History 399: The History of Sex in the United States
Summer 2014

DRAFT SYLLABUS: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CRN: 47684
LOCATION: 214 McKenzie Hall
DAYS / TIMES: MTWR, 4:00-5:50, 7/21-8/13

COURSE DESCRIPTION: History 399 will cover the history of sex in the United States, from the colonial era through the twentieth century. Using a variety of primary and secondary sources, we will emphasize the ways that social, cultural, scientific, and political attitudes toward sex and sexuality have changed over time. We will also pay particular attention to the ways that race, class, and gender shape (and are shaped by) those attitudes.


REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE BREAKDOWN:
- In-Class Midterm Exam (25%)
- Book Review – choose from attached list (25%)
- Take-Home Final Exam (30%)
- Attendance and Participation (20%)

Week 1

Monday, 7/21  Course Introduction

Tuesday, 7/22  Sex and New World Encounters
Major Problems, 26-38 (all documents)
Major Problems, 39-46 (Theda Perdue, “Columbus Meets Pocahontas”)

Wednesday, 7/23  Sex in the Anglo-American Colonies
Major Problems, 70-80 (all documents)

Thursday, 7/24  Gender, Sex, and Slavery
Major Problems, 143-152 (documents 1-4)
Major Problems, 159-173 (Brenda E. Stevenson, “Slave Marriage and Family”)

Week 2

Monday, 7/28  Gender Conflict and Sex Reform in the Early Nineteenth Century
Major Problems, 109-119 (all documents)
Major Problems, 120-131 (Christine Stansell, “Male License”)
Major Problems, 131-141 (Nancy F. Cott, “Passionlessness”)
BOOK SELECTION DUE!

Tuesday, 7/29  Nineteenth-Century Love and Intimacy
Wednesday, 7/30  Nineteenth-Century Conflicts over Sexuality
*Major Problems*, 239-252 (all documents)
*Major Problems*, 153-158 (documents 6-7)
*Major Problems*, 252-264 (Jesse F. Battan, “The Word Made Flesh”)

Thursday, 7/31  In-Class Midterm Exam

Week 3

Monday, 8/4  Prostitution and Working Class Sexuality
*Major Problems*, 274-287 (all documents)
*Major Problems*, 299-306 (Kathy Peiss, “Charity Girls and City Pleasures”)

Tuesday, 8/5  Reproductive Politics
*Major Problems*, 309-320 (all documents)

Wednesday, 8/6  Heterosexuality and Homosexuality in Popular Culture
*Major Problems*, 338-348 (all documents)
*Major Problems*, 356-365 (George Chauncey, “Gay Men’s Strategies”)

Thursday, 8/7  Sex in Cold War America
*Major Problems*, 368-384 (all documents)
*Major Problems*, 393-403 (Jeffrey Escoffier, “Popular Sociology, Reading . . .”)
BOOK REVIEW DUE!

Week 4

Monday, 8/11  Sexual Revolutions
*Major Problems*, 406-422 (all documents)
*Major Problems*, 423-431 (David Allyn, “Fomenting a Sexual Revolution”)

Tuesday, 8/12  Sexual Health in Contemporary America
*Major Problems*, 446-460 (all documents)
*Major Problems*, 471-483 (Ronald Bayer, “AIDS and the Bathhouse Controversy”)

Wednesday, 8/13  Wrap-Up and Discussion
RECOMMENDED READING LIST
(choose one of these books for the book review assignment)

Bailey, Beth. *From Front Porch to Back Seat: Courtship in Twentieth-Century America.*

Bailey, Beth. *Sex in the Heartland.*

Block, Sharon. *Rape and Sexual Power in Early America.*

Brandt, Allan M. *No Magic Bullet: A Social History of Venereal Disease in the United States since 1880.*


Gilfoyle, Timothy J. *City of Eros: New York City, Prostitution, and the Commercialization of Sex, 1790-1920.*


Hodes, Martha. *White Women, Black Men: Illicit Sex in the Nineteenth-Century South.*

Horowitz, Helen Lefkowitz. *Rereading Sex: Battles over Sexual Knowledge and Repression in Nineteenth-Century America.*

Irvine, Janice M. *Talk about Sex: The Battles over Sex Education in the United States.*


Kline, Wendy. *Bodies of Knowledge: Sexuality, Reproduction, and Women’s Health in the Second Wave.*


McGuire, Danielle L. *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance – A New History of
the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power.


Moran, Jeffrey. Teaching Sex: The Shaping of Adolescence in the Twentieth Century.


Reis, Elizabeth. Bodies in Doubt: An American History of Intersex.


Simmons, Christina. Making Marriage Modern: Women’s Sexuality from the Progressive Era to World War II.