

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Department of Political Science  
Dalhousie University

**POLI 3427: The Sexualization of Western Political Thought:  
Sex, Race and Power**

**Class Time: Monday 2:30-5:30**  
**Location: LSC C240**

**Professor: Dr. Margaret Denike**  
**Office: Henry Hicks 362**  
**Office Hrs: Monday 12:30-2:00 and Thursday 11:00-12:30, or by appointment**  
**Email: [m.denike@dal.ca](mailto:m.denike@dal.ca) (Please use this address, and NOT the one BLS, for any correspondence).**  
**Phone: (902) 494-6298**

### Course Description:

This course will address the emergence and the impact of what remains among the most spectacular themes and analytic frameworks of contemporary social, political, and cultural theory: sex, sexuality, and sexual difference. Beginning with the work of Michel Foucault's *History of Sexuality* and its genealogical approach, we will look at ways in which questions of sex and gender politics have been taken up in contemporary political, legal and philosophical discourses and practices. We will also examine applications of Foucault's analysis of power, and particularly that of biopolitics, in different contexts on a range of contemporary issues.

The course will also look at the impact of feminism, anti-racism, and civil rights activism, in the rise of identity politics and human rights approaches within political theory, and critical literature on the representations of sexual and racial difference within mainstream western political thought.

Throughout the course, we will elucidate selected themes and issues that touch on sexual politics, such as slavery, same-sex marriage, obscenity, and polygamy, to highlight their developments and shifting configurations in western thought, and their role in shaping current political debates on the subject.

### Evaluation Profile:

Essay 1 (2200 words max, excluding bibliography):	30%	Due Oct. 7
Essay 2 (2200 words max):	30%	Due Nov. 4
Test	40%	Nov. 25

## **Grading Profile**

90-100 = A+	77-79.9 = B+	65-69.9 = C+	50-55.9 = D
85-89.9 = A	73-76.9 = B	59-61.9 = C	50 > F
80-84.9 = A-	70-72.9 = B-	56-58.9 = C	

## **Participation:**

The preparation and participation of each and every student in the class discussions will determine the success of the course. Students are expected to attend every class, and to have completed the readings and given themselves time to think about them in advance of each class.

## **Overview of Assignments:**

All written submissions are to be submitted electronically as a MSWord attachment to the TA for the course, at the email address to be provided by the second week of classes. Your essays need to be double-spaced, typed in black ink, with one-inch margins, regular (12-point) font, number pages, and they are to include a title and the identifying information of the student, course, and instructor on the title page. They are to be properly documented using either APA, MLA, or Chicago style guidelines, and in keeping with these style guidelines, they must have precise page numbers for all references and quotations; must include the proper use of quotations for any phrases or sentences taken from any other source, and they must include a properly formatted bibliography.

Essays must follow the specific guidelines for them, answering or addressing the question assigned for it, and using the materials set out on the syllabus for the course (though students are most welcome to use additional readings as well, particularly scholarly publications, including peer-reviewed journals that are available through the library databases.

Essays that do not abide by the assigned guidelines will not be accepted.

## **Assignment 1: Elucidating and Applying Foucault and/or biopolitics**

**Maximum 2200 words, excluding bibliography**

**\*\*\*Essays are to be submitted electronically, by email, as a MSWord attachment to Kristian Rafuse (Kristian.rafuse@dal.ca). To avoid any late penalties or miscommunications, you are required to have Kristian confirm that he has received your essay. \*\*\*\*\***

**Additional instructions and essay guidelines are posted below (ie under the Essay 2 Instructions, and are also provided in the Syllabus file on BLS).**

This course has been launched through a reading and application of Michel Foucault's analytics of power and sex, and particularly through a consideration and application of his approach to genealogy and to biopolitics. In a carefully organized (structured and developed) essay, demonstrate your understanding of the significance of his approach to one of the topics covered in the *History of Sexuality* (or, if you like, *Discipline and Punish*), such as power, pleasure, science, truth, sex, punishment, or modern institutions.

In choosing the concept or topic from Foucault's work, you are expected to use primary sources (i.e., *his* writing and/or public lectures, and specifically those listed on the syllabus for this course) rather than a secondary source or other author that summarizes them), although you are certainly welcome to supplement your work with such additional resources.

