

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE**

Submitted by College of Arts and Sciences Date 5/8/02

Department/Division offering course History New course number changed to HIS 502 per J. Hager

2. Proposed designation and Bulletin description of this course

a. Prefix and Number HIS 582 b. Title\* History of Sexuality in the U. S.

\*NOTE: If the title is longer than 24 characters (including spaces), write  
A sensible title (not exceeding 24 characters) for use on transcripts

Hist of Sexuality in US

c. Lecture/Discussion hours per week 03 d. Laboratory hours per week \_\_\_\_\_

e. Studio hours per week \_\_\_\_\_ f. Credits 03

g. Course description

An overview of the history of beliefs about sexuality, sexual cultures and norms, and sexuality's relationship to power in American society from the colonial period to the present.

h. Prerequisites (if any)

i. May be repeated to a maximum of 0 (if applicable)

4. To be cross-listed as

WS 582  
Prefix and Number

Debra A. Harley  
Signature, Chairman, cross-listing department

5. Effective Date Spring 2003 (semester and year)

6. Course to be offered  Fall  Spring  Summer

7. Will the course be offered each year?  Yes  No  
(Explain if not annually)

Every other year to be alternated with HIS 405.

8. Why is this course needed?

Our Department needs more courses at the 400 and 500 level for majors. Moreover, our developing cluster of courses in gender and women's history require such a course, an integral part of this field. Students have shown great interest in such a course and I believe it will be attractive and useful not only for our majors, but also for students in anthropology, sociology, geography, American Studies, and Women's Studies.

9. a. By whom will the course be taught? Patricia Cooper and Kathi Kern

b. Are facilities for teaching the course now available?  Yes  No  
If not, what plans have been made for providing them?

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10. What enrollment may be reasonably anticipated? 20-30

11. Will this course serve students in the Department primarily?  Yes  No

Will it be of service to a significant number of students outside the Department?  Yes  No  
If so, explain.

This course will fit well for students minoring or majoring in women's studies. It also will make an attractive elective for students without a lot of background in history who want to look at sexuality analytically.

Will the course serve as a University Studies Program course?  Yes  No

If yes, under what Area? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Check the category most applicable to this course

traditional; offered in corresponding departments elsewhere;

relatively new, now being widely established

not yet to be found in many (or any) other universities

13. Is this course part of a proposed new program:  Yes  No  
If yes, which?

14. Will adding this course change the degree requirements in one or more programs? \*  Yes  No  
If yes, explain the change(s) below

15. Attach a list of the major teaching objectives of the proposed course and outline and/or reference list to be used.

16. If the course is a 100-200 level course, please submit evidence (e.g., correspondence) that the Community College System has been consulted.

17. Within the Department, who should be contacted for further information about the proposed course?

Name Patricia Cooper

Phone Extension 7-6856 or home: 259-1582.

\*NOTE: Approval of this course will constitute approval of the program change unless other program modifications are proposed.

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Signatures of Approval:

*David S. Hamilton*

Department Chair

*David Leep*

Dean of the College

*12/20/02*

Date

FEB 14 2003

Date

JAN 28 2003

Date of Notice to the Faculty

04-01-2003

Date

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

\*Undergraduate Council

Date

\*University Studies

Date

\*Graduate Council

Date

\*Academic Council for the Medical Center

\*Senate Council (Chair)

Date of Notice to University Senate

\*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate

ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL

## ***HIS 582 History of Sexuality in the U. S.***

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- \*be familiar with the most current scholarship, pivotal theories, and several key debates in the field.
- \*know how to locate, describe and analyze historical documents and make interpretive arguments using these documents.
- \*be able to chronicle how various groups of Americans have wrestled with issues of sexuality in their lives and cultures.
- \*have examined the evolution of dominant beliefs about sexuality and efforts to regulate it from pre-settlement to the late twentieth century.
- \*understand what it means to historicize gender and sexuality through showing how and why beliefs have changed over time
- \*be comfortable using examples from the history of sexuality to illustrate the ways politics, power, and culture can affect the production of knowledge.
- \*have a clear grasp of the constitutional free speech issues that have developed related to sexuality in American culture.
- \*have explored social inequalities in the past through the lens of social constructions of sexuality.
- \*be able to narrate the history of movements for sexual rights and freedom in the U. S. for this period.

