

Professor Emily Gilkey
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Office Hours: 3:30-4:30 Tu/Th

History 221
Sex in History
Tuesday/Thursday 2-3:20
221 McKenzie

What sexual behaviors and preferences are morally acceptable? What is the role of the state in regulating sex, marriage and reproduction? To what extent should religious beliefs about sex define daily practices? These questions resonate in our current political debates, but they also speak to issues that have preoccupied many different societies over the course of millenia. This class provides a survey of key topics relating to sex and sexuality beginning in antiquity and continuing to the present day.

The broad scope of the class makes a continuous narrative of every aspect of sexuality through all time an impossible endeavor. Instead, lectures will focus on a set of questions that have wide resonance, but will use a specific time period and civilization to illustrate different interpretations of sex and gender. Some of the themes we will explore in this class include: same-sex love and sexual identity, control of self and control of others, coercion and rape, scientific understanding of sexuality and reproductive priorities.

By the end of the class, students should understand:

- How cultures give different meanings to the same sexual acts
- The intersections of race, gender and class in informing sexual experience
- How to interpret primary documents in historical context
- How to read primary and secondary sources critically

Required Reading

1. Primary and secondary sources will be posted on Canvas for every lecture.
2. Qiu Peipei, *Chinese Comfort Women: Testimonies from Imperial Japan's Sex Slaves*, Oxford UP, 2014.

Assignments and Grading

20% Essay 1: Against Timarchus
30% Midterm Exam
20% Essay 2: Chinese Comfort Women
30% Final Exam

- *Reading and writing:* You will be required to write two essays in this course, each worth 20% of your total grade. Completion of the essays is required; you may not decide that you are satisfied with a lower overall grade and forgo one or both essays. Papers should be submitted **BOTH** in paper form (please staple it yourself) and also through Vericite, a plagiarism checker on Canvas. I will review how to do this in lecture. Please use double-spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font and standard margins.
- *Exams:* The midterm and final exams will consist of a combination of the following elements.
 1. Identifications from lectures, textbook readings and readings from Canvas. A strong identification will consist of a separate paragraph describing the concept, event or person named. Then explain in your own words why that ID is historically significant
 2. Interpretation of a passage from a primary source reading.
 3. A wider interpretive essay.All three types of questions will test your knowledge of lecture material. Strong answers will show both comprehension and original thought.

Grading rubric: Graduate teaching fellows are trained to grade according to the History Department's standards, as follows. In the event of a grading dispute, I will read your paper or exam closely in light of these standards. Consider carefully whether your work will bear such detailed scrutiny before disputing a grade.

A+: Work of unusual distinction. Therefore, in the History Department, this grade is rarely awarded.

A: Work that distinguishes itself by the excellence of its grasp of the material and the precision and insight of its argument, in addition to being well executed and reasonably free of errors.

B: Work that satisfies main criteria of the assignment, and demonstrates command of the material, but does not achieve the level of excellence that characterizes work of A quality.

C: Work that demonstrates a rudimentary grasp of the material and satisfies at least some of the assigned criteria reasonably well.

D: Work that demonstrates a poor grasp of the material and/or is executed with little regard for college standards, but which exhibits some engagement with the material.

F: Work that is weak in every aspect, demonstrating a basic misunderstanding of the material and/or disregard for the assigned question.

Schedule

Week 1: Introduction, does sexual identity transcend time?

Tuesday 3/29: Introduction to course/Ancient Egypt: Sex in mythology

Thursday 3/31: Homosexuality in Ancient Greece

- Reading: Sources on Canvas
- Begin reading *Against Timarchus* full speech, available under the “Essay 1: Against Timarchus” assignment.

Week 2: From shame to sin

Tuesday 4/5: Controlling female sexuality: Adultery in the Roman world

- Reading: Sources on Canvas
- Continue reading *Against Timarchus* full speech, available under the “Essay 1: Against Timarchus” assignment.

Thursday 4/7: The creation of Christian sex ideology

- Reading: Sources on Canvas
- Work on your essay for *Against Timarchus*.

Week 3: Controlling unruly bodies

Tuesday 4/12: Chastity and Virginity as sexual identities (Medieval Europe)

- Reading: Sources on Canvas
- **ESSAY 1: AGAINST TIMARCHUS DUE. Note: You must bring a paper copy to class (staple it yourself) and also submit it online to Vericite.**

Thursday 4/14: Bodies of kings: the power of the bedroom

- Reading: Sources on Canvas

Week 4: Power and knowledge

Tuesday 4/19: Race and Rape in New Spain

- Reading: Sources on Canvas

Thursday 4/21: The Science of Sex in the premodern world

- Reading: Sources on Canvas

Week 5: The Victorians

Tuesday 4/26: MIDTERM

- Bring one or two green books to class
- Bring your own pens/pencils

Thursday 4/28: Courtship and Companionability – the Victorian marital ideal

- Reading: Sources on Canvas

Week 6: Policing Parameters

Tuesday 5/3: Race, Miscegenation and Slavery

- Reading: Sources on Canvas

Thursday 5/5: Homosexuality from medieval to modern Japan

- Reading: Sources on Canvas

Week 7: Colonialism, Nationalism and the Female Body

Tuesday 5/10: Colonialism and prostitution: Shanghai, Hong Kong, Japan, India

- Reading: Sources on Canvas
- Begin reading *Comfort Women*

Thursday 5/12: Female Genital Cutting and Colonial Controversy

- Reading: Sources on Canvas
- Continue reading *Comfort Women*

Week 8: Sex, Surgery and Control

Tuesday 5/17: Eugenics and the Nazi agenda

- Reading: Sources on Canvas
- Continue reading *Comfort Women*

Tuesday 5/19: Rape and human trafficking in modern warfare

- Reading: Continue reading *Comfort Women*

Week 9: The Science of Sex

Tuesday 5/24: Sex, stigma and disease: Syphilis (England, Tuskegee)

- Reading: Sources on Canvas

Tuesday 5/26: Kinsey, the Pill and a Sexual Revolution

- Reading: Sources on Canvas
- **ESSAY 2: *Comfort Women* DUE. Note: You must bring a paper copy to class (staple it yourself) and also submit it online to Vericite.**

Week 10: Contemporary debates

Tuesday 5/31: Guest Lecture: Quinn Akina. LGBTQ Rights movement

- Reading: Sources on Canvas

Thursday 6/2: Sex in the 21st century

- Reading: Sources on Canvas

Final Exam: Wednesday June 8, 12:30

Bring Green Books