

HIST 500

Spring 2011

GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN PREMODERN EUROPE

Dr. Mike Ryan

Email: ryan6@purdue.edu

Office: University Hall 122

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 P. M. and by appointment

Office Phone: 49-42681

Main Lecture:

Location: University Hall (UNIV) 201

Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Time: 3:00-4:15 P.M.

Required Texts:

Kenneth Borris and George S. Rousseau, eds. *The Sciences of Homosexuality in Early Modern Europe* (New York: Routledge, 2007).

John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality: Gay People in Western Europe from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005).

Judith C. Brown, *Immodest Acts: The Life of a Lesbian Nun in Renaissance Italy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985).

James Brundage, *Law, Sex, and Christian Society in Medieval Europe* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987).

Khaled El-Rouayheb, *Before Homosexuality in the Arab-Islamic World, 1500-1800* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009).

Ruth Mazo Karras, *Sexuality in Medieval Europe: Doing Unto Others* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, *Christianity and Sexuality in the Early Modern World: Regulating Desire, Reforming Practice*, 2nd ed. (New York: Routledge, 2005).

Course Description:

Throughout this class, we will continually debate the fluid and context-bound parameters of what constituted gender and sexuality in Europe and the Mediterranean from antiquity to early modernity. We will investigate the notions of what constituted “masculine” or “feminine” expectations and behaviors as well as the ways individuals adhered to, or transgressed, those boundaries in the form of sexual feelings and activities. We will also investigate how secular and ecclesiastical authorities responded to, and policed, these premodern heterosexual, bisexual, and homosexual relationships and encounters.

Course Objectives and Requirements:

During this class, we will see the myriad ways medieval people thought about what defined their expectations about sex, love, gender, and marriage from the fifth through the fifteenth centuries. We will study a variety of secondary sources and essays by contemporary historians who have conducted research in the important field of the history of sexuality. By doing this, we will gain an understanding of how people engage with the history of sexuality as understood in the premodern world. You should already be familiar with the techniques of primary source analysis, in order to determine what the documents reveal to, and what they hide from, their intended audiences. By the end of the semester, you will have produced an historiography paper and have a more thorough understanding of what constituted various medieval sexual histories.

You, the student, will be responsible for the following tasks:

I. Daily attendance and participation. Participation includes engaging with various in-class activities, which will include oral discussions of the reading, student-run discussion sessions, and, if necessary, taking pop quizzes.

THIS IS A READING-INTENSIVE CLASS! Please note the reading load of this class. Since the class will run entirely on student-run discussions, rather than lectures, it is vital that you come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Failure to come to class prepared will result in a less-than-enjoyable experience for all involved. From time to time, I may use pop quizzes to reward those who have prepared for class and to stimulate discussion. Therefore, my attendance policy is as follows: I allow for no more than THREE (3) non-excused absences from this class. I consider an absence excused if appropriate documentation is submitted (e.g., a doctor’s note, a document from PUSH, a mechanic’s bill, an obituary, etc.). Should you miss class, you are responsible for

covering the missed assignments. Subsequent non-excused absences from class will result in an overall failing grade. Multiple absences, although excused, may result in your receiving an "Incomplete" for a final course grade. Should that happen, you will need to meet with me before the end of the semester to establish an appropriate timetable during which you must complete all missing work. Unsuccessfully fulfilling those assigned tasks within the prescribed timetable will result in an overall failing grade for the class.

II. Student presentations. Prior to the final due date of student papers, students will have to present their research to the class. Presentations will run approximately twenty (20) minutes and will be open to questions from both the instructor and students.

III. A historiography paper. For graduate students, it must be between twenty-five and thirty (25-30) pages typed, double-spaced. For undergraduate students, it must be between fifteen and twenty (15-20) pages typed, double-spaced. It must be turned in on the last day of class, which is THURSDAY, APRIL 28, by 3:00 P.M. Late papers will be penalized an entire letter grade for each day late. I do not accept papers as email attachments. Further information about the paper will be provided as the semester progresses.

Failure to complete ALL the required components of the course will result in an overall failing grade.

Please see me during office hours, or make an appointment if you cannot make those hours, if you have any conflicts, concerns, or questions whatsoever.

