HISTORY 620--GRADUATE READING SEMINAR:
THEMES IN THE HISTORY OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND THE BODY IN
MODERN EUROPE

Tuesdays, 6-8:50

Dr. Kate Transchel
Office: 221 Trinity
E-mail: ktranschel@csuchico.edu
Phone: 898-6417
Office hours: T-2-5; TR 1:30-2:30

This graduate seminar focuses on an important aspect of the social and
cultural history of Modern Europe--how scholars have approached studies of
gender, sexuality, and the body as subjects of historical inquiry. What are the
theoretical, social, and political stakes of such analyses? How do we grasp
corporality within an historical frame? What is sexuality? How is it practiced,
produced, policed, constructed, represented, liberated, controlled? These questions
will be explored within the context of the major developments in European history
in the 18th-21st centuries, with emphasis placed on the historical intersections of
gender, class, economics, and empire. Special attention will be paid to Central and
Eastern Europe, whenever possible.

We will begin by reading foundational texts (Foucault, Dean, Scott) in order to
introduce students to the methodological and theoretical questions circumscribing
work in these fields. Subsequent weeks will be structured thematically around such
topics as construction of sexual deviance, colonial/post-colonial sexual economies,
prostitution, sexual orientation and sexual norms, pornography and the erotic, war
and sexuality, etc.

Course Format:

This course is a discussion seminar. If we are to have an interesting, thought-
provoking, exciting, and enjoyable semester (!) it is imperative that you read each of
the assigned readings for each week with care. I expect you to come to every class
prepared to engage fully with the material—you must bring questions, opinions,
responses, and ideas to share with the group.

Course Requirements:

You will be reading either a book or several articles each week. Developing the
abilities to read quickly and effectively, write efficiently, and to speak forcefully and
eloquently is crucial to your professional development. This course is intended to
help you hone those skills.
1) **Attendance:** Full and informed participation in every class is mandatory. This will account for 20% of your grade.

2) **Presentations:** Each person will be responsible for introducing material and facilitating class discussion at least once (maybe twice) during the semester. You will present a brief (5-10 minutes) synopsis of the major arguments of the text or articles. You must also prepare a list of questions (4 or 5) intended to facilitate discussion. You must submit this list of questions to me at least 24 hours in advance of our seminar. Discussion leaders are strongly encouraged to meet with me prior to class to go over presentation questions and pedagogic strategies. This will account for 20% of your grade.

3) **Lecture:** Each person will at least once (maybe twice) work in consultation with the discussion leader to give us a lecture placing the topic under study in historical context. You will create a 20-25 minute lecture with visual aids (PowerPoint or some other such program) discussing the history of the period. More on this will be discussed in class. This will account for 20% of your grade.

4) **Four Critical Review Essays (3-4 pages):** These papers are intended as places to for you to analyze and describe the week's assigned readings. Use these papers to develop your abilities to craft cogent, articulate, concise historical arguments grounded in close readings of the relevant literature. **THESE ARE NOT BOOK REVIEWS, THEY ARE CRITICAL ESSAYS.** You will be expected to turn in hard copies of these papers to me at the beginning of the class. You must also e-mail a copy of your review the evening before our class meeting (by 10 pm Monday night) to all your classmates. You must not write an essay based on the readings for the week that you are discussion leader. By our second meeting, you will be expected to select the four weeks for which you will be writing these papers. This will account for 40% of your grade.

**Required Texts:**


Nancy Wingfield and Maria Bueur, eds. *Gender and War in Twentieth-Century*

In addition, there will be several articles in PDF format on our BlackBoard Learn. You are expected to print these up, read them, and bring them to class.

**Schedule and Topics:**

**Week One-August 28:**
Intro—begin reading Foucault

**Week Two-Sept. 4:** The History of Sexuality
Reading: Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: Introduction.* Vol. 1

**Week Three-Sept. 11:** Dealing with Foucault-Sex and Gender Theory
Readings:
Scott, “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis”
Dean, “The Productive Hypothesis”
Canning, “The Body as Method?”

**Week Four—Sept. 18:** Gender and Sex in the 18th--19th Centuries in Europe
Reading: Timm and Sanborn, *Gender, Sex, and the Shaping of Modern Europe,* Introduction and Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-131).

**Week Five—September 25:** NO CLASS—BE READING Mosse, *Nationalism and Sexuality*

**Week Six—October 2:** Nationalism and Middle-Class Respectability
Reading: Mosse, *Nationalism and Sexuality*

**Week Seven—October 9:** Gender, Sex, and Empire
Readings:
Levine, “Why Gender and Empire?”
Pederson, “National Bodies, Unspeaking Acts.”
Levine, “Sexuality, Gender, and Empire.”
Stoler, “Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power.”

**Week Eight—October 16—Pornography and Social Control**
Readings:
Sigel, *Governing Pleasures*
Sigel, “Name Your Pleasure: The Transformation of Sexual Language in Nineteenth-Century British Pornography.”

**Week Nine—October 23:** The Social Construction of Homosexuality
Readings: Somerville, “Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body”
Beachy, “The German Invention of Homosexuality.”
Giles, “The Denial of Homosexuality: Same-Sex Incidents in Himmler’s SS and Police.”
Healey, “The Disappearance of the Russian Queen, or How the Soviet Closet was Born.”

Week Ten—October 30: Introducing Eastern Europe—Historical Background
Reading: Berend, History Derailed: Central and Eastern Europe in the Long Nineteenth Century, Introduction and chapters 1-3 and 5 (pp. 1-133; 181-235).

Week Eleven—November 6: The Construction of Sexual Deviance in Late-Imperial Eastern Europe
Readings:
Stauter-Halsted and Wingfield, “The Construction of Sexual Deviance in Late-Imperial Eastern Europe.”
Sylvester, “Scandal at the Severnaia.”
Horvath, “Of Female Chastity and Male Arms.”

Week Twelve—November 13: Policing the Body: Prostitution
Readings:
Gilfoyle, “Prostitutes in History”
Engelstein, “Gender and the Juridical Subject.”

*****THANKSGIVING BREAK NOVEMBER 19-23******

Week Thirteen—November 27: Gender, Sex, and War, pt.I
Reading: Timm and Sanborn, “Brothers and Sisters at War,” in Gender, Sex, and the Shaping of Modern Europe, (pp. 131-168).
Wingfield and Bueur, eds., Gender and War in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe. Part 1 (pp. 1-92).

Week Fourteen—December 4: Gender, Sex, and War, pt.II
Readings:
Herzog, ed. Brutality and Desire, 91-246; 261-283.
Wingfield and Bueur, eds., Gender and War in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe, Part III (pp. 157-234).

Week Fifteen—December 11 Gender, Sex and Everyday Life in Contemporary Europe
Readings:
Steedman, Landscape for Good Woman: A Story of Two Lives

Final Week—December 18: Parting Shots and Good Food
Location and Time TBA.