## **A History of Sexuality in the United States**

### ***Introduction***

Forty years ago, most historians treated sexuality as an unchanging biological reality or a universal, natural force. Soon, however, and Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons have explained, historians discovered that sexuality had a history. That is, it is a product of social, political, cultural and economic processes over time.

Sexuality has been at the very heart of human societies of the past including our families and communities. Modern social identities usually refer in some way to understandings of ourselves as sexual beings and reflect sexual beliefs and mores. Historians have also explored the ways in which our analyses of power and authority are incomplete without reference to sexuality and physical bodies. The development of medical, social-scientific, and psychological knowledges and the growth of state power have all affected and been affected by beliefs about human sexuality. Unequal social relations have been expressed through sexual ideologies or the constructions of sexual categories. For example, racist images of Black men's and women's sexuality have enabled white supremacy and violence such as lynching. Young immigrant working women in the nineteenth century cities not only found themselves labeled social outcasts amid anxious campaigns against prostitution, but they also faced new public policies their limited their legal, economic and social rights. In the twentieth century, sexual understandings sometimes detached from traditional moorings and popular culture reflected an array of sexual symbols and practices. New ideas about personal identity and success incorporated beliefs about sexual health and well-being. The commodification of sexuality heightened during the twentieth century in the examples of the rise of modern advertising and the beauty industries. This course will explore the changes in and struggles over sexual meanings from pre-settlement to the late twentieth century.

### ***Goals of the Course***

- provide an overview of the history of beliefs about sexuality from pre-settlement to the late twentieth century.
- introduce students to the most current scholarship in the field.
- describe and deploy tools for analyzing scholarly arguments about sexuality.
- present historical documents open to several interpretations.
- teach skills in analyzing historical documents
- historicize gender and sexuality through showing how beliefs have changed over time.

- illustrate the social construction of human knowledge and the ways in which it can be politicized.
- explore social inequalities in the past through the lens of social constructions of sexuality.
- chronicle movements for sexual rights and freedom.

### ***Texts***

#### **All**

Sharon R. Ullman, Sex Seen: The Emergence of Modern Sexuality in America.

Kathy Peiss, ed., Major Problems in the History of American Sexuality (Houghton Mifflin, 2002).

Reader: This is a photocopied collection of essays available at the University Bookstore.

Ricardo Brown, The Evening Crowd at Kirmser's: A Gay Life in the 40s

#### **Graduate Students:**

John D'Emilio and Estelle B. Freedman, Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America.

Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality An Introduction, Volume I.

George Chauncey, Gay New York

Thomas Laqueur, Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud.

Additional readings to be arranged.

### ***Requirements***

You must complete all requirements in order to pass the course.

#### Attendance:

This is mandatory. You may have one unexcused absence during the semester. After that your grade will be reduced proportionally. More than four absences constitute failure in the course.

#### Participation:

Ideally, you will find something to say each week, whether in the whole class or in a group. If the week ends and you have not contributed, you need to place a short reaction to the week's readings and discussions in my drop box on Blackboard by Friday at midnight. This procedure is standard also if you are absent from class on a particular day.

#### Simulations:

We will enact four historical debates/events during the semester. Each of you will prepare and present roles in two simulations. In one, you will be an actor and in the other you will be a journalist. As an actor, you will need to research your role outside of class using your own ideas

and resources I provide you. On the day of the Simulation, you will present a short statement (about 7 or 8 minutes) about who you are and your thinking on the subject. One week after the simulation, turn in a typed, double-spaced essay on your position and discuss your role in the debate/discussion. As a journalist, you will prepare a list of two typed questions for each actor, which you will distribute in class.

