HIST 100: 357: Sex in Twentieth-Century Europe: Panic and Liberation
Syllabus

Instructor: Todd Shepard
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Office Hours:
Class Schedule: Gilman Hall 55, M 1:30-3:50 pm

The Course
This course examines the twentieth-century history of sexual attitudes, desires, behaviors, identities, communities, and movements in western Europe (most notably Germany, France, and the United Kingdom). We will focus on the period from the 1920s until today, years when celebrations and concerns about sexual liberation, hedonism, the “decline of virtue,” the end of repression, etc. have been constantly at the center of political, social, religious and scientific debates. Among the topics covered are reproduction, fertility, birth control, and abortion; prostitution and commercialized sex; sexually-transmitted diseases; interracial and interethnic sexualities; and same-sex (homo-) and cross-sex (hetero-) sexualities. We explore the importance of sexuality in history and the ways in which the study of sexuality offers opportunities to re-think major themes in the social, cultural, and political histories of the West.

Expectations: You are expected to attend class regularly, to do all required reading, and to be prepared to participate very actively in class discussion. It is expected that you will ask questions when you do not understand or agree with what is being said in class or in the reading. It is required that you show respect for the questions, viewpoints, and opinions that your fellow students offer in class, although it is in no way expected that you will necessarily agree with them, or with the instructor.

N.B. Be aware that many of the required readings deal with religious and sexual themes in ways that some may find controversial or even offensive. If you are unwilling to risk this every week, do not take the class. Be aware that this is a course about the history of sex and sexuality. Like most history courses, our discussions and study will be based on evidence that all can examine (through documents, articles, books, films, etc.) rather than personal experience or anecdotes.

Grading:
I/Attendance at all classes is expected, and Participation in discussion for every class is mandatory: 20% of your final grade
II/Presentation: See Explanatory Hand-Out: 15% (includes Written Presentation)
III/Writing Assignments:
A. Five Short Essays
   1/Written Class Presentation
   2/Two (2) Reaction Papers 10%
   3/Two (2) Expository Analysis Papers 20%
B. Term Paper:
   1/Bibliographic Essay 10%
   2/Term Paper 25%
SEE HAND-OUTS for more information about the essays.

Students will be encouraged to submit revised versions of the short essays (with potential grade revision), no later than one week after the date a grade is received. Students will be required to submit rough drafts of their term papers. There will be no quizzes or exams.

**Readings:**

You should purchase the following books, which are available at the Book Store:

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, v. I*
Michel Houellebecq, *Platform*

All Readings marked with an asterisk (*) will be on electronic reserve

Schedule of Classes and Readings

**Week 1 Introduction** January 30

**Week 2: History and Sex** February 6

**Readings for Week 3:** Foucault, parts 1 and 4 (all recommended)
Herzog, 1-44

**Week 3 Women and Sex after the Great War** February 13

Herzog, 45-60

**Week 4: 1930s London/Berlin** February 20

Week 5: The Nazis and Sex February 27
Herzog, 61-95

Week 6: March 5 NO CLASS

Week 7: Defending the Christian West March 12
Herzog, 96-132

SPRING BREAK

Week 8: World War II and After in the UK and France March 26

HAND IN BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY

Week 9: Decolonization April 2
Frantz Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks; trans. Constance Farrington (NY: Grove Press, 1967), 41-82.*

Week 10: Sexual Liberation April 9
Week 11 Gay Liberation April 16
Readings for Week 11: “Faggots and the Revolution” (1972), 1-18*

Week 12 AIDS and Sex
Readings for Week 12:
Dustan (all) [get photocopy from Shepard]
Herzog, 176-182

Week 13: Regretting the Sexual Revolution April 30
Readings for Week 13: Houellebeq (all)