

History 258/368, Spring 2007  
5 units (graded only)  
Thurs 2:15-4:05 p.m., EDUC 41

Professor Estelle Freedman  
Bldg. 200, room 7 (723-4951)  
Office hours: Mondays 3:15-5:15 p.m.

### **Topics in the History of Sexuality: Sexual Violence in North America**

This upper level undergraduate/graduate colloquium explores recent historical interpretations of the social history of sexuality. The focus this year is the history of sexual violence, with particular attention to the intersections of gender and race in the construction of rape. The course moves chronologically from early settlement through the mid-twentieth century. The readings explore specific questions about sexual violence—such as changing definitions and laws, cultural representations, and the role of gender, race, and age in the construction of rape and other forms of sexual violence. The course is also concerned more broadly with the ways that historical changes in the economy, the family, and politics have reshaped sexual values and behaviors, and the ways that individuals and groups have responded to these changes. The weekly required reading consists of secondary interpretations (books and articles by historians). In addition to introducing students to the themes of sexual history and the literature on sexual violence, the course attempts to teach critical skills in the analysis of secondary and primary historical texts.

#### **Textbooks ordered at the Stanford Bookstore**

##### Recommended:

John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, *Intimate Matters: A Social History of Sexuality in America* (University of Chicago Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1997)

##### Required:

Sharon Block, *Rape and Sexual Power in Early America* (University of North Carolina Press, 2006)

Martha Hodes, *White Women, Black Men: Illicit Sex in the Nineteenth-Century South* (Yale University Press, 1997)

Karen Dubinsky, *Improper Advances: Rape and Heterosexual Conflict in Ontario, 1880-1929* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993)

Susan Brownmiller, *Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape* reprint ed (New York: Ballantine Books, 1993) (orig. 1975)

For other required articles and book chapters see links on COURSEWORK.

Please let me know by the end of the first week of classes if you need any special accommodations because of physical or learning disabilities.

## **Student Responsibilities and Grading Guidelines:**

The final grade will be determined equally by the following three contributions:

### **1. Class participation**

Participation includes arriving on time, completing all reading and writing assignments on time, contributing regularly to class discussions (includes asking questions, responding to others, and listening, as well as talking about your own ideas).

### **2. Weekly written analyses of readings**

For each week marked on the syllabus, bring an analysis of the readings to class (double-spaced, one-inch margins, approximately three pages). The analysis should not simply summarize the reading, although it should reiterate the main arguments. Try to draw out themes about the history of sexual violence and evaluate the use of primary sources and the historical interpretations. You may use the recommended reading as background context but you are not required to do so. As the course progresses, your responses can try to link earlier themes in the reading and class discussions to the current assignment, applying what you have learned thus far to your new reading. (See guidelines at end of syllabus.)

I will provide feedback and a suggested grade for the first writing assignment, but I will not record the grade unless it is an A. The second reading response will be graded. Of the remaining reading responses, choose at least two other weeks for graded papers; the others can be ungraded. Whether graded or not, no late papers except in the case of documented health or family emergencies. If you have an excused absence from a class, please submit a five-page reading response before the next class meeting.

(The talks and panels listed on the syllabus are optional but strongly recommended for contemporary perspectives on gender, race, and violence. Feel free to comment on them in your reading responses, as long as you cover the required reading as well.)

### **3. Final graded paper**

Topical final paper (7-9 pages) based on required reading and at least one additional recommended reading on a particular subject or theme covered in the course. This paper can review a topic that cuts across those listed or introduce a new topic related to sexual violence; it can compare different authors or trace a theme over time. Topics must be approved by May 26<sup>th</sup> and papers are due by June 11<sup>th</sup> (June 7<sup>th</sup> for graduating students). No late papers (or course incompletes), except in cases of documented health or family emergencies. Instructions for the final paper will be distributed in class.

Graduate students will read one additional secondary source for a class of their choice (sign up at first class) and report orally in class about the reading. For the final paper graduate students will write a 10-12 page literature review based on a bibliography submitted by May 31st. I will help graduate students design final papers appropriate for their studies.

