

History 221
Sex in History
Tuesday/Thursday 12-1:20
240C McKenzie

Professor Emily Gilkey
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Office Hours: 1:30-2:30 Tu/Th

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Introduction to the course:

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 thousands of years. 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.

Course aims:

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. Peter Stearns, *Sexuality in World History* (Abbreviated SWH)
2. Qiu Peipei, *Chinese Comfort Women: Testimonies from Imperial Japan's Sex Slaves*, Oxford UP, 2014.
3. Primary sources posted to Canvas as listed in the syllabus

Assignments and Grading:

10%	Quizzes
15%	Essay 1: Ancient Greece
25%	Midterm Exam
25%	Essay 2: Chinese Comfort Women
25%	Final Exam

- *Quizzes:* Quizzes on the readings will be administered online through Canvas. They will due before class on the day noted in the syllabus. I will make the quiz available starting at the end of class on the preceding class day. Once you open the quiz it will be available for ten minutes. You can use your book, notes, or a dictionary if needed, but due to the time limit you would be well advised to be familiar with the reading before opening the quiz. If there are software problems let me know and I will try to work with Canvas.
- *Reading and writing:* You will be required to write two essays in this course, worth a total of 40% of your total grade. Completion of both essays is required; you may not decide that you are satisfied with a lower overall grade and forgo one or both essays. Failure to submit both essays will result in failing the course overall. 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. Your printed copy can be single sided or double sided, whichever you prefer.
- *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 Employees 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.

Policies/FAQs:

Attendance and missing lecture:

Attendance is not required. You do not need to notify me or our GEs if you choose not to attend class, regardless of the reason. However, you are responsible for all material in the course and will need the information from lectures in order to succeed. If you miss class and want to catch up you should.

1. Do all of the assigned reading for the day.
2. Contact a classmate and obtain their notes from the missed class.
3. Study these notes and prepare questions to clarify points that are hard to understand.
4. Come to office hours, either for me or our GE and discuss your questions.

If you have taken these steps, I will be more than happy to help you master material that you missed, as will our GE. I will *not* be giving private lectures or explaining via email “what you missed.” When you show that you have taken responsibility for making up missed work on your own, I would be very glad to help you succeed.

Will you post lecture slides/study guides online?

No I will not. Slides are available to view during class. If I go too quickly past something you are welcome to come up to me after class to see the slide again. You can also come to office hours to review slides and ask questions.

I do not post study guides for the exams. During class I will highlight important terms or historical problems which you can use to make your own study guide. Discerning key information from interesting illustration is one of the skills that I want you to learn in my class, and providing a study guide would deprive you of that opportunity.

What if I have an emergency/conflict/good reason for missing something?

If what you’re missing is a class, see the above policy. I will be happy to help you catch up if you have done your bit to prepare. This includes absences for University activities or sports.

If you are needing to miss a deadline or an exam for an unexpected reason, be prepared to provide documentation of some kind. If a loved one dies, a program, obituary, death notice or other record will suffice. Extensions or make ups will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Do not skip the exam and assume that you will be offered a make-up. It is best to discuss the situation beforehand if at all possible.

Plagiarism

Academic misconduct is a serious offense. If you are found cheating at the very least you will receive a zero for the assignment, with possibly more serious consequences depending on the circumstances. You will be notified of any suspected plagiarism and allowed to discuss it privately with the professor.

Special accommodation

If you have a disability, participate in a sport, or have a personal ongoing extenuating circumstance (a family member is dying, you or a spouse is pregnant, you have small children etc.) please contact me privately as soon as possible and provide the relevant documentation. I am happy to accommodate all University-sanctioned educational needs and will try to assist you in succeeding academically despite ongoing personal difficulties.

Trigger warnings

This class will discuss painful topics including sexual assault, pedophilia, sex trafficking, abuse, war crimes and other difficult emotional topics. I will try to create an environment that is sensitive to how painful these topics can be. If you feel you may need particular accommodation, or are struggling with the material, please contact me privately.

Schedule

Week 1:

Tuesday 4/3 : Introduction to course

Thursday 4/5: Sex in Agricultural Societies: Mesopotamia

- Stearns *SWH*: 11-35

Week 2:

Tuesday 4/10: Sexuality in the Classical World: Ancient China

- Canvas: Primary sources
- Stearns *SWH*: 36-54

Thursday 4/12: Sexuality in the Classical World: Ancient Greece

- Canvas: Primary sources
- **QUIZ ON CANVAS MUST BE COMPLETE BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

Week 3:

Tuesday 4/17: Heteronormativity: The Shona of Zimbabwe

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

Thursday 4/19: Sex in Religion: Christianity in Europe

- Canvas: Primary sources
- Stearns *SWH*: 55-70

Week 4:

Tuesday 4/24: Sex in Religion: Islam in the Middle East and North Africa

- Canvas: Primary sources
- Stearns *SWH*: 70-79
- **QUIZ ON CANVAS MUST BE COMPLETE BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

Thursday 4/26: Sex and Conquest: Mesoamerica

- Canvas: Sources
- Stearns *SWH*: 80-98

Week 5:

Tuesday 5/1: **MIDTERM**

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

Thursday 5/3: Victorian Mores: Europe

- Canvas: Primary sources
- Stearns *SWH*: 103-127

Week 6:

Tuesday 5/8: Sex and the Slave Trade: The United States

- Canvas: Primary sources
- Stearns *SWH*: Review 91-92

Thursday 5/10: Colonialism in Africa: Female Genital Mutilation

- Canvas: Primary Sources
- Stearns *SWH*: 129-138
- **QUIZ ON CANVAS MUST BE COMPLETE BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

Week 7:

Tuesday 5/15: Imperialism

- Canvas: Primary sources
- Stearns *SWH*: 138-157
- Begin reading *Comfort Women*

Thursday 5/17: Gay Identity and Subcultures: Europe

- Canvas: Primary sources
- Continue reading *Comfort Women*
- **QUIZ ON CANVAS MUST BE COMPLETE BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

Week 8:

Tuesday 5/22: Eugenics: A Global Survey

- Canvas: Primary sources
- Continue reading *Comfort Women*

Tuesday 5/24: Rape and human trafficking in war: China and SE Asia

- Finish reading *Comfort Women*

Week 9:

Tuesday 5/29: Controlling birth

- Stearns *SWH*:165-187
- Canvas: Primary sources
- **ESSAY 2: *Comfort Women* DUE. Note: You must bring a paper copy to class (staple it yourself) and also submit it online to Vericite.**

Tuesday 5/31: Sex and Disease

- Canvas: Primary sources

Week 10:

Tuesday 6/5: Sexual Assault and Contemporary Issues (Guest Lecture: Chelle Haynes)

- Canvas: Sources

Thursday 6/7:

Nudity, Modesty and Morality

- Canvas: Primary sources
- Stearns *SWH*: 189-206

Final Exam: 8:00am Thursday June 14th

Bring Green Books

Bring your own pens