**Whether you use additional resources that are not part of this course, you are required to draw on a wide variety (a minimum of 4) of the readings listed on the syllabus in developing your discussion. Consider this requirement to be one of the creative challenges of the assignment: relating Foucault to the work of other authors, or to other topics covered in the class that may or may not necessarily speak of him.**

You are required to properly document your essays according to either APA, Chicago, or MLA guidelines (which are available on line and at the writing centre). This means, among other things, that all quotations and direct summaries from a text or article must include a properly formatted citation, **with a precise page number**) and proper corresponding bibliographic reference. Perhaps because it is among the most simple and clear formats, I recommend using the Chicago author/date system.

*See below for additional essay objectives.*

## **Assignment 2: Issues in Sexuality Studies/Gender and Political Theory**

### **Maximum 2200 words, excluding bibliography**

Choose a very specific topic, issue or question that is addressed in one or more of the readings for this course. You are asked to demonstrate your understanding of this issue (eg., a leading question or central debate on any topic of your choice, or a passing question flagged by one of the authors); clarify the debates around it and/or the analyses or critiques that have been or could be brought to the subject and/or clarify the differences between authors or disciplines or fields on it; and conclude with a consideration of the implications for contemporary political theory or public policy.

You are always encouraged to supplement the course resources with additional research materials or scholarly journals, etc., **but you are expected to engage with the course materials, (a minimum of 4) and/or show your mastery of them** in your discussion of the author or issue that you choose.

Papers that do not meet the guidelines will not be accepted.

### **Assignment Objectives**

The general objectives of these assignments are as follows:

- a) Concerning comprehension, breadth of the materials that you cover, and accuracy of content. One objective of these assignments is for you to demonstrate your understanding and thoughtful analysis of a wide selection of the readings that are listed on the syllabus for this course. It is also designed to assist you in developing and/or demonstrating the skills and practices of clearly and accurately representing, documenting, contextualizing, and contrasting the ideas and arguments of other writers on a given topic.
- b) Concerning style: Another objective is for you to demonstrate your ability to develop and properly document a coherent argument in academic essay format, with attention to a clear introduction or outline; relevant paragraph development, and accurate referencing and citations.
- c) Concerning method/approach. Another specific objective of this assignment is for you to demonstrate your understanding and appropriate application of the theoretical framework or context of your selected topic, author, or field in social and political thought.

### **Test Nov. 25**

This test will be held in-class and will be comprised of up to 12 short-answer questions that will evaluate your understanding (and ability to apply) the work of the authors listed among required readings for this course and those discussed in class. It will cover the readings up to the end of October (i.e., two weeks beyond the date of the test, so you are asked to read ahead for two weeks to be able to integrate their arguments into your answers).

At the very outset of the course, you are encouraged to begin to review (and to begin taking notes on) all the materials covered as requirements for the course, both to ensure that your essays are informed by what is covered within them, and to prepare for the test, which will grant you an opportunity to demonstrate to summarize and apply them.

### **General policies concerning assignments and deadlines**

The University Calendar makes plain that “[s]tudents are expected to complete class work by the prescribed deadlines. Only in special circumstances (e.g. the death of a close relative) may an instructor extend such deadlines.” In such circumstances, your instructor needs to be notified, and a request for an extension needs to be approved *in advance* of the deadline. Late assignments may be assessed a penalty of 3% per day.

Plagiarism (intentionally or unintentionally misrepresenting other people's ideas as your own, or failing to provide proper quotations and page citations for any material that is taken from elsewhere) is a serious violation of academic ethics, and will be taken very seriously in this class. Information on what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, and the penalties for failing to do so, are available at: <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/>. Plagiarized work will automatically be assigned an "F".

Students are expected to carefully read the academic regulations in the University Calendar, and to make sure that they understand those which might pertain to them. In order to be fair to all students, all of the University's regulations, and all of the course policies outlined above, will be strictly enforced.

### **Weekly Topics and Readings**

#### **1. Sept. 9**

##### **Introductions and Overview**

#### **2. Sept. 16**

##### **Michel Foucault: History and the Appearance of 'Sexuality' Foucault on Power and Genealogical Inquiry**

- Michel Foucault, "The Gay Science" [197?]. Interview with Jean L. Bitoux. Translated by Nicolae Morar and Daniel W. Smith. Reprinted in *Critical Inquiry* 37 (Spring 2011) pp. 385-403. **(use your library access for this ejournal article)**
- Michel Foucault, Part I: "We Other Victorians," *History of Sexuality: An Introduction*. Trans. Robert Hurley, NY: Vintage, 1990. pp. 3-13
- Michel Foucault, Part II, "Scientia Sexualis," *History of Sexuality*, pp. 17-49.