Grading and Distribution:

DAILY attendance and participation:	25%
Student presentations:	25%
Historiography paper:	50%

A+: (97-100%)
A: (94-96%)
A-: (90-93%)
B+: (87-89%)
B: (84-86%)
B-: (80-83%)
C+: (77-79%)
C: (74-76%)
C-: (70-73%)

D+: (67-69%)

D: (64-66%)

D-: (60-63%)

F: (0-59%)

Need for Accommodation:

If there is anything that could affect your class participation or performance and may need accommodation, e.g., a religious holiday, disability, etc., please tell me by the second week of class so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

University Policies:

EQUALITY STATEMENT: The Affirmative Action Office works with the Purdue University community in implementing and upholding policies and practices that are consistent with federal and state mandates as well as existing University policies regarding equal access, equal employment and educational opportunity for all persons, without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status. Purdue University does not condone and will not tolerate discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran.

DISABILITY: It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me early in the semester to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. They must also contact: Adaptive Programs, Purdue University, Young Hall, Room 830, 302 Wood Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907, (765)-494-1247 V/TTY, (765)-496-3759 Fax

Be sure to fill out and submit the following form to Adaptive Programs, which you can locate at:

<http://www.purdue.edu/odos/adpro/Electronic%20dirf.doc>

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: Sexual harassment is defined in Purdue University's *Executive Memorandum C-33*:

"Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or other written, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, education, or participation in a University activity;
2. submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for, or a factor in, decisions affecting that individual's employment, education, or participation in a University activity or;

3. such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's employment or academic performance or creating an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment for that individual's employment, education, or participation in a University activity."

Sexual harassment by or toward a member of the University community is prohibited. If you have any questions or concerns about this definition, or experience any unwelcome behavior that seems to fit this description, please contact me, another faculty member, or the Sexual Harassment Advisors' Network: network@sla.purdue.edu

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [[University Regulations, Part 5, Section III, B, 2, a](#)] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]. The University's guideline for penalizing academic misconduct recommends giving a grade of "F" for a plagiarized assignment. Plagiarists and cheaters will automatically fail the course and will be immediately reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. If you are worried about committing plagiarism unknowingly, please come and speak with me.

For more on what constitutes academic integrity, please see the following site:

<http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS/administration/integrity.htm>

Course Schedule:

T, Jan. 11:

Assignment: Read Karras, pp. viii-58

R, Jan. 13:

Assignment: Read Karras, pp. 59-181

T, Jan. 18:

Assignment: Read Brundage, pp. xix-76

R, Jan. 20:

Assignment: Read Brundage, pp. 77-175

T, Jan. 25:

Assignment: Read Brundage, pp. 176-255

R, Jan. 27:

Assignment: Read Brundage, pp. 256-416

T, Feb. 1:

Assignment: Read Brundage, pp. 417-550

R, Feb. 3:

Assignment: Read Brundage, pp. 551-617

T, Feb. 8:

Assignment: Read Boswell, pp. xv-87

R, Feb. 10:

Assignment: Read Boswell, pp. 91-166

T, Feb. 15:

R, Feb. 17: NO CLASS! LIBRARY RESEARCH DAY!

Assignment: Read Boswell, pp. 169-241

T, Feb. 22:

Assignment: Read Boswell, pp. 243-332

R, Feb. 24:

Assignment: Read Boswell, pp. 333-402

- T, Mar. 1:
Assignment: Read Wiesner-Hanks, pp. vii-72
- R, Mar. 3:
Assignment: Read Wiesner-Hanks, pp. 73-227
- T, Mar. 8:
Assignment: Read Wiesner-Hanks, pp. 228-327
- R, Mar. 10:
Assignment: Read El-Rouayheb, entire.
- T, Mar. 15: SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS!
- R, Mar. 17: SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS!
Assignment: Read El-Rouayheb, entire.
- T, Mar. 22:
Assignment: Read Borris and Rousseau, pp. x-73
- R, Mar. 24:
Assignment: Read Borris and Rousseau, pp. 74-164
- T, Mar. 29:
Assignment: Read Borris and Rousseau, pp. 165-267
- R, Mar. 31:
Assignment: Read Brown, entire.
- T, Apr. 5:
- R, Apr. 7: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
- T, Apr. 12: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
- R, Apr. 14: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
- T, Apr. 19: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
- R, Apr. 21: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
- T, Apr. 26: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

R, Apr. 28: FINAL CLASS—HISTORIOGRAPHY PAPERS DUE!!!!

Disclaimer: In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Here are two ways to get information about changes in this course: via my email address: ryan6@purdue.edu and my office phone: 49-42681.