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HS 147 -- Spring 02
Wed 2-4 pm
307 Emerson Hall

SEX, GENDER, AND MODERN MEDICINE

This course will examine historical issues concerning the relationships among sex, gender, and modern medicine. We will look at sex as a subject of scientific study, as well as gender as an analytic category. We will ask questions of how modern western medical traditions have viewed male and female bodies and defined their health and illnesses accordingly, and how western medicine has defined and policed the erotic relationships between the sexes.

Most of the issues in the course will focus on the practices and practitioners of medicine, but we will be open to the challenges posed by other positions, voices, and actors. Most readings will address American history, but a smattering of sources about European cultures will be included. Students will be asked to find and contribute relevant primary documents to the weekly readings.

REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to attendance, participation, and completion of weekly reading assignments, students will be expected to write three papers, and will assist in gathering materials for class.

Written Work: Two short (4-5 pp) review essays of the readings for a week when they are responsible for primary document material (see below). A longer paper (approx. 15 pp) on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor will be due during reading period. This final assignment is intended to help students design research problems and develop areas for further inquiry.

Primary Documents: Each week, 3-5 students will be expected to find and distribute appropriate primary documents to complement the week's readings. They will also create and distribute questions to help guide class discussion. Each student will do this twice during the semester.

Participation: Active participation in class discussion means that students have done the reading and are willing to engage in intellectual exploration of the themes and topics brought up in the source material. All contributions to class discussion need not be articulate, well-thought-out or scholarly, but they should be **RELEVANT!**

Grading: Participation in Discussion 25%; Primary Documents and Questions: 15%; Written Work 60% (review essays 15% each; final paper 30%)

Required Reading

All readings listed on the syllabus are required. Items marked with a star (*) are in a coursepack available at HPPS. All other readings are from books available at the COOP and on reserve at Hilles and Lamont Libraries.

Required and Recommended Books (PLEASE READ THIS PAGE CAREFULLY)

The following books are available for purchase by everyone in the course. We will be reading substantial portions of most, shorter selections from some. If cost of books is an issue for you, please note the ones from which we are reading shorter portions.

Allan Brandt. *No Magic Bullet*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987. (approx 75 pp)

Alice Domurat Dreger. *Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998. (approx. 75 pp)

Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality. An Introduction*. NY: Vintage, 1990. (approx 75 pp)

Thomas Laqueur. *Making Sex. Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990. (approx 75 pp)

Barbara Laslett, et al., eds. *Gender and Scientific Authority*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996. (5 articles)

Judith W. Leavitt, ed. *Women & Health in America. Historical Readings*. 2nd ed. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1999. (9 articles)

Rachel Maines. *The Technology of Orgasm*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1999. (approx 75 pp)

Sheila Rothman. *Living in the Shadow of Death*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994. (approx 75 pp)

Cynthia Eagle Russett. *Sexual Science. The Victorian Construction of Womanhood*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1989. (most of the book)

Jennifer Terry and Jacqueline Urla. *Deviant Bodies*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995. (3 articles)

Some recommended movies: "The Crying Game"; "Boys Don't Cry"; "Hedwig and the Angry Inch"

Intro:

Week 1 (Jan 29) Introduction

No reading

Week 2 (Feb 5) Reflections on Gender, History and Medicine

- * Scott, Joan. "Gender as a Category of Analysis" in *Gender and the Politics of History*. (NY: Columbia University Press, 1988). Pp. 28-50.
- * Shiebinger, Londa. "The History and Philosophy of Women in Science. A Review Essay," in Sandra Harding and Jean F. O'Barr, eds., *Sex and Scientific Inquiry*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987). Pp. 5-34 (originally published in *Signs*, 12:2 (1987), 303-332).
- Laqueur, Thomas. *Making Sex. Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990. Pp. 1-24.
- Martin, Emily. "The Egg and the Sperm," In *Gender and Scientific Authority*, pp. 323-339.

Week 3 (Feb 12) Making Sex, Making Gender

- Laqueur, Thomas. *Making Sex*. Chapter 5.
- Russett, Cynthia Eagle. *Sexual Science*. Intro, Chapters 1, 3, 6.
- * Oudshoorn, Nellie. "Endocrinologists and the Conceptualization of Sex, 1920-1940." *Journal of the History of Biology*, 23 (1990), 163-186.

Women & Medicine:

Week 4 (Feb 19) Female Doctors and Female Patients

- Walsh, Mary Roth. "Feminist Showplace." In *Women & Health*, 509-525
- Morantz-Sanchez, Regina. "The Gendering of Empathic Expertise." In *Women & Health*, 526-540.
- Rothman, Sheila. *Living in the shadow of death*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994. Intro, Part II (pp. 75-130)
- * Poovey, Mary. "Scenes of Indelicate Character." *Representations*, 14 (1986), 137-168.

