



Sexuality & Gender in the Middle Ages Universität zu Köln / Sommersemester 2010

Hauptseminar: Tuesday 2:00-3:30

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A. Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is twofold. First, participants will engage in an in-depth study of gender as a category of historical analysis in the specific context of medieval ideas about sex and sexuality. Second, students will be asked to think, speak, and write critically about both primary and secondary texts. The course should thus be of use to students preparing for content-based examinations, training to be effective and engaging teachers, and/or planning to pursue more advanced degrees in medieval history.

B. Class Participation and Written Assignments

Class Participation:

This course will be organized according to the 'Harvard Model'. This means that you will be divided into nine working groups (3-4 students per group) according to topic. Each group will have three primary tasks during the semester. For the week for which your group's theme is scheduled, you will be responsible for selecting readings, formulating study questions, and drafting a single-page 'position paper'. All of these will be posted at least one week before the class date on ILIAS. On a second week, your group will take primary charge of responding to another group's readings, questions, and position paper. Finally, your group will be responsible for producing a protocol of one course meeting, and for distributing copies of that protocol to the other course participants. Each student in the class is responsible, each week, for doing the reading. There are few things less interesting than two hours in a room with students who have not prepared for class!

A. Presentation:

Your group must select its readings TWO WEEKS before the class meeting for which your topic is scheduled. One of these readings must be a **primary source**. This source may be offered in English or German translation (Latin optional). Please be sure to make an appointment to speak with me, or come together to my office hours, at least two weeks before the date of your presentation. Your position paper must identify what you consider to be the most important **question** or **problem** that emerges from your sources. You must formulate this question clearly -- with specific references to the texts you have assigned -- and propose an answer (your **thesis**). The study questions and position paper must be ready to post to ILIAS ONE WEEK in advance. If you fail to provide these materials on time, not only will your final course participation grade be reduced, but -- even worse -- your fellow students will be annoyed! The success of the class is the responsibility of each one of the students!

B. Response:

As the scheduled responders, your group must be sure to read ALL of the materials provided by the presenting group with great care. To open the class session, you will give a 5-minute summary and response to the position paper submitted by the presenting group. The presenters will then have ten minutes to respond to your comments, followed by an open discussion among all of the students.

C. Protocol:

Your group must keep a protocol of the session to which you are assigned. You can decide within your group how to divide the work. This protocol you submit should be kept to a single page, and must be posted to ILIAS by the next class meeting.

D. General Participation

I define 'Active Participation' in the following way:

1. *Physical presence at all class meetings.* I will not give an 'aktiv Teilnahme' Schein to any student who misses more than TWO class meetings, or to any student who misses the session for which his/her group is responsible for either the Presentation or Response. No exceptions will be made without a valid doctor's note AND a written make-up assignment.
2. *Engaged and informed participation in class meetings.* This means that you have read the assigned texts, the position paper of the presenters, and taken seriously the provided discussion questions. Sending text messages, checking email, or engaging in side conversations is disrespectful. Please save these activities for before or after class, or for breaks. You will be considered absent if you arrive more than 15 minutes late or leave class more than 15 minutes before the end of the session.

Written Seminar Paper:

Students who need a 'Leistungsnachweis' must submit a 20-page written seminar paper on a topic of their choice (final deadline: 1 October 2010). This topic needn't necessarily emerge from you group's topic area.

Your paper must include the following elements:

1. A full bibliography on your topic. Please use the citation system of your choice.
2. A clear and explicitly stated research PROBLEM.
3. A clear and explicitly stated research THESIS.
4. Well-selected and convincing EVIDENCE to support this thesis.
5. Neat presentation in a standard 12-point font, double spaced throughout (including footnotes, not endnotes please), and with each page numbered.

Please plan to visit my office hours at least once during the semester to discuss your choice of topic and your progress. I do not tolerate plagiarism in any form! Be sure you document all of your sources carefully and do not 'borrow' ideas from printed sources or the Internet. You will receive a grade of 6 for any paper that contains plagiarism.

If this sounds like a lot of work -- it is! Consider carefully if this is the course for you! There is an extensive waiting list, so if you can't commit to the work, then please let me know immediately so that I can offer your seat in the class to one of these students.