### Projects

The class will be divided into four teams: Blue, Yellow, Purple, and Orange. Your goal is to produce a scholarly project that explores in depth a particular topic on sexuality. I will provide you with a list of possible topics, but you are invited to think imaginatively and come up with something on your own. Your project will have two components: a group part that includes the conceptualization, organization and presentation of the project and an individual section that will be entirely your responsibility and will include a written assignment of at least ten pages, fully documented. These projects must involve the use of primary documents in some way and these you can find in Special Collections, in Microforms, and in several archival sites on the Internet. You can communicate with each other through our Blackboard mailboxes and through outside meetings if you wish. Your projects must have my approval in advance. You will make class presentations during the last two weeks of class.

### Midterm

You will receive a set of four take-home essays during the fifth week of the course. You will turn them in at the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> week.

### Final

You will receive a set of four take-home essays during the 11<sup>th</sup> week of class. One of the questions will address the entire semester while the rest will cover only the material since the mid-term. They will be due during exam week.

### ***Policies and Grading***

Attendance	see Requirements
Discussion and Participation	10%
Group Project	25%
Simulations	25%
Midterm, Final	40%

Grading Scale: A+=98-100; A=93-97; A-=90-92; B+=88-89, B=83-87; B-=80-82; C+=78-79, C=73-77, C-=70-72, D+=68-69, D=63-67, D-=60-62, F=59 and below.

- You must complete all requirements in order to pass the course.
- During class, turn off all cell phones and set beepers to vibrate.
- I do not give incompletes except in extreme cases. Incomplete work results in failure in the course.

- All work is due on the date indicated on this syllabus. After that, you will lose 1/3 grade for every day the assignment is late. All work turned in on time receives **extra credit**.
- Plagiarism is defined in the Student Handbook and can lead to your termination from the University. Be sure you understand the meaning of plagiarism by our second class meeting. If you do not understand the term, please talk with me about it immediately. Plagiarism is unethical and intolerable, and I pursue all plagiarism cases vigorously. The MINIMUM penalty is mandatory failure in the course: suspension and dismissal from the University are also possible. I will pursue these cases vigorously. Ignorance regarding the policy will not be a valid excuse.

### ***Schedule of Readings.***

(This is actually an outline for the purpose of this proposal.)

#### Introduction: Sexuality in History

Welcome to the course

"Preface," MP, xv-xvii, and 1-2.

#### Silences

John D. Wrathall, "Reading the Silences Around Sexuality," MP, 16-24.

Halperin, "Is There a History of Sexuality?" in Henry Abelove, et al., eds., The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader (LGSR), 416-431.

#### Social Constructions

Jeffrey Weeks, "The Social Construction of Sexuality," MP, 2-10.

Michel Foucault, excerpts from History of Sexuality, Volume I.  
(Graduates read whole book.)

#### Sexual Cultures and Encounters in the New World

##### Part I.

Anne McClintock, "The Lay of the Land," Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest, 21-31.

Documents, MP, 27-39.

##### Part II.

Antonia Casteneda, Sexual Violence in the Spanish Conquest, MP 47-56.

Jennifer M. Spear, "Interracial Unions in French Louisiana," MP, 56-68.

#### Regulating Sexuality in the Anglo-American Colonies

##### Part I.

Documents, MP, 71-76

Kathleen Brown, "Changed . . . into the Fashion of Man": The Politics of Sexual Difference in a Seventeenth-Century Anglo-American Settlement," MP, 80-92.

Cornelia Hughes Dayton, "Consensual Sex: The Eighteenth-Century Double Standard," and "Rape: The Problematics of Woman's Word," in Women Before the Bar: Gender, Law and Society in Connecticut, 1639-1789.

Part II.

Richard Godbeer, "Sodomy in Colonial New England," MP, 92-105.

Cornelia Hughes Dayton, "Taking the Trade," William and Mary Quarterly.