**Dates      Topic and Assignments**

4/5:            INTRODUCTION TO COURSE

I will provide an overview of the history of sexuality in the U.S. and of this course. Students apply for the course in class; I will notify students on email by noon, 4/6 whether they are admitted. To secure a place, confirm that you are taking the course by 10 a.m. Saturday 4/7 (so that I can admit any wait-listed students).

4/12:          EARLY AMERICA

Block, *Rape and Sexual Power in Early America*

Recommended Reading: *Intimate Matters*, chaps 1-3 (hereafter IM)  
Reading analysis due in class, ungraded option

4/19:          NINETEENTH-CENTURY RACIAL CONSTRUCTIONS

Martha Hodes, *White Women, Black Men* (chap. 5 is optional)

Recommended Reading: IM, chaps 4-5  
Reading analysis due in class, graded

4/26:          CANADIAN CASES

Karen Dubinsky, *Improper Advances*, Intro, chaps. 1-4, 6, conclusion

Reading analysis due in class, optional graded/ungraded

**April 26, Stanford Humanities Center, INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence**  
5:00 p.m. Symposium, "The Dangerous Intersections of Race, Gender, & Violence"  
6:30 p.m. Dinner  
7:00 p.m. Andrea Smith, "Conquest: Sexual Violence & American Indian Genocide"

5/3:            FEMINIST RESPONSES (continued next page)

Mary Odem, *Delinquent Daughters: Protecting and Policing Adolescent Female Sexuality in the United States, 1885-1920* chaps 1, 3 (COURSEWORK)

Steven Robertson, "Age of Consent Law and the Making of Modern Childhood in New York City, 1886-1921" *Journal of Social History* 35: 4 (2002) pp. 781-798  
[Link to text via Project Muse on COURSEWORK]

Mary Dunlap, "The Reform of Rape Law and the Problem of White Men: Age-of-

Consent Campaigns in the South, 1885-1910," in Hodes, *Sex, Love, Race: Crossing Boundaries in North American History* (COURSEWORK)

Recommended Reading: IM, chaps 7-8

Reading analysis due in class, optional graded/ungraded

5/10: LYNCH LAW

Nell Painter, "'Social Equality' and 'Rape' in the Fin-de-Siècle South," in Painter, *Southern History across the Color Line* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002), pp. 112-133 (COURSEWORK)

Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States, 1880-1917* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), chap. 2 (COURSEWORK)

Jacqueline Dowd Hall, "'The Mind that Burns in Each Body': Women, Rape and Racial Violence" in *Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality*, Eds. Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharon Thompson (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1983), pp. 328-349 (COURSEWORK)

Film: Scottsboro (ZVC 15918 Green AV reserve and screening to be arranged)

Recommended Reading: IM, chap 9

Reading analysis due in class, optional graded/ungraded

5/17: TWENTIETH CENTURY U.S. THEMES

Bonnie Cermak, "Race, Honor, Citizenship: The Massie Rape/Murder Case," pp. 230-246 in Merrill Smith, ed., *Sex without Consent: Rape and Sexual Coercion in America* (2001) (COURSEWORK)

Nancy McLean, "The Leo Frank Case Reconsidered" *Journal of American History* 78(3) (1991), pp.917-948 (link to text via J-Store on COURSEWORK)

Estelle B. Freedman, "'Uncontrolled Desires': The Response to the Sexual Psychopath, 1920-1960" *Journal of American History* 74(1) 1987, pp. 83-106 (link to text via J-Store, on COURSEWORK)

Recommended Reading: IM, chaps 10-12

Reading analysis due in class, optional graded/ungraded

**Campus Conference: 5/16-5/19**

**FEMICIDE = SANCTIONED MURDER: GENDER, RACE AND VIOLENCE IN GLOBAL CONTEXT**

Candle Light Vigil, White Plaza, 5/17

Speakers and Panels, 5/18-5/19 (Tressider, Oak West)

5/24: THE POLITICS OF WRITING ABOUT RAPE

Susan Brownmiller, *Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape* (1975)  
Angela Davis, "Rape, Racism, and the Myth of the Black Rapist," in *Women, Race, and Class* (New York: Vintage Books, 1983), pp. 172-183 (COURSEWORK)  
Susan Brownmiller, *In Our Time: Memoir of a Revolution*, pp. 244-253 (COURSEWORK)

