

Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations

Course Description:

Gender and sexuality are fundamental categories of human existence, as well as key analytical, political, and cultural categories that shape everyday life. Just as important as the ubiquity and salience of these categories, is their mutability; while every human being is formed by these categories, their social, political, and ideological valence varies widely according to geographical context and across historical periods. Philosophers, poets, novelists, painters, and composers, as well as scholars from a wide range of disciplines, have addressed these issues, and a substantial corpus of works speak to key themes such as love, sex, citizenship, family, law, violence, religion, culture, creativity, migration, and politics through the lens of gender and sexuality. In this course our objective will be to engage closely with a carefully chosen set of texts, films, and visual objects, in order to open these up to analysis and discussion.

Readings:

The majority of the texts for this course will be provided in a course packet available for purchase in the mailroom of the Social Sciences building (SS 103). Additional texts may be posted on Chalk. You are asked to acquire two texts (available at the Sem Coop), as follows:

Rachilde, *Monsieur Venus: A Materialist Novel*. trans. Hawthorne, eds. Hawthorne and Constable. New York: MLA 2004.

Foucault, Michel. *History of Sexuality*, an introduction. vol. 1. trans. Robert Hurley. New York, Vintage Books, 1990.

If purchasing the coursepack and/or book presents a financial hardship, please contact me.

Gender and Sexuality as Categories of Analysis

September 26

Beauvoir, "Introduction" to *The Second Sex*, trans. Borde and Malovany-Chevalier. New York: Vintage, 2011. 3-17.

September 28

Foucault, Michel. *History of Sexuality*, an introduction. vol. 1. trans. Robert Hurley. New York, Vintage Books, 1990.

October 3

History of Sexuality, vol. 1

October 5

Butler, "Imitation and Gender Insubordinations" in *Inside/Out: Lesbian Theories, Gay Theories*, ed. Diana Fuss. New York: Routledge, 1991. 13-31.

Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence." *Signs* 5.4 (1980). 631-660.

October 10

Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 49.6 (1991). 1241-1299.

Saba Mahmood, "Feminist Theory, Embodiment, and the Docile Agent: Some Reflections on the Egyptian Islamic Revival," *Cultural Anthropology*, 6, no. 2 (2001): 202-236.

Kinship, Sex(uality), Reproduction

October 12

Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*. 1884. Chapter 1, Prehistoric Stages of Culture and Chapter 2, The Family. [REDUCE PAGES]

Rubin, "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex," in *Toward an Anthropology of Women*. Ed. Rayna Reiter. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1975. 157-210.

October 17

Moynihan, "The Negro American Revolution," "The Negro American Family," "The Tangle of Pathology," in *The Negro Family: The Case for National Action*. Washington: Office of Planning and Research, US Department of Labor, 1965. 1-14, 29-45.

Stack, "Black Urban Poor," "Swapping: What Goes Round Comes Round," "Personal Kindreds: All Our Kin," in *All Our Kin: Strategies for Survival in a Black Community*. New York: Harper and Row, 1974. 22-61.

October 19

Liu Xiang, "The Mother of Meng-k'o [Mencius]" [18 BCE?] in *The Position of Women in Early China According to the Lieh Nü Chuan, "The Biographies of Eminent Women,"* ed. and trans. Albert O'Hara. Washington: Catholic University of America Press, 1945. 39-42.

Li Yu, "A Male Mencius' Mother Raises Her Son Properly by Moving House Three Times," in *Silent Opera* [1650 CE?], ed. Patrick Hanan, trans. Gopan Sukhu and Patrick Hanan. Hong Kong: Chinese University of Hong Kong, 1990. 101-134.

October 24

Abu-Lughod, "Polygyny," in *Writing Women's Worlds: Bedouin Stories*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993. 87-125.

October 26

Davidson, James. "Dover, Foucault and Greek Homosexuality: Penetration and the Truth of Sex." *Past & Present* 170 (Feb 2001): 3-51.

Elliston, "Erotic Anthropology: 'Ritualized Homosexuality in Melanesia and Beyond,'" *American Ethnologist* 22.4 (1995). 848-867.

