SEX AND SEXUALITIES

GSWS 0550/CRN# 28833/SPRING 2015
SCHEDULE: Monday/Wednesday 3:00 PM — 4:15 PM
SITE: 402 Cathedral of Learning
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Julie Beaulieu
EMAIL: jrb107@pitt.edu
OFFICE HOURS: TBA

REQUIRED READINGS:

All required readings are listed on the syllabus and are available through courseweb. Please bring the readings to class. You can print the readings, or you can access them via a computer or tablet.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

How and why did sex and sexuality become subjects of study? How are our experiences of sex and sexuality shaped by a history of "scientific" explorations of desire? Why has sexuality become so central to our understanding of identity? What was sex like before "sexuality" was invented? This seminar explores these questions by approaching sex and sexuality as socially, historically, and culturally contingent concepts. We will consider sex and sexuality as they relate to other categories of identity, including race, class, ethnicity, nation, and ability. Our theoretical and historical investigations will create the groundwork for understanding and rethinking how sexuality is understood in culture today. Topics treated will include 18c “medical” advice, “inversion,” “the science of sex,” sex ed., sexual trafficking, Kinsey, Foucault, AIDS, and sexuality in prison.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

• Introduction to sexuality studies, and to a range of disciplinary tools and methods for understanding sex and sexualities in historical and cultural context

• The ability to construct a written historical argument through primary and secondary sources

• The development of written and oral skills and an introduction to the critical vocabulary in the field

• The development of a rich understanding of the social construction of sexuality

ASSIGNMENTS:

Participation (10%)
Bullet Points (best of 10) (20%)
Book Review (10%)
Paper Abstract & Annotated Bibliography (10%)
Paper Draft (5 pages) (20%)
Final Paper (10 12 pages) (30%)

All assignments and readings are due on the day that they appear on the syllabus. You are responsible for submitting 10 sets of Bullet Points by the end of the term (see assignments in detail). Please submit hard copies of your work (no email copies). Late work will be marked down 10 points per day.

Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and posted in courseweb/blackboard.
COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance

Attendance is required. Please come to class on time and prepared. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to contact me about missing work and subsequent assignments. “Excused” absences will be given if you provide documentation. Please expect your grade to reflect your commitment to this course. If you miss 3 or more classes, you forfeit a portion of your participation grade. If you miss 4 or more classes, you risk failing the course.

Participation

Thoughtful participation is expected, appreciated, and part of your grade.

“A” participants: maintain solid attendance; contribute to the class environment by being awake, alert, and engaged; demonstrate a willingness to participate in productive, academic, and relevant ways; refrain from private conversations during class time; do not use a telephone or any other electronic device for anything besides coursework; contribute to class discussions during every class.

“B” participants: follow the above rubric 85% of the time.

“C” participants: follow the above rubric 75% of the time; arrive late and/or have poor attendance

“D” participants: follow the above rubric 65% of the time; arrive late and/or have poor attendance

“F” participants: follow the above rubric 50% of the time; arrive late and/or have poor attendance

Written Work/Assignments

All written work must be proofread. If you are absent, your work is still due. Late assignments will be marked down 10% per day. Please use MLA in-text citation for all sources. NOTE: You must submit a final project in order to pass the class.

Academic Integrity

All of the writing you present in this course must be your own work. Presenting the work of others as if it is your own constitutes plagiarism, and is a serious breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism refers not only to copying someone else’s paper, but also to including someone else’s sentences or paragraphs in your work without acknowledgement. Whenever you draw on the writing of others (for ideas, information, or examples), you must properly cite your sources. If you have questions about plagiarism, please see the University’s statement on this subject, available at: http://www.as.pitt.edu/academicintegrity.html. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an F on the assignment, an F for the course, and/or will be reported to the university.

Assistance (Disability Statement)

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, 412-228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.
Cell Phones, Computers, & etc.

Use of any technology for any reason other than coursework will negatively impact your participation grade. If you are expecting an emergency call, or if you have any other reasonable reason for needing to have access to your phone during our scheduled meetings, please let me know before class. Laptops and other PDF readers (excluding phones) are permitted for course readings only.

Classroom Recording Policy

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion, and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

“Turnitin”

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site.

ANY use of someone else’s work is grounds for failure.

E-mail Policy

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

Please give me time to respond to emails. I will do my best to reply to emails within 24 hours (M-F). I will respond to weekend emails when time permits; I will reply to urgent weekend emails as soon as possible, but otherwise please wait until Monday for a response. Email is ideally used for quick questions/clarifications. All other concerns—questions about your progress, written work, your grade, class in general—should be addressed during office hours.

Please feel free to send a reminder/follow up if I have missed an important email.

