

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

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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*

Dagmar Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History* (2011)

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)

David Halperin, "Forgetting Foucault," in David Halperin, *How to do the History of Homosexuality* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002), 24-47.*

Thomas Laqueur, Chapter 1, "Of Language and the Flesh", in *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1990), 1-24.*

Herzog, 1-44

Week 3 Women and Sex after the Great War February 13

Readings for Week 3, Atina Grossman, *Reforming Sex: The German Movement for Birth Control and Abortion Reform, 1920-1950* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1995), 3-45.*

Lesley Hall, "Feminist Reconfigurations of Heterosexuality in the 1920s," in Lucy Bland and Laura Doan, eds., *Sexology in Culture: Labelling Bodies and Desires* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1998), 135-49.*

Laura Doan, "Topsy-Turvydom: Gender Inversion, Sapphism, and the Great War," *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 12: 4 (2006), 517-542.*

Karl Toepfer, *Empire of Ecstasy. Nudity and Movement in German Body Culture, 1910-1935* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997), 30-73.*

Herzog, 45-60

Week 4: 1930s London/Berlin February 20

Readings for Week 4: Matt Houllbrook, *Queer London: Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis, 1918-1957* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), 139-194.*

Florence Tamagne, "Magical Cities, Mythical Cities: the Geography of Where to Meet," in *History of Homosexuality in Europe: Berlin, London, Paris 1919-1939* (NY: Algora Publishing, 2004), 36-58.*

Christopher Isherwood, *Christopher and His Kind 1929-1939* (NY: Farrar, Strauss Giroux, 1976), 1-59.*

Week 5: The Nazis and Sex February 27

Readings for Week 5: D. Herzog, ed., *Sexuality and German Fascism* (NY: Berghahn, 2002), 1-21; 223-255.*

Patricia Szobar, "Telling Sexual Stories in the Nazi Courts of Law: Race Defilement in Germany, 1933 to 1945," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 11:1- 2, (January/April 2002), 131-163.*

Herzog, 61-95

Week 6: March 5 NO CLASS

Week 7: Defending the Christian West March 12

Readings for Week 9: Uta Poiger, "Rock'n'Roll, Female Sexuality, and the Cold War Battle over German Identities," *Journal of Modern History* 68 (September 1996), 577-616.*

Dagmar Herzog, *Sex After Fascism: Memory and Morality in Twentieth-Century Germany* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 2005), 101-140.*

Herzog, 96-132

SPRING BREAK

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

Readings for Week 8: Frank Mort, "Striptease: The Erotic Female Body and Live Sexual Entertainment in mid-Twentieth Century London," *Social History* 32: 1, February 2007, 27-53.

Frank Mort, "Scandalous Events: Metropolitan Culture and Moral Change in Post-Second World War London," *Representations* 93: 1 (winter 2006), 106-137

Julian Jackson, *Living in Arcadia: Homosexuality, Politics, and Morality in France from the Liberation to AIDS* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009), 37-86.*

HAND IN BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY

Week 9: Decolonization April 2

Readings for Week 9: Elizabeth Buettern, "'Would You Let Your Daughter Marry a Negro?': Race and Sex in 1950s Britain," in Philippa Levine and Susan R. Grayzel, eds., *Gender, Labour, War and Empire: Essays on Modern Britain* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), 219-37.*

Todd Shepard, "Something Notably Erotic": Politics, "Arab Men," and Sexual Revolution in Post-Decolonization France, 1962-1974," *Journal of Modern History* (forthcoming, March 2012). TBA

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

Week 10: Sexual Liberation April 9

Readings for Week 10: Dagmar Herzog, "Pleasure, Sex, and Politics Belong Together: Post-Holocaust Memory and the Sexual Revolution in Germany," *Critical Inquiry* 24: 2 (1998), 393-444.*

Dagmar Herzog, *Sex After Fascism: Memory and Morality in Twentieth-Century Germany* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 2005), 184-219.*

Anne-Claire Reberend, "May 69 and Changes in Private Life: A 'Sexual Liberation'?", in Julian Jackson et al, eds., *May 68: Rethinking France's Last Revolution* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), 148-162.*

Herzog, 133-175

Week 11 **Gay Liberation** April 16

Readings for Week 11: "Faggots and the Revolution" (1972), 1-18*

Monique Wittig, "The Straight Mind", in Wittig, *The Straight Mind and Other Essays* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1992), 21-32.*

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: Houellebecq (all)