

POLITICS 380
Gender, Sexuality, and American Politics
Fall Semester 2004

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Office Hours: MW 12:30-2:00 p.m. and Th 12:30-2:15 p.m.[...and anytime else I'm around]

Course Goals and Format

This course is designed to be an in-depth seminar examining the role of women and gay men/lesbians as political actors in the United States. The seminar is essentially halved with the first portion focusing on the evolution of the modern women's movement and women as actors in U.S. politics and the second half examining the gay liberation movement and gay men/lesbians as political actors. Especially at the conclusion of the term, we will also focus on the differences between the movements, based on the nature of the participants, their histories, and their potential futures.

While I occasionally will offer brief historical background material at the beginning of a session, there will be no formal lectures and my verbal participation will be limited. Therefore, you must come to class prepared to engage in thoughtful conversation about what you have read for that meeting. Since the burden for the class rests, to a great degree, with you as a group, you should ask yourself the following question in your preparation: ***If I were responsible for leading the discussion today, what issues would I like to have the class consider?***

Requirements and Grading

Just as there are no lectures in this course, there are also no examinations or term papers. Instead, the evaluation of your performance in the class will be based on your overall contribution to the in-class learning experience and on a journal that you keep during the term. Some comments about these assignments:

Class participation (50% of the term grade): Most obviously, you need to attend class ready to discuss that day's assigned reading. I would advise you to make written notes before the class meeting. I will evaluate your participation not on the sheer number of words that you speak, but on the degree to which you consistently contribute to the learning experience.

Journal (50% of the term grade): I will also ask you to compile a journal of reading notes and reflections on the readings, the films we watch, and class discussions. The design of the journal should be individualized to your own style of thinking and writing, but it should be an **analytical** grappling with the materials we cover during the class meetings. Your reading notes might consist of the outline of the argument of readings, key quotations or passages, issues you want to raise for discussion, things that you see in on-going political events, in popular culture, or in your daily life that relate to the topic at hand, etc. You are expected to write a minimum of four pages each week in your journal. I do ask that you type the notes that make up your journal. I will collect one entry early in the term and the entire journal at the midpoint of the term (specifically, at **2:00 p.m., Friday, October 21**) to give you brief feedback about its content. Then, at the end of the term, I will read it thoroughly, evaluate its content, and provide you more

formal feedback. The final due date for your journal is **5:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 15**. If you have any questions about the journal please come by at any point and ask me about it!

Required Readings

Three required books for the course are available in the Hendrix College Bookstore:

1. Miriam Schneir, Feminism in Our Time: The Essential Writings, World War II to the Present
2. David Carter, Stonewall : The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution
3. Larry Kramer, The Normal Heart

A number of other readings, denoted by an *, are on reserve in Bailey Library.

Finally, some readings, denoted by a +, are available through Internet resources and should be downloaded.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

I. GENDER AND AMERICAN POLITICS

August 24: **Introduction and the First Wave of American Feminism**

Film: *One Woman, One Vote* (Note: Film will be finished at the beginning of the next class period.)

August 26-31: **Women, Equality, and Sexual Difference**

*Robert Wright, "Feminists, Meet Mr. Darwin"

Schneir, pp. 428-438

*Katha Pollitt, "Marooned on Gilligan's Island: Are Women Morally Superior to Men?"

*Wendy Kaminer, *A Fearful Freedom*, pp. 1-60

+William Saletan, "Cups, Bras, and Athletic Supporter" [<http://slate.msn.com/id/32039/>]

*Cathy Hong, "How Could Women Do That?"

*Iva Ellen Deutchman, "Feminist Theory and the Politics of Empowerment"

NOTE: No class on September 2nd.

September 7-9: **Early Years, the Growth of the Movement, and the Battle for the ERA**

Schneir, pp. 38-67, 95-102, 125-129, 175-187

*Ruth Rosen, *The World Split Open*, pp. 94-140

*Susan J. Douglas, *Where the Girls Are*, pp. 221-244

September 14: **The Politics of Reproduction**

Schneir, pp. 399-407

*Naomi Wolf, "Our Bodies, Our Souls"

*Barry Yeoman, "The Quiet War on Abortion"

*Sharon Lerner, "The Sex-Ed Divide"

September 16: **The New Right Backlash**

*Phyllis Schlafly, *The Power of the Positive Woman*, pp. 11-27

Schneir, pp. 454-468

+Lara Ricol, "Go Out and Get a Piece, Son!"

