WS 302-4  ST. Women’s Sexualities: Social & Historical Contexts

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Monday, 9:30-1:20

The aims of the course are:
- to introduce students to a range of different ways of studying women’s sexualities in their social & historical contexts, including sexological, psychological, sociological and feminist approaches.
- to enable students to develop a critical understanding of theories of sex, sexuality and sexual identity in relation to the social, cultural and historical contexts within which they were developed
- to encourage an appreciation of the range, diversity and flexibility of women's sexualities and sexual identities across place, time and cultures.

Topics will include: Biological approaches; reproduction & contraception; sexology (the early history & key approaches); the 'sexual revolution' & the feminist critique; rethinking heterosexuality; lesbian sexuality; bisexuality & beyond; shifting sexual identities; sex & gender; intersexuality.

Required readings:
A custom courseware package will be available at the university bookstore.
The following books will be on reserve at the Bennett Library:

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
20% - 1 short (2-page) ‘reaction’ paper
20% - 1 class presentation (based on assigned readings)
20% - 2 in-class quizzes
30% - Final paper on a key issue raised in the course (topics to be agreed)
10% - Attendance and participation in class discussion

Prerequisites: Six credits in Women's Studies including WS 101 and/or WS 102.

STUDENTS WHO TOOK THIS COURSE IN FALL SEMESTER, 2002 CANNOT TAKE IT AGAIN FOR FURTHER CREDIT.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.