*Additional recommendations and suggested resource, especially for your papers:*

- Michel Foucault, Part III, "The Repressive Hypothesis," *History of Sexuality*, pp. 53-73.
- Michel Foucault, ed. *I, Pierre Rivierre, having slaughtered my mother, my sister, and by brother: A Case of parricide in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*. Trans. Frank Jellinek. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1975.
- Michel Foucault. *Discipline and Punish*.
- Michel Foucault, *Society Must Be Defended*.
- Michel Foucault, *Herculine Barbin, Being the Recently Discovered Memoirs of a Nineteenth Century Hermaphrodite*. Trans. Richard MacDougall. NY: Pantheon, 1980. Pp. Vii-xvii.
- Michel Foucault, Lectures from "7 January 1976," in Mauro Bertani and Alessandro Fontano, eds, '*Society Must Be Defended*': *Lectures at the College de France 1975-1976*. Translated by David Macey. NY: Picador, pp. 1-19. *(on genealogical method)*

#### **3. Sept. 23**

##### **Thinking with Foucault: Sex and Biopolitics**

## Sexual Regulation and the Politics of Life and Death

- Michel Foucault, (2003 [1976]), Lecture from “17 March 1976,” in Mauro Bertani and Alessandro Fontano, eds., *‘Society Must Be Defended’: Lectures at the College de France 1975-1976*. Translated by David Macey. NY: Picador, pp. 239-264. (*biopower and race war*)
- Thomas Lemke, “The Government of Living Beings: Michel Foucault” in *Biopolitics*. N.Y.: New York University Press, 2011, pp. 33-52
- Ladelle McWhorter, Chapter 1, “Racism, Race, Race War,” *Racism and Sexual Oppression in Anglo-America: A Genealogy*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009, pp.17-62

### *Additional resources:*

- Michel Foucault (2003 [1976]), Lectures from “14 January 1976,” in Mauro Bertani and Alessandro Fontano, eds., *‘Society Must Be Defended’: Lectures at the College de France 1975-1976*. Translated by David Macey. NY: Picador, pp. 23-41 (*on the emergence of new modes of power; normalizing society*)
- Paul Rabinow and Nikolas Rose, “Biopower Today” *Biosocieties* (2006) pp. 195-217 (**use your library access for this ejournal article**)
- Ladelle McWhorter, Chapter 2: “A Genealogy of Modern Racism, Part 1: The White Man Cometh,” *Racism and Sexual Oppression in Anglo-America: A Genealogy*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009, pp. 63-96.
- Ann Laura Stoler, *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault’s History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1995 (a recommended text re: applications of Foucault’s genealogy)
- Iris Marion Young, "Punishment, Treatment, Empowerment: Three Approaches to Policy for Pregnant Addicts" *Feminist Studies*, 20: 1 (Spring 1994) 33-57. (**use your library access for this ejournal article**). Perhaps available through Periodicals Archive Online at:  
<http://pao.chadwyck.com/articles/results.do?jsessionid=E1996C4E11885145F72007A46A5C8247?QueryType=articles>

## 4. Sept. 30

### **Western Feminism and Gender Analysis: Discourses of Identity, Difference and Oppression**

- MaryWollstonecraft, *Vindication*, Introduction, Ch. 1-2 (pp. 1-25). Available electronically through *Early Modern Texts* at <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/wollston.pdf>
- Shana L. Calixte, Jennifer L. Johnson, and Maki Motapanyane, “Liberal, Socialist, and Radical Feminism: An Introduction to Three Theories About Women’s Oppression and Social Change,” in Nancy Mandell, ed. *Feminist Issues: Race, Class and Sexuality*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto: Pearson Canada, 2010, pp. 1-39.

- Judith Butler, “Introduction,” *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of ‘Sex’*: NY: Routledge, 1993, pp. 1-26.