[http://www.salon.com/mwt/feature/2002/05/21/boys_and_girls/index.html]

*Christina Hoff Sommers, "The War Against Boys"

September 21: **The Politics of the Workplace and Education: Title VII, Title IX, and the Constitution**

Schneir, pp. 71-86, 382-387, 390-393

*Kaminer, pp. 91-111

+Amy Benfer, "Lost Boys"

[http://www.salon.com/mwt/feature/2002/02/05/gender_ed/index.html]

**United States v. Virginia* (1996)

*Jeffrey Rosen, "Like Race, Like Gender"

September 23: Sexual Harassment and the Limitations of Law

*Daphne Patai, Heterophobia, pp. 129-161

*Jeffrey Rosen, "Fall of Private Man"

+Debra Dickerson, "Too Sexy for My Shirt,"

[<http://www.salon.com/news/feature/1999/05/21/harassment/index.html>]

*Cynthia Gorney, "Teaching Johnny the Appropriate Way to Flirt"

+Naomi Wolf, "The Silent Treatment"

[http://www.newyorkmetro.com/nymetro/news/features/n_9932/index.html]

*David Brooks, "The Return of the Pig"

September 28: The Politics of Pornography

Schneir, pp. 419-427

*Catharine MacKinnon, Only Words, pp. 1-41

*Nadine Strossen, Defending Pornography, pp. 141-160

*Susie Bright, "The Prime of Miss Catharine MacKinnon"

September 30: The Gender Gap in Participation and Voting

*Patricia Gurin, "Women's Gender Consciousness"

*Linda Witt, et al., Running as a Woman, pp. 153-180

*Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Erika Falk, and Susan Sherr, "The Enthymeme Gap in the 1996 Presidential Campaign"

*Gail Collins, "Wooing the Women"

*Anna Greenberg, "Race, Religiosity, and the Women's Vote"

[http://www.greenbergresearch.com/publications/articles/a_racereligiosity_2001.pdf]

October 5-7: Women as Candidates (and First Ladies)

*Clara Bingham, Women on the Hill, pp. 28-47

*Richard L. Fox and Jennifer L. Lawless, "Entering the Arena? Gender and the Decision to Run for Office"

*Mark Stephen Leeper, "The Impact of Prejudice on Female Candidates"

*Shauna Shames, "The 'Un-Candidates': Gender and Outsider Signals in Women's Political Advertisements"

*Jonathan Cohn, "Gender Bender"

*Kim Fridkin Kahn, "The Distorted Mirror: Press Coverage of Women Candidates for Statewide Office"

*Sarah Wildman, "Portrait of a Lady"

October 12: Women in Office: The Role of Maternal Thinking?

*Madeleine Kunin, Living a Political Life, pp. 3-34, 194-285, 346-396

*Hanna Rosin, "Invasion of the Church Ladies"

*Jay Barth and Margaret Ferguson, "Gender and Gubernatorial Personality"

*Jeffrey Toobin, "Women in Black"

NOTE: No class on October 14 [Fall Break]

II. SEXUALITY AND AMERICAN POLITICS

October 19: **Begin Gay Theory: The Essentialist/Constructionist Debate**

*John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity"

*Jonathan Ned Katz, The Invention of Heterosexuality, pp. 1-18, 83-112, 167-196

*Caleb Crain, "Did a Germ Make You Gay?"

*Laura Sessions Stepp, "Partway Gay?"

+Barry Yeoman, "Into the Closet"

[<http://www.salon.com/health/feature/2000/05/22/exgay/index.html>]

*Benoit Denizet-Lewis, "Double Lives on the Down Low"

October 21: **Before Stonewall**

Film: *Before Stonewall* [Note: Movie will run long; it will be on reserve if you cannot stay.]