Week 5 (Feb 26) Female Bodies and Female Maladies I

- Brumberg, Joan Jacobs. "'Something Happens to Girls.' Menarche and the Emergence of the Modern American Hygienic Imperative." In *Women & Health*, 150-171.
- Levitt, Judith Walzer. "Under the Shadow of Maternity: American Women's responses to Death and Debility Fears in Nineteenth-Century Childbirth." In *Women & Health*, 328-346.
- Theriot, Nancy. "Diagnosing Unnatural Motherhood. Nineteenth-Century Physicians and 'Puerperal Insanity.'" In *Women & Health*, 405-422.
- Levitt, Judith Walzer. "The Growth of Medical Authority: Technology and Morals in Turn-of-the-Century Obstetrics." In *Women & Health*, 636-658.
- * Gollaher, David L. "From Ritual to Science: The Medical Transformation of Circumcision in America." *Journal of Social History*, 28 (1994), 5-36.

Week 6 (Mar 5) Female Bodies and Female Maladies II: Hysteria

- * Smith-Rosenberg, Carroll . "The Hysterical Woman: Sex Role and Role Conflict in Nineteenth-Century America." In *Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America*, 197-216.
- Theriot, Nancy. "Women's Voices in Nineteenth-Century Medical Discourse. A Step toward Deconstructing Science." In *Gender and Scientific Authority*, 124-154
- * Goldstein, Jan. "The Hysteria Diagnosis and the Politics of Anticlericalism in Later Nineteenth-Century France." *Journal of Modern History*, 54 (1982), 209-239.
- De Marneffe, Daphne. "Looking and Listening. The Construction of Clinical Knowledge in Charcot and Freud." In *Gender and Scientific Authority*, 241-281
- Maines, Rachel. *The Technology of Orgasm*. Chs. 1, 4

The Sciences of Sexuality: Here we will address how sex differences, gender differences, and sexual desire are conceived and deployed in the medical realm.

Week 7 (Mar 12) The Emergence of Sexology

- * Porter, Roy. "Introduction." In Roy Porter and Mikulas Teich, eds. *Sexual Knowledge, Sexual Science: The History of Attitudes to Sexuality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Pp. 1-26.
- Smith-Rosenberg, Carroll and Charles Rosenberg. "The Female Animal: Medical and Biological Views of Woman and Her Role in Nineteenth-Century America." in *Women & Health*, 111-130
- * Sulloway, Frank. "Freud and the Sexologists." In *Freud: Biologist of the Mind*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1992. Ch. 8 (pp. 277-319).
- * Bullough, Vern L. "The Development of Sexology in the USA in the Early Twentieth Century." In Roy Porter and Mikulas Teich, eds. *Sexual Knowledge, Sexual Science: The History of Attitudes to Sexuality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Pp. 303-322.
- Foucault, Michel. "Scientia Sexualis." In *History of Sexuality*. Pp. 53-73

Week 8 (Mar 19) Prostitution, Venereal Disease and the Marked Female Body

- * Robertson, Steven. "Signs, Marks, and Private Parts: Doctors, Legal Discourses and the Evidence of Rape in the US, 1823-1930." *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 8:3 (1998), 345-388.
- Horn, David. "This Norm Which is Not One: Reading the Female body in Lombroso's Anthropology." in *Deviant Bodies*, 109-128.
- Brandt, Allan. "Damaged Goods." In *No Magic Bullet*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1987. Intro, Chs. 1. 3
- * Fee, Elizabeth. "Sin vs. Science: Venereal Disease in Baltimore in the Twentieth Century." *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 43 (1988), 141-164.

Week 9 (Mar 26) SPRING BREAK!!!

Week 10 (Apr 2) “Dysfunctional” Sex : Impotence, and Nymphomania

[NO PRIMARIES THIS WEEK]

Lunbeck, Elizabeth. “‘A New Generation of Women.’ Progressive Psychiatrists and the Hypersexual Female.” in *Women & Health*, 229-250

Groeneman. "Nymphomania: The Historical Construction of Female Sexuality." In *Deviant Bodies*, 219-250.

* Mumford, Kevin. “‘Lost Manhood’ Found. Male Sexual Impotence and Victorian Culture in the United States.” *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 3 (1992): 33-57.

* Hirschbein, Laura Davidow. "The Glandular Solution: Sex, Masculinity, and Aging in the 1920s." *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 9:3 (2000), 277-304.