Recommended Reading: IM, chaps 13-15

Reading analysis due in class, optional graded/ungraded

**FINAL PAPER TOPICS MUST BE APPROVED BY 5/26**

5/31: FINAL CLASS

Final paper bibliographies due in class  
Oral presentations of topics and student feedback  
Course summary and evaluations

Final papers due: 6/7 graduating students, 6/11 others

**GUIDELINES FOR WEEKLY PAPERS:**

1. Historical context for the subject: links to themes we have been discussing, earlier readings, issues in U.S. history.
2. Author's approach: what questions asked, what sources used; what scope (time, place, e.g.)
3. Arguments: What are they and how well argued? Use of sources? Where persuasive? Where problematic?
4. Contributions: What did the book add to the larger themes we have been discussing? What new issues did it raise? What questions did it raise for future research? What more did you want to know, for this period or others?
5. Suggest several discussion questions/topics for the class meeting.

Graduate students should also relate any additional reading to the main text, and prepare to present orally in class on the additional reading.

**SELECTED SECONDARY SOURCES** (resources for papers - use AT LEAST one of these sources to supplement required readings)

Historical Approaches

D'Cruze, Shani. "Approaching the History of Rape and Sexual Violence. Notes Towards Research." *Women's History Review* 1, no. 1992 (1992): 337-396.

Hartman, Heidi and E. Ross. "Comment on 'On Writing the History of Rape'." *Signs* 3 (1978): 931-35.

Porter, Roy. "Rape - Does it have a Historical Meaning?" In *Rape*, edited by Sylvana Tomaselli and Roy Porter, 216-279. Oxford, UK: Basil Blackwell, 1986.

Shorter, Edward. "On Writing the History of Rape." *Signs* 3, no. 2 (1977): 471-482.

Early America

Arnold, Marybeth. "'The Life of a Citizen in the Hands of a Woman'." In *Passion and Power: Sexuality in History*, edited by Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons with Robert A. Padgug. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989.

Brown, Irene Quenzler and Richard D. Brown. *The Hanging of Ephraim Wheeler*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2003.

Cohen, Daniel A. "Social Injustice, Sexual Violence, Spiritual Transcendence: Constructions of Interracial Rape in Early American Crime Literature, 1767-1817." *The William and Mary Quarterly* 56, no. 3 (1999): 481-526.

Dayton, Cornelia Hughes. *Women before the Bar: Gender, Law, and Society in Connecticut, 1639-1789*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995.

Lindemann, Barbara S. "'To Ravish and Carnally Know': Rape in Eighteenth-Century Massachusetts." *Signs* 10, no. 1 (1984): 63-82.

Sommerville, Diane Miller. "Rape, Race, and Castration in Slave Law in the Colonial and Early South." In *The Devil's Lane: Sex and Race in the Early South*, edited by Catherine Clinton and Michelle Gillespie, 74-89. New York: Oxford, 1997.

Frontiers, West, Native Americans

Castañeda, Antonia I. "Sexual Violence in the Politics and Policies of Conquest: Amerindian Women and the Spanish Conquest of Alta California." In *Building with Our Hands: New Directions in Chicana Studies*, edited by Adela de la Torre and Beatriz M. Pesquera, 15-33. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.

Lewis, James R. "Images of Captive Rape in the Nineteenth Century." *Journal of American Culture* 15 (1992): 69-77.

Namias, June. *White Captives: Gender and Ethnicity on the American Frontier*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993.

Peterson Del Mar, David. *Beaten Down: A History of Interpersonal Violence in the West*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2002.

