

**CS 826 RELIGION, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY
FALL 2006**

Tuesday 3:30-6:18pm, HH186

Professor Erzen

433 Hagerty Hall

Email: erzen.2@osu.edu

Office hours: Tuesday 1-3pm

Course Description:

This course explores the complicated and often vexed relationship between sexuality, gender, and religious beliefs, theologies, communities, and practices in a cross-cultural, comparative framework. The course examines religious traditions such as Judaism, Protestant Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Catholicism, and Native American traditions. However, we will discuss these traditions thematically, addressing issues such as secularism, syncretism, globalization, purity, colonialism, confession, testimony, sexual regulation and how religious beliefs reinforce specific norms of femininity and masculinity, virtue and vice. The readings will consist of scholarly historical, ethnographic, and theoretical texts on gender and sexuality.

Required Texts:

Janet Jakobsen and Ann Pellegrini, *Love the Sin: Sexual Regulation and the Limits of Religious Tolerance* (2004)

David Biale, *Eros and the Jews: From Biblical Israel to Contemporary America* (1997)

Will Roscoe, *The Zuni Man-Woman* (1992)

Arlene Stein, *The Stranger Next Door* (2006)

Aline Kalbian, *Sexing the Church: Gender, Power, and Ethics in Contemporary Catholicism* (2005)

(available at SBX Book Store 1806 North High St., Phone: (614) 291-9528 and on reserve at the Main Library)

I will post the articles on Carmen as PDFs. The sources listed under "Further Reading" are an indication of other sources available on the topics we will cover in class. They are not required reading.

Course Requirements:

A substantial portion of your final grade is your participation and engagement in class discussion. One or two seminar participants will be responsible for a presentation each week. However, instead of focusing on the readings for that week, please bring in a supplementary source that illuminates issues in the readings. This can be a primary source, speech, religious text, film clip, or related article. For example, you could bring in the Suras from the Qu'ran that are relevant to the readings on Islam. You should present that source to the class, explain how it relates to and further clarifies the readings, and bring in 4-5 questions that you think warrant further discussion.

Other requirements include a reading response every other week that engages the

readings for that week [2 pages single space, 12 point]. You will upload these responses to the Carmen website by the **Saturday** night before our seminar meeting. One of the other seminar members (who is not writing a response that week) will be responsible for writing a response to either one or all of the submissions [1 page single space, 11-12 point]. These responses will be uploaded to Carmen by the **Monday night before our seminar meeting**. Everyone will be writing something every week.

The **Final Project** may take various forms provided it relates to the theme of religion, gender, and sexuality. You may produce a research paper of approximately 20 pages, a conference paper, or a chapter for a master's thesis or dissertation.

Evaluation:

Seminar Participation:	40%
Response Papers:	20%
Peer Reading Response:	20%
Final Paper:	20%
Total Possible:	100%

Policies:

Student Conferences: You should plan to meet with me at least once during the semester to discuss your paper. However, feel free to stop by office hours or schedule an appointment if necessary. Do not send any information or requests in an email that you would not discuss with me in person.

All essays should be written in 12-point, double-spaced type, with standard margins, and pages numbered and stapled. I will not accept a paper that is not stapled. *All written work should be thoroughly proofread.* There are no extensions, and all assignments are marked down one-third of a letter grade for every late day. **After 3 days, if you have not turned in your paper, you will automatically receive a "0" for that paper. No exceptions.**

Attendance and Participation:

I expect students to be active participants in their educations. This means that each student should come to class having carefully read the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them. Because knowing how to articulate your ideas is a crucial part of the learning process, I expect you, as a member of the seminar, to contribute your own unique perspective to our discussions.

The real action of our seminar takes place in the classroom. Therefore, it is important and expected that you will be at every class session. Inevitably, an occasion may arise when you are unable to attend. Out of fairness to your classmates who do attend every class, chronic lateness and/or more than one unexcused absence will detract from your participation grade. To make up for a missed class, you may turn in a 2-page, single-spaced précis summarizing the reading for the class you missed. Finally, if you have any special needs or concerns with this course, please feel free to come and talk with me.