C. Seminar Schedule by Group

Group 1: Penitentials & Sexuality in the Early Middle Ages

Planning Meeting: 20 April
Readings, Study Questions, and Position Paper Due: 29 April
Presentation: 4 May
Response Day: 22 June
Protocol Day: 11 May
Protocol Due: 18 May

Group 2: The Development of Sexuality as a Legal & Theological Concept

Planning Meeting: 27 April
Readings, Study Questions, and Position Paper Due: 4 May
Presentation: 11 May
Response Day: 29 June
Protocol Day: 18 May
Protocol Due: 25 May

Group 3: Sex & Marriage in the ‘Gregorian’ Age

Planning Meeting: 20 May
Readings, Study Questions, and Position Paper Due: 11 May
Presentation: 18 May
Response Day: 6 July
Protocol Day: 1 June
Protocol Due: 8 June

Group 4: Secular Models of Love & Marriage

Planning Meeting: 18 May
Readings, Study Questions, and Position Paper Due: 25 May
Presentation: 1 June
Response Day: 13 July
Protocol Day: 8 June
Protocol Due: 15 June

Group 5: Sex within Marriage: the ‘Problem’ of Sexual Pleasure and Fertility Control

Planning Meeting: 25 May
Readings, Study Questions, and Position Paper Due: 1 June
Presentation: 8 June
Response Day: 10 June
Protocol Day: 1 July
Protocol Due: 8 July

Group 6: John Boswell’s ‘Gay Subculture’ in the High Middle Ages

Planning Meeting: 1 June
Readings, Study Questions, and Position Paper Due: 8 June
Presentation: 15 June
Response Day: 11 May
Protocol Day: 22 June
Protocol Due: 29 June

Group 7: Homosexuality in the Late Middle Ages

Planning Meeting: 8 June
Readings, Study Questions, and Position Paper Due: 15 June
Presentation: 22 June
Response Day: 18 May
Protocol Day: 29 June
Protocol Due: 6 July

Group 8: Singlewomen and Lesbians: the Work of Judith Bennett

Planning Meeting: 15 June
 Readings, Study Questions, and Position Paper Due: 22 June
 Presentation: 29 June
 Response Day: 1 June
 Protocol Day: 6 July
 Protocol Due: 13 July

Group 9: Prostitution

Planning Meeting: 22 June
 Readings, Study Questions, and Position Paper Due: 29 June
 Presentation: 6 July
 Response Day: 8 June
 Protocol Day: 13 July
 Protocol Due: 20 July

Group 10: Women, Gender and Medicine in the Middle Ages

Planning Meeting: 29 June
 Readings, Study Questions, and Position Paper Due: 6 July
 Presentation: 13 July
 Response Day: 15 June
 Protocol Day: 4 May
 Protocol Due: 11 May

Summary Schedule of Topics & Group Responsibilities

Date	Topic	Presentation	Response	Protocol
13.04	Organization & Planning	Prof. Beach	NA	NA
20.04	Gender? Sex?	Prof. Beach	NA	NA
27.04	Why all the shame? What's so bad about sex? Ancient, Late Antique, and Early Christian Perspectives	Prof. Beach	NA	NA
04.05	Penitentials & Sexuality in the Early Middle Ages	Group 1	Group 5	Group 10
11.05	The Development of Sexuality as a Legal & Theological Concept	Group 2	Group 6	Group 1
18.05	Sex & Marriage in the Gregorian Age	Group 3	Group 7	Group 2
01.06	Secular Models of Love & Marriage	Group 4	Group 8	Group 3
08.06	Sex within Marriage: the 'Problem' of Sexual Pleasure and Fertility Control	Group 5	Group 9	Group 4
15.06	John Boswell's 'Gay Subculture' in the High Middle Ages	Group 6	Group 10	Group 5
22.06	Homosexuality in the Late Middle Ages	Group 7	Group 1	Group 6
29.06	Singlewomen and Lesbians: the Work of Judith Bennett	Group 8	Group 2	Group 7
06.07	Prostitution	Group 9	Group 3	Group 8
13.07	Women, Gender & Medicine in the Middle Ages	Group 10	Group 4	Group 9
20.07	Course Conclusion (Coffee)	NA	NA	NA