Simulation: Abortion and the Sarah Grosvenor Case

Gender Conflict and Sex Reform in the Early Nineteenth Century

Part I.

Lori Ginzburg, "The Hearts of Your Readers Will Shudder": Fanny Wright, Infidelity and American Freethought," American Quarterly 46:2 (June 1994) 195-226.

Lawrence Foster, "They Neither Marry Nor Are Given in Marriage: The Origins and Early Development of Celibate Shaker Communities," or "A New and Everlasting Covenant of Marriage: Joseph Smith and the Origins of Mormon Polygamy, 1831-1844," in Religion and Sexuality: The Shakers, the Mormons and the Oneida Community.

Part II.

Christine Stansell, "Male License and Working-Class Women's Sexuality," MP, 120-130.

Nancy F. Cott, "Passionlessness: An Interpretation of Victorian Sexual Ideology, 1790-1850," MP, 131-140.

Documents: "A Trial for Rape in New York, 1793," "Health Reformer William Alcott discusses Nymphomania, 1855," and Sylvester Graham Lecture Young Men on Self-Restraint, 1839."

Sexuality, Race, and Violence in Slavery and Freedom

Part I.

Documents: "Fugitive Slave Lewis Clarke Explains Why 'A Slave Can't Be a Man, 1842,'" "J. W. Lindsay Describes Sexual and Family Relations Under slavery, 1863," "Harriet Jacobs Relates Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, 1861."

Brenda E. Stevenson, "Slave Marriage and Family Relations," MP 159-173.

Nell Irvin Painter, "Soul Murder and Slavery," MP, 173-85.

Martha Hodes, "The Sexualization of Reconstruction Politics: White Women and Black Men in the South After the Civil War," Journal of the History of Sexuality 3 (1993).

## Part II.

Peter Bardaglio, excerpt from Reconstructing the Household: Families, Sex, and the Law in the Nineteenth Century South.

Laura F. Edwards, "The Disappearance of Susan Daniel and Henderson Cooper: Gender and Narratives of Political Conflict in the Reconstruction-Era U. S. South," Feminist Studies 22:2 (Summer 1996), 363-386.

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, "The Mind that Burns in Each Body" Women, Rape and Racial Violence," in Powers of Desire.

Documents: "Chaplain A. B. Randall Writes About the Freedpeople's Ideal of Marriage, 1865," "William H. Stallings Testifies About Ku Klux Klan Lynchings, 1871," "Ida B. Wells-Barnett Exposes the Myth of the Black Rapist, 1892."

### Intimacy in Nineteenth-Century America

Carole Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual," MP, 201-214.

Karen V. Hansen, "An Erotic Friendship Between Two African-American Women," MP, 214-229.

Karen Lystra, "Sexuality in Victorian Courtship and Marriage," MP, 229-237.

### Commodified Sex in Nineteenth-Century America

Timothy J. Gilfoyle, excerpt from City of Eros: New York City, Prostitution, and the Commercialization of Sex, 1790-1920.

Noah D. Katz, "Sex Work/Sex Act: Law, Labor and Desire in Constructions of Prostitution," Signs 22 (Winter 1997).

Documents:

Simulation: Regulation of Prostitution

### Free Love, Free Speech, and Sex Censorship

Documents:

Jesse F. Battan, "The Word Made Flesh": Language, Authority, and Sexual Desire in late Nineteenth-Century America," MP, 252-264.

Christina Simmons, "Modern Sexuality and the Myth of Victorian Repression," in Passion and Power, 157-178.

### Coercion and Control at the Turn of the Century

Shirley Burton, "The Criminally Obscene Women of Chicago," MP, 264-71.

Carole Groneman, "Nymphomania: The Social Construction of Female Sexuality," Signs, (Winter 1994).

Darlene Clark Hine, "Rape and the Inner Lives of Black Women in the Middle West."

### Working-Class Sexuality in the Early Twentieth Century

Peggy Pascoe, "The Marriages of Mission-Educated Chinese-American Women," MP, 288-299.

