

Gender, Sexuality & Politics in the Modern West
Women's Studies 150S.06 (cross-listed as SXL 120S.06 and HIST 106S.06)
WF 11:40-12:55pm (Fall 2008)
100 West Duke Building
Instructor: Marie Hicks
meh20@duke.edu

Course Description

This course studies the history of 20th century and early 21st century political movements in which sexuality has played a key role. How does sex relate to power and identity? Starting with the feminist movements of the 20th century, and progressing through the gay rights movement, the lesbian rights movement, and the transgender rights movement, we will study how sexuality has been used to construct the concept of political rights in the modern West.

Through studying these political movements we will learn how broader legal and economic rights in the modern West have been influenced by sexuality. We will interrogate sexuality's bearing on access to jobs, education, abortion, and marriage. We will also investigate how identities that are sometimes posited as "natural" or immutable have changed over time in conversation with different social and political contexts. The secondary and primary source material we will read in this course will lay the groundwork for thinking about how power operates in constructing, ascribing to, normalizing, and obfuscating sexual identity as a category of difference.

Required Texts

We will read most of M. Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction (Vintage, Paperback reissue 1990)* so it is advised that you purchase a copy. (Available in the Regulator Bookstore on 9th Street, near East Campus.) All other texts will be available online through Blackboard (Bb):

https://courses.duke.edu/webapps/login?action=portal_direct_entry

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation (30%)

Please come to class having done the readings listed for that day so we can discuss them.

2. Reading Discussion Questions (30%)

Students will take turns coming up with 2-3 discussion questions on the issues raised by the readings, and bringing them to class on certain days. Each student will be responsible for 2 or 3 sets of discussion questions over the course of the term.

3. Outline and Annotated Bibliography for Final Paper, Presented in Class (10%)

Near the end of class you'll be required to outline your final paper, make an annotated bibliography of the sources you plan to use, and discuss your plans briefly in class. (An annotated bibliography is a bibliography that gives a brief summary each source and briefly describes how you intend to use it in your paper.) This assignment is geared to helping you get a good start on the final paper, as well as giving you the opportunity to share your research with the rest of the class.

4. Final Paper (in lieu of final exam) (30%) and Outline Presentation of Final Paper (10%)

The final assignment is a research paper that utilizes some of the theories of sexuality we've studied in class. It should be 9-10 pages. This project will help you learn how to use primary sources, and become familiar with the Duke collections relating to gender, LGBT

movements, sexuality, and feminism. You'll be given an introduction to the archives by Librarian Kelly Wooten during one class period.

Useful Links:

Research materials can be found in the Duke Special Collections in the History of Sexuality (<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/women/histsex.html>) and The Sally Bingham Center (<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/women/>), in addition to the library resource guides (<http://www.lib.duke.edu/reference/subjects/gaybib.htm> and <http://www.lib.duke.edu/women/index.html>).

Class Schedule:

Thinking about Gender, Politics, and Sexuality

W August 27: Introduction

Discussion of Syllabus and Course Requirements

F Aug 29:

Excerpts from Joan Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History*, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis" pages 28-50 and "Some More Reflections on Gender and Politics" 199-218 (Note- you must be on campus or use a University VPN or proxy server to access this reading.)

Full text available at:

<http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=acls;cc=acls;idno=heb00103.0001.001;view=toc>

W September 3:

"Excerpt from 'Introduction' to *Bodies that Matter*" by Judith Butler (Bb)

Historical Constructions of Identity

F September 5:

Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, part one, **or** two, **or** three (pp.1-75)

(Class members will focus on different sections and share a summary with the class)

W September 10:

Archives Meeting: **Instead of coming to our usual classroom, report to the Sallie Bingham Center in the Special Collections of Perkins Library on West Campus.** Kelly Wooten will give you an overview of the collection to help you get ideas for your final paper. Map:

<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/about/directions.html>

F September 12:

Continue discussing Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*
& Discussion of possibilities for final paper research

W September 17:

NO CLASS: Visit the Archives and begin browsing sources.

Modern Women's Rights and "The second Wave" 1960s-1970s: Educational, Social, and Medical Opportunities

F September 19:

B. Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, pp. 15-32, 182-205 (Bb)

W September 24:

FILM (view in class): *American Experience: The Pill* (60min.)

F September 26:

Roe v. Wade:

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=US&vol=410&invol=113>

Roberta, "The Hand that Rocks the Cradle Should Be Paid" Pittsburgh: Know, Inc.