Student Rights and Conduct

Any student with a documented disability who may require special accommodations should identify him or herself to the instructor as early in the quarter as possible to receive effective and timely accommodations. You may also wish to contact the Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall, 292-3307).

Students are expected to know and understand the rules regarding academic misconduct, particularly the rules regarding plagiarism, as stated in the University's Code of Student Conduct. Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. All cases of plagiarism will be treated very seriously according to the University's guidelines.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Introduction to the Categories of Religion, Gender and Sexuality (Read before the first class)

Sept. 26

- Jonathon Z. Smith, "Religion, Religions, Religious"
- Russel T. McCutcheon, "Redescribing 'Religion' as Social Formation: Toward a Social Theory of Religion"
- Gayle Rubin, "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality"
- Ann Taves, "Sexuality in American Religious History"

Film: *The Education of Shelby Knox*

Week 2: Sexuality, Secularism, and Tolerance

Oct. 3

Jakobsen and Pellegrini, *Love the Sin: Sexual Regulation and the Limits of Religious Tolerance*
This worked well

Further Reading:

- Russell Shorto, "What's Their Real Problem with Gay Marriage?" *New York Times Magazine*, June 19, 2005
<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/19/magazine/19ANTIGAY.html?ex=1276833600&en=4f284be9db233e15&ei=5090&partner=rssuserland&emc=rss>
- James Dobson, "Eleven Arguments against Same-Sex Marriage"
<http://www.family.org/cforum/extras/a0032427.cfm>
- Lisa Duggan and Richard Kim, "Beyond Gay Marriage," *The Nation* (July 18, 2005)
<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20050718/kim>

Week 3: Sexuality and Religion in the Colonial Imaginary

Oct. 10

- Anne McClintock, "Genealogies of Imperialism" in *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Context*
- Kwok Pui-lan, "Gender, Colonialism, and the Study of Religion" in *Postcolonialism, Feminism and Religious Discourse*

-Hugh Urban, "'India's Darkest Heart' Kali in the Colonial Imagination," in *Encountering Kali*
-Edward Said, "Orientalism"
Assign all of Hugh's book next time or all of McClintock

Week 4: Sexuality, Gender, Purity and Resistance in Islam

Oct. 17

-Abdulwahab Bouhdiba, "Part I: The Islamic View of Sexuality" in *Sexuality in Islam*
-Carolyn Rouse, "Engaged Surrender" "Performing Gender" "Searching for Islamic Purity" in *Engaged Surrender: African American Women and Islam*
Film Clips: **I Exist: Voices from the Lesbian and Gay Middle Eastern Community In the Name of Allah** (work-in-progress) dir Parvez Sharma

Further Reading:

Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*

Week 5: Religious Syncretism and Syncretic Sexualities

Oct. 24

-Tom Strongman, "Syncretic Religions and Dissident Sexualities" in *Queer Globalizations*
-Elizabeth McAlister, "Love, Sex, and Gender Embodied: The Spirits of Haitian Vodou" in *Love, Sex, Gender in World Religions*
-Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, "Sexuality and Gender in Santeria: LGBT Identities at the Crossroads of Santeria Religious Beliefs and Practices" in *Gay Religion*
- excerpts from *Mama Lola*

Week 6: Sexuality and the Sacred Text in Judaism

Oct. 31

David Biale, *Eros and the Jews: From Biblical Israel to Contemporary America*

Further Reading:

-Stephanie Wellen Levine, *Mystics, Mavericks, and Merrymakers: An Intimate Journey Among Hasidic Girls*
-Lis Harris, *Holy Days: The World of a Hasidic Family*
-Rachel Biale, *Women and Jewish Law*

Film: *Trembling Before God*

Week 7: Sexuality and Ethnography: Two-Spirits and Beyond Sexual Binaries

Nov. 7

Will Roscoe, *The Zuni Man-Woman*

Sue-Ellen Jacobs, Wesley Thomas, and Sabine Lang, eds.,
Two-spirit People: Native American Gender Identity, Sexuality, and Spirituality
(Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1997)

