HI234: Topographies of Sex

Modules: Methods in Historiography, Historical Studies
Fall Term 2015
Instructor: James Harker
Wednesday 13:50-15:00, Friday 9:00-10:30
j.harker@berlin.bard.edu
Office hours: Thursday 10:30-12:30

Course Description

From its 19th century reputation for licentiousness to former mayor Klaus Wowereit’s famous claim in 2003 that the city is “poor but sexy,” Berlin has long been closely associated with sex. This course surveys an intellectual and cultural history of sex, with Berlin as our immediate context and frequent object of study. Our primary sources will be literature, film and art often centering on Berlin, as well as key texts from the “modern” sciences of sexology, psychology, and psychoanalysis, all of which show the emergence of sex as an object of scientific knowledge. We will focus in particular on the “invention” of sexual orientation, pioneering research on transsexuality, and the medicalization of sexual behavior. We will read histories of sex and sexuality (our “secondary” sources) as well as works addressing the theoretical problems of historiography. Throughout the course we will return to two figures frequently reconceived and re-interpreted both theoretically and within the context of Berlin’s evolving landscape: the homosexual and the prostitute. The course will conclude by addressing some of the cultural issues that face contemporary Berlin, including the management of its reputation, the problems of sex trafficking, the growth of tourism, and the threat of encroaching gentrification.

Requirements

Attendance
Attendance at all sessions of the course is required. After two absences for any reason (including minor health issues, unavoidable travel, appointments, etc.), the participation grade will be lowered one step (i.e. from A- to B+) per absence.

In accordance with the Student Handbook, a failing grade for the course will be given if absences reach 30% of the course meetings.

Arriving late to class will count as ½ of an absence.

Assessment
Assessment will be based on three papers, one presentation and seminar participation. All requirements must be completed in order to pass the course.
Writing Assignments
Three essays are required: a Midterm Essay, a Final Essay, and a Source Report. The Midterm Essay and Final Essay are each 2000-3000 words. The Source Report is 1000 words.

Presentations
Each participant will give a presentation on an additional source at some point during the semester. These presentations should be about 10-15 minutes and should include a one-page handout. The presentation will then be written up as the Source Report.

Participation
A grade will be given for participation in seminar, which includes attendance and contributions to discussion.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers
All written work must be submitted electronically and on time.

As specified in the Student Handbook, essays that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). The instructor is not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where the instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Grade Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Essay (2000-3000 words)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay (2000-3000 words)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Source Report (1000 words)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation (including 1-page handout)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Required Texts
You will need to acquire the following books:

A Woman in Berlin. Anonymous. 1844087972

Sources marked “on reserve” can be found on the reserve shelf for the course in the library.

Sources marked “electronic reserve” are available electronically in the Drive folder for the course.
Schedule

Week 1: Modern Sexualities

Wednesday, September 2
Introduction: Sex, Sexuality, and History

Friday, September 4

Further Sources:
Christopher Isherwood. Christopher and His Kind. (on reserve)
Cabaret (Fosse 1972) (in library)

Week 2: The History of Sex/The History of Sexuality

Wednesday, September 9

Friday, September 11

Further Sources:

Week 3: The Origins of the Modern Science of Sex—Krafft-Ebing and Ellis

Wednesday, September 16
Recommended: Case Studies on intervening pages

Friday, September 18

Further Sources:
Week 4: Magnus Hirschfeld and the Institute for Sexual Research

Wednesday, September 23

Friday, September 25

Further Sources:
*Anders als die Andern* (Oswald 1919) (available on Youtube)

Week 5: From Sexology to Psychoanalysis

Wednesday, September 30

Friday, October 2

Week 6: Michel Foucault

Wednesday, October 7

Friday, October 9

Further Sources

Week 7: Michel Foucault

Wednesday, October 14

Friday, October 16

Spring Break
**Week 8: Foucaultian Legacies**

Wednesday, October 28  

Friday, October 30  
David Halperin. “Forgetting Foucault.” *How to do the History of Homosexuality*. 24-47. (electronic reserve)

**Week 9: Weimar sexual culture**

Wednesday, November 4  
Mel Gordon. *Voluptuous Panic: The Erotic World of Weimar Berlin*. (excerpts on electronic reserve, full text on reserve)

Friday, November 6  
Museum visit

Further Sources: 
Karl Toepfer. *Empire of Ecstasy: Nudity and Movement in German Body Culture, 1910-1935*. (on reserve)

**Week 10: Sexuality and the Third Reich**

Wednesday, November 11  
Olympia (Leni Riefensthal 1938)  
Susan Sontag. “Fascinating Fascism” (electronic reserve)

Friday, November 13  

Further Sources: 
*Paragraph 175* (Robert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, 2000)  

**Week 11: The Aftermath of WWII**

Wednesday, November 18  

Friday, November 20  

Further Sources:  
Week 12:

Wednesday, November 25

Friday, November 27

Further Sources:
*The Marriage of Maria Braun* (Rainer Werner Fassbinder, 1978)

Week 13: Revolutions, Sexual and Political

Wednesday, December 2

Friday, December 4

Further Sources:
*It is not the Homosexual Who is Perverse, But the Society in Which He Lives.* (Rosa von Praunheim, 1971) (in library)

Week 14: Berlin Today

Wednesday, December 9

Welcome
*Reflections*


Friday, December 11
Conclusion
Further Sources:

**Essay Deadlines**


Final Essay Deadline: Wednesday, December 16 at 23:59.

Individual Deadlines for Source Report.