*Additional references:*

- Raimunda Reece, “Feminist Theorizing on race and Racism,” in Nancy Mandell, ed. *Feminist Issues: Race, Class and Sexuality*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto: Pearson Canada, 2010, pp. 87-109.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Emile* is available as an electronic text through Project Gutenberg at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext04/emile10.txt>
- John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women* (1870), Chap. 1 (pp. 1-16) and Chapter 2 (pp. 53-91) This book is available in electronic format at Project Gutenberg at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/27083/27083-h/27083-h.htm>
- Val Plumwood, *Environmental Culture: The Ecological Crisis of Reason*. New York: Routledge, 2002. Introduction (pp. 1-12) and half of Ch. 1. (pp. 13-22).
- Mary Lyndon Shanley, “Marital Slavery and Friendship: John Stuart Mill’s *The Subjection of Women*,” *Political Theory* Vol. 9 no. 2. (May 1981) pp. 229-247. **(use your library access for this ejournal article)** (otherwise available in Joseph Losco and Leonard Williams, eds. *Political Theory: Classic Writings and Contemporary Views*. NY: St. Martin’s Press, 1992, pp. 543-556.) Available at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/190714.pdf?acceptTC=true>
- Costas Douzinas, “Revolutions and Declarations: The Rights of Men, Citizens and a Few Others,” in his book, *The End of Human Rights*. Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2000. pp. 85-108.
- Susan Mendus, “Feminist Political Philosophy,” (including all seven entries from the scope of feminist political philosophy to recent developments) *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, available at: <http://www.rep.routledge.com/article/S025>
- Cass R. Sunstein, Introduction: Notes on Feminist Political Thought. *Ethics*, vol 99, No. 2 (Jan. 1989) pp. 219-228. **(use your library access for this ejournal article)**<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2381432.pdf?acceptTC=true>

## 5. Oct. 7

### **Sexual Politics and the Limits of Sexual Morality**

#### **The Turn to Sex in Feminist Debates**

- Rubin, G. (1984/1992). Thinking sex: Notes for a radical theory of the politics of sexuality. In C. S. Vance (Ed.), *Pleasure and danger: Exploring female sexuality* (pp. 267-293). London: Pandora. Reprinted in *The Gay and Lesbian Studies Reader*, pp. 3-44.
- Heather Love, “Introduction,” *GLQ* 17:1, pp. 1-14. **(use your library access for this ejournal article)**
- Catherine Mackinnon, “Does Sexuality Have a History” from ed. Domna Stanton, *Discourses on Sexuality*. Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 1992, pp. 117-136.

*Additional recommended resources:*

- Rubin, G. "Blood Under the Bridge: Reflections on 'Thinking Sex,'" *GLQ* 17: 1, pp. 15-48. **(use your library access for this ejournal article)**.
- Catherine MacKinnon, *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*
- Catherine MacKinnon, "Sexuality" (essay)

**6. Oct. 14 Thanksgiving**

**7. Oct. 21**

**Sexual Morality, Law and Politics**

- Jonathan Haidt and Matthew E. Hersch, "Sexual Morality: The Politics and Emotions of Conservatives and Liberals," *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* 30:1 (2001), pp. 191-221. **(use your library access for this ejournal article)**
- Dworkin, Ronald. "Lord Devlin and the Enforcement of Morals" (1965) 75 Yale LJ 986 Available at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/794893.pdf?acceptTC=true>
- Martha Nussbaum, Chapter 1, *From Disgust to Humanity*

*Additional Resources:*

- Ann L. Stoler, "Making Empire Respectable: the Politics of Race and Sexual Morality in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Colonial Cultures," *American Ethnologist* 16:4, pp. 634-660 **(use your library access for this ejournal article)**
- Devlin, Patrick *The Enforcement of Morals* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965)
- Mary Anne Case, "A Lot to Ask: A Review Essay of Martha Nussbaum's *From Disgust to Humanity: Sexual Orientation and Constitutional Law*," *Columbia Journal of Gender and the Law* 19:1, pp. 89-124. **(use your library access for this ejournal article)** Available at: <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/files/file/313-mac-nussbaum.pdf>
- Martha Nussbaum on the Politics of Disgust: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWCE\\_b\\_8ZIM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWCE_b_8ZIM)

**8. Oct. 28**

**Re-visiting and Re-Thinking Political Thought**

- Robert Bernasconi and Anika Maaza Mann, "The Contradictions of Racism: Locke, Slavery, and the *Two Treatises*," in *Race and Racism in Modern Philosophy*, ed. Andrew Valls, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005, pp. 89-107.
- Carole Pateman, "Contracting In" in *The Sexual Contract*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1988, pp. 1-18.
- Charles Mills, "Overview" in *The Racial Contract*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997, pp. 9-40.
- Carole Pateman and Charles Mills, "Contract and Social Change," in *Contract and Domination*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007, pp. 10-34.

