History 2181A

Sexual History:
Expression, Regulation, and Rights in the West Since 1800
2023-24 | Fall 2023 |
online asynchronous

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This is a draft syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Course Description:
This course examines the history of sexuality from the nineteenth century to the present, investigating sexual desire, behaviour, and ideologies. Topics include the body, marriage, reproduction, prostitution, same-sex relations, and religious, medical and psychiatric intervention, and help demonstrate that sexuality has been the object of social scrutiny and political regulation.

Course Syllabus:
Not solely a biological expression that is static and fixed, sexuality is ever-changing, and has a dynamic and vibrant history. This lecture course will examine the history of sexuality from the nineteenth century to the present day. It will investigate sexual desire and behavior, and sexual and gender ideologies, and will explore how they relate to a variety of topics, including perceptions of the body, marriage, reproduction, prostitution, same-sex relations, pornography, disease, and religious, medical, and psychiatric intervention. All of these issues will be studied to underscore the concept that sexuality is both biological and social, and that sexuality and the connected notions of masculinity and femininity (gender) have been the object of intense social scrutiny and political regulation.

Learning Outcomes:
Students should be able to:
-analyze the ways in which gender and sexuality are partly socially constructed, and thus vary over time, place, class, and cultures.
-examine the ways in which the history of sex and sexuality intersect with other historical trends and movements.
-explore the ways in which discourses about sex and sexuality have often been used as a tool of oppression and as a way to promote the status quo.
Methods of Evaluation:

**Test 1** (30 minutes, multiple choice), Thursday, October 2, 12:05 am–Friday, October 3, 11:55 pm (EST), worth 25%, covers the course materials of the first 3 units (Weeks 1-3, Units 1-3)

**Test 2** (40 minutes, multiple choice), Thursday, October 26, 12:05 am–Friday, October 27, 11:55 pm (EST), worth 35%, covers the course materials of the next 3 units (Weeks 4-6, Units 4-6)

**Final Exam** (60 minutes, multiple choice), December TBA, 2023, worth 40%, covers the course materials of the last 4 units (excluding Week 13) (Weeks 9-12, Units 7-10)

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams. If you have a disability, please ensure that your accommodations for this course are active on the Accommodated Exams website http://studentservices.uwo.ca/Accommodatedexamssignup/. Any accommodation posted there (the request should be made at least 10 days prior to your test/exam) will be applied to your assessment.

Students who submit fewer than the three required assessments will not qualify for a passing grade in the course, regardless of marks received.

Course Materials:
Accessible online articles are cited in the syllabus.

All articles can be found on JSTOR. Click on the article link or go to https://www.jstor.org/ Click on “Log in through your school or library.” Type in Western Ontario and then click on “University of Western Ontario.” This will take you to the “Off-Campus Access” page where you will fill in your username and password. Then search for your article!

Course Schedule and Readings:
The designated weeks cited below serve as a guide that allow you to complete the course content in an organized and consistent fashion in anticipation of tests and the final exam. Please note that the schedule also accommodates assessments, as well as official university holidays. Please be aware of your test dates – you will want to reserve some studying time in the weeks prior to these dates.

**WEEK 1** (Thursday, September 7–Wednesday, September 13), UNIT 1
INTRO: THEORIES OF SEXUALITY; BACKGROUND: THE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS OF SEXUALITY (PART 1)
THEORIES OF SEXUALITY

https://www.jstor.org/stable/491141

BACKGROUND: THE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS OF SEXUALITY

https://www.jstor.org/stable/3811777

WEEK 2 (Thursday, September 14-Wednesday, September 20), UNIT 2
BACKGROUND: THE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS OF SEXUALITY (PART 2); BACKGROUND: THE SCIENTIFIC EVOLUTION OF SEXUALITY

https://www.jstor.org/stable/3133533

WEEK 3 (Thursday, September 21-Wednesday, September 27), UNIT 3
CLASS, RACE, AND VICTORIAN IDEOLOGY; THE POPULARITY OF “FEMALE FRIENDSHIPS”

http://www.jstor.org/stable/3173022

http://www.jstor.org/stable/30240221

THE POPULARITY OF “FEMALE FRIENDSHIPS”

http://www.jstor.org/stable/3172964

WEEK 4 (Thursday, September 28-Wednesday, October 4), UNIT 4
TEST 1 (see EVALUATION above); THE CAUSES OF URBAN, MIDDLE-CLASS REFORMERS (PART 1)
OBSCENITY AND CENSORSHIP:


WEEK 5 (Thursday, October 5 - Wednesday, October 11), UNIT 5
THE CAUSES OF URBAN, MIDDLE-CLASS REFORMERS (PART 2):

PROSTITUTION AND VENEREAL DISEASE:


EUGENICS AND REPRODUCTION:


WEEK 6 (Thursday, October 12 - Wednesday, October 18), UNIT 6
HOMOSEXUALITY, HETEROSEXUALITY, AND THE RISE OF SEXOLOGISTS

http://www.jstor.org/stable/3813264

**WEEK 7 (Thursday, October 19-Sunday, October 29)**
**TEST 2** (see EVALUATION above)

**WEEK 8 (Monday, October 30-Sunday, November 5)**
**FALL READING WEEK**

**WEEK 9 (Monday, November 6-Sunday, November 12), UNIT 7**
**SEXUALITY, NATIONALISM, AND THE STATE**


https://muse-jhu-edu-proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/article/200630

**WEEK 10 (Monday, November 13-Sunday, November 19), UNIT 8**
**WOMEN'S RIGHTS, GAY RIGHTS, AND THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION**

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

http://www.jstor.org/stable/26452049

**GAY RIGHTS**

http://www.jstor.org/stable/24718619

**THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION**

https://www.jstor.org/stable/26556277

**WEEK 11 (Monday, November 20-Sunday, November 26), UNIT 9**
GLOBAL PROTEST IN THE 1980s AND 90s (AND TODAY)

HIV/AIDS:


FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING:


WARTIME RAPE:


WEEK 12 (Monday, November 27-Sunday, December 3), UNIT 10

TRANSGENDER LIVES; ASEXUAL LIVES; THE NEW HYPERSEXUALITY?

TRANSGENDER LIVES


ASEXUAL LIVES

**THE NEW HYPERSEXUALITY?**

http://www.jstor.org/stable/3813457

http://www.jstor.org/stable/40004551

**WEEK 13 (Monday, December 4-Friday, December 8), UNIT 11**  
**PERSONAL REFLECTIONS**

- Do the activities that you might have missed – how much more do you now know?
- Peruse the comments of your classmates and TA on FORUMS – do you agree or disagree with their opinions? Why?
- Ponder your views of various topics – have they changed or remained the same?
- Consider all of the weekly lessons – which topic/reading affected you most profoundly? Why?
- Revisit course lectures and readings for your final exam – do any of the issues that they raise intersect with those in your own life? In what ways?

**Additional Statements:**

Each assessment is designed to be completed within the indicated duration; however, all students will be afforded extra time.

Try to write the assessment as soon as possible within the two-day span as you could be faced with technical problems that require time to address.

**During the writing of tests and exams, the use of course lectures, readings, activities, and forums, as well as other online (and offline) resources and communication, is strictly prohibited.**

Please review the Department of History’s shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at:
https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.