October 31

M.K. Gandhi, "Brahmacharya-I" and "Brahmacharya-II," Part III, Chapters 7-8 in *An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth* [1927/1929]. Boston: Beacon Press, 1993. 204-212.

M.K. Gandhi, "On the Necessity of Contenance" and "Purity" in *Self-Restraint v. Self-Indulgence* [1927]. Ahmedabad: Navajivan Press, 1958. 51-58, 68-70.

St. Leander, "Introduction: On the Teaching of Nuns and Contempt for the Other World" [6th century CE], in *A Book on the Teaching of Nuns and a Homily in Praise of the Church*, ed. and trans. Martin. New York: Lexington Press, 2008. 62-85.

November 2

Sanger, "The Case for Birth Control," in *Woman Citizen* 8, February 23, 1924. 17-18.

Davis, "Racism, Birth Control, and Reproductive Rights," in *Feminist Postcolonial Theory: A Reader*, eds. Lewis and Mills. New York: Routledge, 2003. 353-367.

Roberts, *Killing the Black Body. Race, Reproduction and the Meaning of Liberty*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1997. 22-55.

Cultural and Knowledge Production

November 7

Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema"

Screening of Potter's Orlando [the screening should take place during the previous week]

November 9

Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* [1929]. Orlando: Harvest/Harcourt Books, 2005. [excerpts]

November 14

Walker, "Looking for Zora" [1975] and "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: The Creativity of Black Women in the South" [1974], in *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1983. 93-116, 231-243.

Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa" [1975], trans. Keith and Paula Cohen, in *Signs* 1.4. 875-893.

poetry [tbd]

November 16

Nochlin, "Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?" in *ARTnews* 22-39, (1971). 67-71.

Guerrilla Girls, "Introduction" and "The 19th Century: Girls Going Places," in *Guerrilla Girls' Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art*. New York: Penguin 1998. 6-9, 46-57.

November 21

Trip to Smart Museum

November 23

No Class – Thanksgiving holiday

November 28

Rachilde, *Monsieur Venus: A Materialist Novel* [1884], trans. Hawthorne, eds. Hawthorne and Constable. New York: MLA 2004.

Course Requirements:

Participation: This is a seminar, not a lecture course. Students are expected to complete all readings and engage actively with the discussion. See the course policies sheet for details on how lateness/absence will impact your participation grade. The course includes one required film screening. If you are not able to attend, you are expected to view the film on your own. (20%)

Discussion questions: One time over the course of the quarter students, in pairs, will prepare reading and discussion questions for the rest of the class. The subject pair will be responsible for carrying out the readings in advance so that questions can be distributed during the class session before the discussion of the readings will take place. The questions, 4-8 in total, (it depends to some extent on how many different readings we have for a given day) should be designed to help all of us to focus on the most troublesome, useful, striking, or significant portions of the text, and to lead into a productive conversation about the readings that will help to ensure clear understanding of the texts, the problems they raise, and their relationship to ideas/texts previously discussed. Questions might focus on a specific passage, on the main claim/s being made, on the (unacknowledged) assumptions upon which claims might be founded, on the rhetorical strategies employed to make an argument, or other. They might ask for comparison to other texts from the same day, or may refer back to previous reading/s. (20%).

Short Papers:

You will write three papers of 4-6 pages each. Each paper will be oriented towards one of the main thematic clusters of the course. Questions or prompts will be provided in advance of each paper. You will receive comments and suggestions on your paper, as well as (for papers 1 & 2) a provisional grade. If you wish to rewrite paper 1 and/or 2 in order to improve your grade, you are welcome to do so. Revised papers must be turned in within one week of receiving the corrected version. Due to end-of-quarter time constraints, paper 3 may not be re-written. Students are invited to see me and/or the writing intern at any time to discuss papers, readings, etc. (20% each).

ddelogu@uchicago.edu (Best way to reach me. Allow at least 24 hours for a response, more over the weekend).

office phone: 773 702 4115

office location: Wb 105A

office hours: Tues 11-12:45, and by appointment

Writing Intern

Emil Wilson

emilywilson@uchicago.edu