboard)
D’Emilio, Freedman, Chapters 11-12

11/16  Writing Workshop
Bring Introductory Paragraph of 2nd Paper to Class

11/18  Cold War America, 1945-1960

2nd paper due Friday, November 18, 2011 by 5pm.

WEEK 12

11/21  1960s America
D’Emilio, Freedman, Chapter 13

11/23  1960s America
Whitney Strub, “Perversion for Profit” (available on Blackboard)

11/25  Thanksgiving Recess: No Class

WEEK 13

11/28  Essay Discussion Sections (9am and 10am)
Bring Meyerowitz or Strub Review to Class

11/30  1960s America
Simone Caron, “Birth Control and the Black Community in the 1960s” (available on Blackboard)

12/2   The 70s and Beyond
D’Emilio, Freedman, Chapter 14-end
Gillian Frank, “Discophobia” (available on Blackboard)

WEEK 14

12/5   Essay Discussion Sections (9am and 10am)
Bring Caron or Frank Review to Class

12/7   Quiz #3: Meyerowitz; Strub; Caron; Frank; D’Emilio/Freedman Part IV

12/9   Class summary

Final Paper due Monday, December 12, 2011 by 5pm