### Legal History

- Backhouse, Constance. "Nineteenth-Century Canadian Rape Law 1800-92." In *Essays in the History of Canadian Law*, edited by David Flaherty, 200-247, 1983.
- Berry, Mary Frances. "Judging Morality: Sexual Behavior and Legal Consequences in the late Nineteenth-Century South." *Journal of American History* 78 (1991): 835-56.
- Hasday, J.E. "Contest and Consent. A Legal History of Marital Rape." *California Law Review* 88, no. 2000 (2000): 1373-1505.
- Larson, Jane E. "'Even a Worm Will Turn at Last': Rape Reform in Late Nineteenth-Century America." *Yale Journal of Law and Humanities* 9, no. 1 (1997): 1-71.
- Nemeth, Charles P. "Character Evidence in Rape Trials in Nineteenth Century New York: Chastity and the Admissibility of Specific Acts." *Women's Rights Law Reporter* 6, no. 3 (1981): 214-225.

### Race, Rape, Lynching

- Bardaglio, Peter w. "Rape and the Law in the Old South: 'Calculated to excite indignation in every heart'." *Journal of Southern History* LX, no. 4 (1994): 749-772
- Brundage, Fitzhugh W. *Lynching in the New South: Georgia and Virginia, 1880-1930*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993.
- Dorr, Lisa Lindquist. *White Women, Rape, and the Power of Race in Virginia, 1900-1960*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 2004.
- Edwards, Laura F. "Sexual Violence, Gender, Reconstruction, and the Extension of Patriarchy in Granville County, North Carolina." *North Carolina Historical Review* 68 (1991): 237-260.
- Gilmore, Glenda Elizabeth. *Gender and Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996.
- Gunning, Sandra. *Race, Rape, and Lynching: The Red Record of American Literature, 1890-1912*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Hine, Darlene Clark. "Rape and the Inner Lives of Black Women in the Middle-West Preliminary Thoughts on the Culture of Dissemblance." *Signs* 14, no. 4 (1989).
- Rosen, Hannah. "'Not That Sort of Women': Race, Gender, and Sexual Violence during the Memphis Riot of 1866." In *Sex, Race, Love: Crossing Boundaries in North American History*, edited by Martha Hodes, 267-293. New York: New York University Press, 1999.
- Rothman, Joshua D. *Notorious in the Neighborhood: Sex and Families across the Color Line in Virginia, 1787-1861*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.
- Sommerville, Diane Miller. *Rape and Race in the Nineteenth-Century South*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004.

### Child and Prison Sexual Assault

- Jenkins, Philip. *Moral Panic: Changing Concepts of the Child Molester in Modern America*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998.
- Robertson, Stephen. *Crimes against Children: Sexual Violence and Legal Culture in New York City, 1880-1960*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005.
- Kunzel, Regina G. "Situating Sex: Prison Sexual Culture in the Mid-Twentieth-Century United States." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 8:3 (2002): 253-270.

### Sexual Harassment

Bender, Daniel E. "‘Too Much of a Distasteful Masculinity’: Historicizing Sexual Harassment in the Garment Sweatshop and Factory." *Journal of Women’s History* 15:4 (2005): 91-116.

### Other Regions

Clark, Anna K. *Women's Silence, Men's Violence: Sexual Assault in England 1770- 1845*. London: Pandora, 1987.

McCulloch, Jock. *Black Peril, White Virtue: Sexual Crime in Southern Rhodesia, 1902-1935*. Bloomington: Indiana U. Press, 2000.

Piccato, Pablo. "El Chalequero' or the the Mexican Jack the Ripper: The Meaning of Sexual Violence in Turn-of-the Century Mexico City"." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 81, no. 3-4 (2001): 623-651.

Scully, Pamela. "Rape, Race, and Colonial Culture: The Sexual Politics of Identity in the Nineteenth-Century Cape Colony, South Africa." *American Historical Review* 100, no. 2 (1995): 335-359.

Tomes, Nancy. "A 'Torrent of Abuse': Crimes of Violence between Working-Class Men and Women in London, 1840-1875." *Journal of Social History* 11, no. 3 (1978): 328-345.

Trexler, Richard C. *Sex and Conquest: Gendered Violence, Political Order, and the European Conquest of the Americas*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1995.

Walkowitz, Judith R. *City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late-Victorian London*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.

For an extensive bibliography, see [http://de.geocities.com/history\\_guide/horb/](http://de.geocities.com/history_guide/horb/).