Gender-Inclusive Language Guidelines

Aspiring to create an academic environment in which people of all identities are encouraged to contribute their perspectives to academic discourse, The University of Pittsburgh Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program provides guidelines regarding gender-inclusive/non-sexist language. Following these guidelines fosters an inclusive and welcoming environment that will strengthen and enrich academic discussion and writing.

Just as sexist language excludes women’s experiences, non-gender-inclusive language excludes the experiences of trans, intersex, and genderqueer individuals. Language is gender-inclusive and non-sexist when we use words that recognize and affirm how people describe, express, and experience their gender. Gender-inclusive/non-sexist language avoids assuming a male speaker (freshman, upperclassman, chairman, mankind, etc.), erasing non-binary gender identifications, and conflating biological sex with gender expression.
Mature Content, Classroom Climate, and “Trigger Warnings”

Our course readings and classroom discussions will often be mature in content. If you’re uncomfortable with discussions about sexuality, you might want to find a course that’s more suited to your interests and comfort level. I expect everyone to come to class prepared to discuss the topic in a mature and respectful way. As with any course in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies program, readings are often political and personal. Readings and discussions might trigger strong feelings—anger, discomfort, anxiety, confusion, excitement, humor, and even boredom. Some of us will have emotional responses to the readings; some of us will have emotional responses to our peers’ understanding of the readings; all of us should feel responsible for creating a space that is both intellectually rigorous and respectful. Above all, be respectful (even when you strongly disagree), use each others’ preferred pronouns, and be conscious of the ways that our identities position us in the classroom.
SCHEDULE: READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, & EVENTS

WEEK ONE

Monday January 5: Introduction
☐ Introduction to the course

Wednesday January 7: Key Terms/Key Theories
☐ Steven Seidman: “Introduction” & “Part One: Theorizing Sex” [excerpts from The Social Construction of Sexuality]
☐ “Key Terms” [excerpt from Sex, Gender, and Sexuality: The New Basics]

WEEK TWO

Monday January 12: A History of Sexuality?
☐ Jonathan Ned Katz: “The Invention of Heterosexuality”
☐ Jeffrey Weeks: “The Invention of Sexuality”

Wednesday January 14: A History of Sexuality?
☐ David Halperin: “Is There a History of Sexuality?”

WEEK THREE

Monday January 19: NO CLASS
☐ DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING’S BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE

Wednesday January 21: Eighteenth-Century Sex and Sexualities
☐ Tim Hitchcock: “Sex Before Discourse” & “The Public Cultures of Sex”
☐ Henry Abelove: “Some Speculations on the History of ‘Sexual Intercourse’ During the Long Eighteenth Century”

WEEK FOUR

Monday January 26: Eighteenth-Century Sex Work
☐ William Hogarth (engravings): A Harlot’s Progress
☐ Daniel Defoe: “Some Considerations Upon Street Walkers”
Wednesday January 28: Sodomy Before Sexuality

☐ Randolph Trumbach: “The Transformation of Sodomy from the Renaissance to the Modern World and its General Consequences”


WEEK FIVE

Monday February 2: Early Medical Texts

☐ Anonymous: *Onania* (specific pages TBA)

Wednesday February 4: Early Medical Texts

☐ Anonymous: *Aristotle’s Master-Piece* (specific pages TBA)


WEEK SIX

Monday February 9: Havelock Ellis

☐ Havelock Ellis: “Sexual Inversion in Women” (specific pages TBA)

Wednesday February 11: Richard von Krafft-Ebing & Magnus Hirschfeld

☐ Richard von Krafft-Ebing: *Psychopathia Sexualis* [excerpt]

☐ Magnus Hirschfeld: *Sexual Anomalies* [excerpt]

WEEK SEVEN

Monday February 16: Sigmund Freud

☐ Sigmund Freud: “The Sexual Aberrations”

Wednesday February 18: Sigmund Freud

☐ Sigmund Freud: “The Sex Instinct and Human Happiness”

WEEK EIGHT

Monday February 23: Race and the History of Sexuality

☐ Siobhan Somerville: “Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body”

Wednesday February 25: Race and the History of Sexuality

☐ Nicola Beisel and Tamara Kay: “Abortion, Race, and Gender in Nineteenth-Century America”

➤ ASSIGNMENT DUE: Book Review
WEEK NINE

Monday March 2: Race and the History of Sexuality
☐ Mary Ting Yi Lui: “Saving Young Girls from Chinatown: White Slavery and Woman Suffrage, 1910-1920”

Wednesday March 4: Race and the History of Sexuality
☐ Cheryl Hicks: “‘Bright and Good Looking Colored Girl’: Black Women’s Sexuality and ‘Harmful Intimacy’ in Early-Twentieth-Century New York”