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/hand/>

W October 1:

M. Hicks, "Integrating Women at Harvard and Oxford, 1964-77" pp.245-270 (Bb)

Jennifer Delahunty Britz, "To All the Girls I've Rejected," *New York Times*, Mar 23, 2006 (Bb)

Tamar Lewin, "The New Gender Divide, At Colleges, Women Are Leaving Men in the Dust," *The New York Times*, July 9, 2006 (Bb)

Cornelia Dean, "Panel Says Institutions Hinder Female Academics," *New York Times*, Sept 18, 2006

White, Straight, and Middle Class?: The Women's Movement splinters 1970s-80s

F October 3:

Brown, Rita Mae. "Reflections of a lavender menace" in *Ms.* (Jul 1995) Vol. 6, Iss. 1; p. 40 (Bb)

RADICALESBIANS, "The Woman Identified Woman," (1970):

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/womid/>

Maxine Williams, "Black Women's Liberation," NY: Pathfinder Press, 1970:

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/blacklib/#why>

W October 8:

Zetta Elliott, "Writing the Black (W)hole: Facing the Feminist Void" in *Thirdspace*:

http://www.thirdspace.ca/vol5/5_2_Elliot.htm

From No Wave to Third Wave? The 1990s on

F October 10:

Amy Schriefer, "We've Only Just Begun: Translating Third Wave Theory Into Third Wave Activism": <http://www.gwu.edu/~medusa/thirdwave.html>

Stonewall, Early gay rights activism, and AIDS

W October 15:

NO CLASS

Optional viewing: *After Stonewall* (1999, dir. John Scagliotti, 87 min.) Available at Lilly Library.

Optional Extra Credit Assignment: View the film, give a brief summary, and discuss one interesting point that the film brings up (length: no more than 1 double-spaced typed page).

F October 17:

New York Times articles on the Stonewall riots (Bb) &

Discussion of online search assignment for next Wednesday.

W October 22:

Assignment: This assignment aims to help you become familiar with searching the Historical New York Times Online Database, so that you will be able to use it later on for your final paper research. (The database is available through the Duke Library website: [http:// library.duke.edu/](http://library.duke.edu/)). Find several articles on gay rights activism. In particular, look for activist responses to the AIDS epidemic. Some class members will be asked to focus on the early years of the epidemic, when neither scientists nor activists really understood what was happening. Other class members will look for articles later in the 1980s and into the 1990s. Pick the best or most interesting one you find, print enough copies for the whole class, and bring them for today's class.

F October 24:

“The Gay Agenda”: Overturning Sodomy Laws

Lawrence v. Texas Supreme Court ruling:

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/02pdf/02-102.pdf>

Map of pre-2003 state sodomy laws:

<http://www.sodomylaws.org/usa/usa.htm>

“Scalia Describes ‘Dangerous’ Trend” (*Harvard Crimson* student newspaper):

<http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=503540>

W October 29:

“The Gay Agenda” Continued: The Defense of Marriage Act and Same-Sex Marriage Litigation

Text of Defense of Marriage Act,

<http://www.lectlaw.com/files/leg23.htm>

Current challenges to DOMA:

<http://www.domawatch.org/currentchallenges.html>

14th Amendment (Due Process and Equal Protection):

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/data/constitution/amendment14/>

US Constitution:

<http://www.usconstitution.net/xconst.html>

Loving v. Virginia (interracial marriage, 1967):

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=US&vol=388&invol=1>

Queering Politics and contesting Heteronormativities

F October 31:

Warner chapter “Beyond Gay Marriage” (pp.259-289) in *Left Legalism/Left Critique* (Bb)

*This reading is also available online via the Duke “ebrary”—search for the book title in the Duke Library online catalog and you will find a link to it.

W November 5:

“Transmissions from Camp Trans” by Michelle Tea (Bb)

(Related Websites: <http://camp-trans.org/> and <http://www.transfamily.org/>)

Damien Cave, “New York Plans to Make Gender Personal Choice” Nov. 7, 2006, *New York Times*. (Bb)

Cornelia Dean, “Dismissing 'Sexist Opinions' About Women's Place in Science: A Conversation with Ben Barres,” *New York Times*, July 18 2006. (Bb)

F November 7:

Susan Pell, "Inescapable Essentialism: Bisexually-Identified Women's Strategies in the Late 80s and Early 90s," *thirdspace*, 2 (1), (2002): <http://www.thirdspace.ca/articles/pell.htm>

W November 12:

We will not meet at our regularly appointed class time today. Instead, you are asked to go to the Special Collections archives, or whichever archives you plan to use for your final paper, and continue to do research. Bring an outline and annotated bibliography of your final paper to class on Nov. 21st. Be prepared to give us a short summary of your paper, its argument, and conclusions.

F November 14:

Cheryl Chase, "Hermaphrodites with Attitude: Mapping the Emergence of Intersex Political Activism," *GLQ*, 4 (2), 189-211 (1998). (Bb)

W November 19:

FILM (in class): Out of the Past: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Rights in America (1998, dir. Jeffrey Dupre, 70 min)

F November 21:

Discussion and Workshopping of Final Paper Topics: Final Paper to be turned in during final exam period.

November 26-28th: THANKSGIVING BREAK (no class)

W December 3:

Discussion and Workshopping of Final Paper Topics: Final Paper to be turned in during final exam period.

Gender as we now know it- Are gender norms breaking down? Is gender becoming less politicized?

F December 5:

Final Class, Review and Discussion of Course Themes