Irvine, Janice. "Regulating Passions: The Invention of Inhibited Sexual Desire and Sexual Addiction." In *Deviant Bodies*, 314-337

Week 11 (Apr 9) "Normal" Sex: The Invention of Heterosexuality

Foucault, Michel. "The Repressive Hypothesis" In *The History of Sexuality*, 17-49.

Degler, Carl. “What Ought to Be and What Was: Women’s Sexuality in the Nineteenth Century.” In *Women & Health*, 192-212.

* Simmons, Christina. “Modern Sexuality and the Myth of Victorian Repression.” In Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons, eds. *Passion & Power. Sexuality in History*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989. Pp. 157-177.

* Katz, Jonathan. “The Invention of Heterosexuality.” *Socialist Review* 20:1 (1990), 7-34.

* Kenen, Stephanie. "Alfred Kinsey and the New Sex Research." In *Scientific Studies of Human Sexual Difference in Interwar America*. (PhD Dissertation. University of California, Berkeley, 1998). pP. 259-293

Boundary Crossings: Homosex, Intersex, Transex: This section will examine the ways in which the medical sciences have studied and theorized sex differences in human bodies.

Week 12 (Apr 16) Inverted Sex : Gender, Behavior, and Desire

- Duggan, Lisa. "The Trials of Alice Mitchell: Sensationalism, Sexology, and the Lesbian Subject in Turn-of-the-Century America." In *Gender and Scientific Authority*. Pp. 217-240
- * Gibson, Margaret. "Clitoral Corruption. Body Metaphors and American Doctors' Constructions of Female Homosexuality, 1870-1900." In Vernon Rosario, ed. *Science and Homosexualities*. NY: Routledge, 1997. Pp. 108-132.
- * Chauncey, George. "Christian Brotherhood or Sexual Perversion? Homosexual Identities and the Construction of Sexual Boundaries in the World War One Era." *Journal of Social History*, 19:2 (1985), 189-211.
- * Kenen, Stephanie. "Who Counts When You're Counting Homosexuals? Hormones and Homosexuality in Mid-Twentieth-Century America." In Vernon Rosario, ed. *Science and Homosexualities*. (NY: Routledge, 1997). Pp. 197-218.
- Terry, Jennifer. "Anxious Slippage Between "Us" and "Them": A Brief History of the Scientific Search for Homosexual Bodies." In *Deviant Bodies*. Pp. 129-169

Week 13 (Apr 23) Hermaphrodites, Transsexuality and the Medical Necessity of Difference

- Dreger, Alice Domurat. *Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998. Chs. 1, 3, 5
- Kessler, Suzanne. "The Medical Construction of Gender: Case Management of Intersexed Infants." In *Gender and Scientific Authority*, pp. 340-363.
- * Hausman, Bernice. "Demanding Subjectivity: Transsexualism, Medicine, and the Technologies of Gender." *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 3 (1992): 270-302.
- * Meyerowitz, Joanne. "Sex research at the borders of gender : transvestites, transsexuals, and Alfred C. Kinsey" *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 75: 1 (Spring 2001): 72-90.

Week 14 (Apr 30) Student Projects

Primary Document Responsibilities

Each week, 3-5 students will be responsible for finding and distributing additional reading and discussion materials.

You must do the following:

1) Choose an historical primary document relevant to the week's reading. The document should be approximately 5-10 pages long. If your document is longer than this, PLEASE CHOOSE RELEVANT EXCERPTS for your fellow students to read.

2) Put 20 copies of your document in the box outside my door by 12:00 on Monday. Please e-mail the entire class to tell them that the document is available. Be sure to include your name and the full citation of your document.

If you are excerpting a document, please give me one clean original of the whole thing (a book chapter or article) in addition to the shortened version.

3) By Tuesday afternoon, provide a list of reading/discussion questions. Your list should include at least one question for each assigned reading, plus one or two for your primary document. You should also come up with one or two more synthetic questions for group discussion. Don't forget to include your name and the full citation for your document on this list. You should send this to the entire class via e-mail.

Review Essays

Write a 4-5 page (1200-1500 words) essay on the readings assigned for one of the weeks for which you are responsible. A **review essay** should be a comparative critique of the week's readings. You should identify a theme around which to organize your discussion of at least three of the readings, and compare/contrast them. What issues were brought up in the readings that are particularly interesting/relevant to the course, and how do the different authors address those issues? You should briefly summarize the argument of each source, assess its strengths and weaknesses, compare the sources to each other, and have an over-arching argument that ties your compare/contrast of the various articles together. This is not an informal response paper, but rather a formal paper where you are engaging as an intellectual peer in a scholarly debate.