*Additional References:*

- Mary Lyndon Shanley, “Marriage Contract and Social Contract in Seventeenth-Century English Political Thought,” in Jean Bethke Elshtain, *The Family in Political Thought*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1982, pp. 80-95 (Consider the role of analogy, particularly in Locke’s *Second Treatise*).
- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* is available as an electronic text through Project Gutenberg at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/7370/7370-h/7370-h.htm>
- Genevieve Lloyd, “The Man of Reason,” in Ann Garry and Marilyn Pearsall, *Woman, Knowledge and Reality: Explorations in Feminist Philosophy*. NY: Routledge, 1992, pp. 111-128. (available in PDF at BLS)
  
- James Brundage, “Sex and Law in Judaism and early Christianity” in *Law, Sex, and Christian Society in Medieval Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987. Pp. 51-75. (for comprehensive overview of the emergent religious context of this period),

**9. Nov. 4**

**Queer Theory: Contesting the Normative**

- David Halperin. 2000. “How to do the History of Male Homosexuality,” *GLQ* 6:1
- John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality*. Chicago University of Chicago Press, 1980, pp. 41-59
- Michael Warner. (2012, January 1). Queer and Then. The Chronicle of Higher Education. <http://chronicle.com/article/QueerThen-/130161/>
- David Eng, Jose Munoz, and Judith Halberstam. 2005. “Introduction: What’s Queer about Queer Studies Now,?” *Social Text* 23 (Fall-Winter), pp. 1-17
- Heather Love. 2011. “Queers \_\_\_\_\_ This,” in Janet Halley and Andrew Parker, eds., *After Sex? On Writing Since Queer Theory*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 180-191.

*Additional Resources:*

- William Benjamin Turner, “Introduction,” *A Genealogy of Queer Theory*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2000, pp. 1-35. [available on google books with some pages missing.
- Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. (1990). *Epistemology of the Closet*, introductory chapter reprinted in *The Gay and Lesbian Studies Reader*, pp. 45- 61.
- Adrienne Rich,. [1982]“Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence,” in *The Gay and Lesbian Studies Reader*, pp. 227-254.
- de Lauretis, Teresa (1991) 'Queer Theory: Lesbian and Gay Sexualities', *differences: a Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 3, 2, pp. iii-xviii
- Judith Butler. “Imitation and Gender Subordination” [1991]. Reprinted in *The Gay and Lesbian Studies Reader*, pp. 307-320.

- Eldeman, Lee (1995) 'Queer Theory: Unstating Desire', *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 2, 4, pp. 343-6
- Anna Maria Jagose, "Queer Theory". *Australian Humanities Review*. Extracted from her book, *Queer Theory* (1996). (1 page) . Available at: <http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org/archive/Issue-Dec-1996/jagose.html>

## **10. Nov. 11 Remembrance Day**

## **11. Nov. 18**

### **Gilles Deleuze, New Materialism, and Sex**

- Tim Dean, "The Biopolitic of Pleasure," *South Atlantic Quarterly* 111: 3 (2012), 477-496. **(use your library access for this ejournal article)**
- Deleuze and Guatari, *The Logic of Sense* (selections).
- Chrysanthi Nigianni. 2009. "Introduction: ... so as to know 'us' better: Deleuze and Queer Theory," in Chrysanthi Nigianni and Meri Storr, eds., *Deleuze and Queer Theory*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 1-10.
- Claire Colebrook, "On the Very Possibility of Queer Theory," in Chrysanthi Nigianni and Meri Storr, eds., *Deleuze and Queer Theory*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 11-23
- Frida Beckman, "What is Sex? An Introduction to the Sexual Philosophy of Gilles Deleuze," in *Deleuze and Sex*. Edinburgh University Press, 2011, pp. 1-29

## **12. Nov. 25**

Test (Up to and including Nov. 18).

## **13. Dec. 2**

### **Queer Theory Now**

Panel of Presentations on the Contemporary Queer Theory