*Lillian Faderman, Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers, pp. 118-138, 159-187

October 23: **Complete Gay Theory: The Essentialist/Constructionist Debate**

October 26-28: **Stonewall: Reality and Myth**

Carter, all

*Caleb Crain, "Pleasure Principles"

November 2: **The First Steps into the Mainstream**

Film: *The Life and Times of Harvey Milk* [Note: Movie will run long; it will be on reserve if you cannot stay.]

*Dudley Clendinen and Adam Nagourney, Out for Good, pp. 174-224

November 4: **The New Right Reaction: What Explains Homophobia?**

*Martin Duberman, "The Anita Bryant Brigade"

*Chris Bull and John Gallagher, Perfect Enemies, pp. 1-38

*Alan Wolfe, "The Homosexual Exception"

*Paul R. Brewer, "The Shifting Foundations of Public Opinion about Gay Rights"

+Jonathan Rauch, "Pink Pistols"

[<http://dir.salon.com/news/feature/2000/03/14/pistol/index.html>]

November 9-11: **The AIDS Crisis**

Kramer, all

*Jesse Green, "When Political Art Mattered"

*Michelangelo Signorile, Life Outside, pp. 75-132

*Hanna Rosin, "The Homecoming"

+David Horowitz, "The Plague Abettors"

[<http://www.salon.com/news/col/horo/2001/06/11/aids/index.html>]

November 16: **The Bowers Decision and the Rejuvenation/Radicalization of the Movement**

**Bowers v. Hardwick* (1986)

*Barry D. Adam, The Rise of a Gay and Lesbian Movement, pp. 145-164

*Frank Browning, The Culture of Desire, pp. 26-54

*John D'Emilio, "You Can't Build a Movement on Anger"

November 18: **Contemporary Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Issues: Romer v. Evans, Lawrence v. Texas, the Boy Scouts, and Employment**

*Joyce Murdoch and Deb Price, Courting Justice, pp. 451-516

*David Frum, "Suspect Jurisprudence"

**Lawrence v. Texas*

*Dan Savage, "Fired for Being Gay?"

*Stuart Taylor, Jr., "Boy Scouts Should Admit Gays--But Not by Fiat"

*Nathaniel Frank, "Why We Need Gays in the Military"

November 23: **Contemporary Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Issues: Civil Unions and Same-Sex**

Marriage

*David J. Garrow, "Toward a More Perfect Union"

*Richard A. Posner, "Wedding Bell Blues"

+Stanley Kurtz, "The Marriage Mentality"

[<http://www.nationalreview.com/kurtz/kurtz200405040841.asp>]

*Jonathan Rauch, Gay Marriage : Why It Is Good for Gays, Good for Straights, and Good for America,

pp. 25-54

+Michael Bronski, "Over the Rainbow"

[http://www.bostonphoenix.com/boston/news_features/other_stories/multi-page/documents/03056855.asp]

NOTE: No class, November 25th (Thanksgiving)

November 30-December 2: **Gay Voters, Gay Candidates, and Gay Officeholders**

*Gregory B. Lewis and Marc A. Rogers, "Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Voters in Presidential Elections, 1988-2000"

*Michael Sokolove, "Can This Marriage Be Saved?"

+Paul Festa, "As Long As He Doesn't Sound Gay"

[<http://www.salon.com/news/feature/1999/12/16/sanfrancisco/index.html>]

*Jim Schroeder, "The Boys in the Band"

*J. Jennings Moss, "Barbara Jordan: The Other Life"

*Mary Jacoby, "The Outing of Congress"

December 14th (2:00 p.m.): **Competing Strategies for the Gay Rights Movement as a New Century Begins**

+Andrew Sullivan, "The Politics of Homosexuality" [<http://hem.passagen.se/nicb/sull.htm>]

*Michelangelo Signorile, Queer in America, pp. xiii-xix, 69-93, 147-164, 363-368

+Christopher Ott, "We're Here, We're Queer, I'm Sick of It"

[<http://www.salon.com/news/feature/1999/06/30/pride>]

+Richard Goldstein, "Fighting the Gay Right,"

[<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20020701&s=goldstein&c=1>]

*Shawn Zeller, "Marching On, But Apart"

*Karla Scoon Reid, "School Pride"