Further Reading:

-Serena Nanda, "Hijiras as Neither Man nor Woman" *The Gay and Lesbian Studies Reader*

-Harriet Whitehead, "The Bow and the Burden Strap: A New Look at Institutionalized Homosexuality in Native North America" in *The Gay and Lesbian Studies Reader*

*****FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE*****

Week 8: Sexuality and Ethnography: Testimonial Sexuality and Queer Conversions

Nov. 14

Arlene Stein, *The Stranger Next Door*;

Further Reading: Dawn Moon, *God, Sex and Politics: Homosexuality and Everyday Theologies* (2004); Tanya Erzen, *Straight to Jesus: Sexual and Christian Conversions in the Ex-Gay Movement*

Film: *Fish Can't Fly, One Nation under God*,

Week 9: Telling Truths and Catholicism

Nov. 21

Aline Kalbian, *Sexing the Church: Gender, Power, and Ethics in Contemporary Catholicism*

Further Reading:

Mark Jordan, *Telling Truths in Church: Scandal, Flesh, and Christian Speech*

Film: *Twist of Faith*

Week 10: Final Presentations

Nov. 28

Final Papers due Friday Dec. 1

A Brief, Incomplete List of Related Sources (useful for final papers)

Rebecca Alpert, Like Bread on the Seder Plate: Jewish Lesbians and the Transformation of Tradition

Rachel Biale, Women and Jewish Law: An Exploration of Women's Issues in Halakhic Sources

Mary Beth Bonacci, Real Love: Answers to Your Questions on Dating, Marriage and the Real Meaning of Sex

Anita Bryant, The Anita Bryant Story: The survival of our nation's families and the threat of militant homosexuality

Lisa Sowle Cahill, Sex, Gender, and Christian Ethics

George Chauncey, Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940

George Chauncey, Why Marriage? The History Shaping Today's Debate Over Gay Equality

Gay David Comstock and Susan E. Henking, ed., Que(e)rying Religion: A Critical Anthology

Kelly Brown Douglas, Sexuality and the Black Church
Alice Domurat Dreger, Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex
Anne Fausto-Sterling, Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality
Tracy Fessenden et al, ed., The Puritan Origins of American Sex
Marla Fredericks, Between Sundays: Black Women and Everyday Struggles of Faith
David M. Friedman, A Mind of Its Own: A Cultural History of the Penis
Steve Gallagher, At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry
Germaine Greer, The Female Eunuch
Keith Hartman, Congregations in Conflict: The Battle over Homosexuality
Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz, Rereading Sex: Battles Over Sexual Knowledge and Suppression . . .
Janet Jakobsen and Ann Pellegrini, Love the Sin: Sexual Regulation and the Limits of Religious Tolerance
Mark Jordan, The Silence of Sodom: Homosexuality in Modern Catholicism
Tom and Judy Kickona, Sex, Love, and You: Making the Right Decision (Catholic)
Laura Kipnis, Bound and Gagged: Pornography and the Politics of Fantasy in America
Thomas Laqueur, Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud
Thomas Laqueur, Solitary Sex: A Cultural History of Masturbation
Josh McDowell, Why True Love Waits: A Definitive Book on How to Help Your Youth Resist Sexual Pressure
Joanne Meyerowitz, How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States
Jeffrey P. Moran, Teaching Sex: The Shaping of Adolescence in the 20th Century
Dawne Moon, God, Sex, and Politics: Homosexuality and Everyday Theologies
Anne Paulk, Restoring Sexual Identity: Hope for Women Who Struggle with Same-Sex Attraction
Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, & Sharon Thompson, ed., Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality
Scott Thumma and Edward R. Gray, ed., Gay Religion
Christopher West, Theology of the Body for Beginners: A Basic Introduction to Pope John Paul II's Sexual Revolution
Mel White, Stranger at the Gate
Melissa M. Wilcox, Coming Out In Christianity: Religion, Identity, and Community
Lauren Winner, Real Sex: The Naked Truth about Chastity