Kathy Peiss, "Charity Girls and City Pleasures," MP, 299-307.

Mary Odem, excerpt from Delinquent Daughters: Protecting and Policing Adolescent Female Sexuality in the United States, 1885-1920.

### The Politics of Reproduction

#### Documents

Linda Gordon, "Birth Control and Social Revolution," MP, 320-327

Jesse Rodrique, "The Black Community and the Birth Control Movement," in Ruiz and Dubois, eds., Unequal Sisters.

Simulation: Birth Control in the 1920s.

### Heterosexual Norms and Homosexual Identities in Popular Culture

#### Part I.

George Chauncey, Jr., "Christian Brotherhood or Sexual Perversion? Homosexual Identities and the Construction of Sexual Boundaries in the World War I Era, in Barbara Melosh, ed., Gender and American History, 72-105.

Jonathan Ned Katz, "The Invention of Heterosexuality," MP, 348-356.

#### Part II.

George Chauncey, excerpt from Gay New York. (Graduates read whole book).

George Chauncey, Jr., "Gay Men's Strategies of Everyday Resistance," MP, 356-65.

Documents: "A Filipino's Impressions of America in the 1920s," "Black Entertainer Mabel Hampton Recalls Lesbian Life in the 1920s and 1930s."

### World War II

#### Documents:

Page Dougherty Delano, "Making Up for War: Sexuality and Citizenship in Wartime Culture," Feminist Studies, vol. 26, no. 1 (Spring 2000), 33-68.

Leisa D. Meyer, "Creating G. I. Jane: The Regulation of Sexuality and Sexual Behavior in the Women's Army Corps during World War II, in Martha Vicinus, ed., Lesbian Subjects: A Feminist Reader (Indiana University Press, 1996), 66-84. Reserve.

Beth Bailey and David Farber, "Prostitutes on Strike: the Women of Hotel Street during World War II," Women's America, Fifth Edition, 426-35.

Allan Berube, "Marching to a Different Drummer: Lesbian and Gay GIs in World War II," in Snitow, Stansell and Thompson, eds., Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality.

### Cold War America

#### Part I.

David Harley Serlin, "Christine Jorgensen and the Cold War Closet," MP, 384-93.

Joanne Meyerowitz, "Women, Cheesecake, and Borderline Material: Responses to Girlie Pictures in the Mid-Twentieth Century U. S.," Journal of Women's History 8 (Fall 1996).

John D'Emilio, "Homophobia and the Trajectory of Postwar American Racism: The Case of Bayard Rustin," Radical History Review 62 (Spring 1995), 80-103.

John D'Emilio, "The Homosexual Menace: The Politics of Sexuality in Cold War America," in Peiss and Simmons, Passion and Power.

Daneel Burning, "Softball and Alcohol: The Limits of Lesbian Community in Memphis from the 1940s through the 1960s," in John Howard, Carryin' On in the Gay and Lesbian South.

#### Part II.

Rickie Solinger, excerpts from Wake Up Little Susie

Regina Kunzel, "White Neurosis, Black Pathology: Constructing Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancy in Wartime and Post-wartime United States,"

Simulation: Black and White Unwed Mothers in the 1950s.

### Sexual Revolutions

David Allyn, "Fomenting a Sexual Revolution," MP, 423-31.

Documents: "A Memoir of Jane," an Illegal Abortion Service from 1969-1973," "The Supreme Court Rules on Intermarriage, 1967."

Faye D. Ginsburg, "Women Divided: Abortion and What It Means to Be Female," Women's America, 553-563.

Audre Lorde, "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power."

Leslie Feinberg, "We Are All Works in Progress."

Naomi Wolf, "Radical Heterosexuality."

### Sexuality and Disease

Documents: "Tuskegee Syphilis Study, 1953," "President Bill Clinton Apologizes for the Tuskegee Syphilis Study," "ACT UP Activist Robert Garcia Faces AIDS, 1991," "Cleveland's Black Community Responds to AIDS, 1998."