WEEK TEN

Monday March 9: Spring Break
☐ NO CLASS

Wednesday March 11: Spring Break
☐ NO CLASS

WEEK ELEVEN

Monday March 16: Michel Foucault
☐ Michel Foucault: The History of Sexuality [excerpt]
➤ ASSIGNMENT DUE: Abstract & Annotated Bibliography

Wednesday March 18: NO CLASS
☐ NO CLASS

WEEK TWELVE

Monday March 23: Recent Work in Race and Sexuality
☐ Jeffrey Q. McCune: Sexual Discretion: Black Masculinity and the Politics of Passing [excerpt]

Wednesday March 25: Lecture (class meets at a different location)
☐ Reading TBA

GSWS EVENT: Wednesday, March 25, 3 – 4:30 p.m. (class meets at the event)
William Pitt Union Dining Room A

Interdisciplinary lecture with Jeffery McCune on “From Fairytale Hip-Hop to Ferguson USA: A Canon of Prejudice.”
WEEK THIRTEEN

Monday March 30: Sex Education

☐ *Our Bodies, Ourselves* [excerpt]

☐ *The Joy of Sex* [excerpt]

Wednesday April 1: Sex Education & Disability Studies

☐ Patrick White: “Sex Education; Or How the Blind Became Heterosexual”

➤ ASSIGNMENT DUE: Paper Draft (5 pages)

WEEK FOURTEEN

Monday April 6: Writing Workshop

☐ Bring a copy of your paper draft to class

Wednesday April 8: “Sex Addiction”

☐ Janice Irvine: “Reinventing Perversions: Sex Addiction and Cultural Anxieties”

WEEK FIFTEEN

Monday April 13: “Purity” in the Present


Wednesday April 15: LAST CLASS

☐ Workshop Final Paper

GSWS EVENT: Thursday, April 16, 4 – 5:15 p.m
324 Cathedral of Learning

Undergraduate lecture by visiting scholar Anne Balay, “Gay Steelworkers: Expanding how we imagine queer folks, and how working-class queers expand queer possibility.”

GSWS EVENT: Friday, April 17


WEEK SIXTEEN

☐ Finals Week (no class)

➤ ASSIGNMENT DUE: Final Paper (10 pages) due in my mailbox (date/time TBA)
ASSIGNMENTS (IN DETAIL)

Participation (10%)

Please see the “attendance” policy for more information about your participation grade.

Bullet Points (best of 10) (20%)

Your bullet points are a set of ideas from the readings that summarize and respond critically to the texts. Each assignment you submit should include a minimum of 10 ideas (or points).

For each individual point, succinctly summarize one key idea that you highlighted in the readings and explain what is key about this particular idea. Use your own words and use minimal quotes from the text. Individual points should be between 1-3 sentences (use 1 sentence for easy to explicate ideas and up to 3 for more complex theories).

Bullet points can be submitted for any set of readings, but you must keep track of them, and they must be based on the readings that are assigned on the day that you submit them. Your grade will be an average of the top 10 assignments (or sets of 10 points) that you submit. Please number each assignment when you submit it (bullet points # 1, # 2, etc.) to keep track of your work.

Use MLA in-text citation when necessary.

Be sure to name the author and title in individual points (just as you would in a paper). You should include the author(s) and title(s) at the top of the page as well. Please use single space and print on both sides of the paper (when necessary).

Book Review (10%)

Select a book from the GSWS Sex and Sexualities archive (or a relevant text of your choice from a historical moment other than our own) and write a 1 page (single spaced) review of the work. A detailed description of this assignment will be handed out in class and posted in courseweb.

Paper Abstract & Annotated Bibliography (10%)

Your abstract is a 350 word summary of your final paper. Your annotated bibliography must include a minimum of 5 texts (two from the syllabus) with 200 word summaries of each. A detailed description of this assignment will be available two weeks before it is due. The abstract and annotated bibliography must be turned in as hard (paper) copies. Late assignments will be marked down 10% per day.

Paper Draft (5 pages) (20%)

Your paper is on a topic of your choice. Topics must be directly related to the course readings and they must be approved in advance. The page requirement for your draft is 5 pages (double spaced). Please include a works cited page and please use MLA for your citations. Late papers will be marked down 10% per day.

Final Paper (10 pages) (30%)

The final paper is a revision of your first draft. The page requirement is 10 pages (double spaced). Please include a works cited page and please use MLA for your citations. A detailed description of this assignment and a revision checklist for the assignment will be available two weeks before it is due. The final paper must be submitted as a hard (paper) copy. Late papers will not be accepted.
GSWS EVENTS (extra credit)

Extra credit will be given for 1 page (single spaced) responses to GSWS events. Responses must be turned in within 2 weeks of the event. Late responses will not be accepted.