COURSE DESCRIPTION: Today sex is everywhere. Popular magazines tell women what to do to please men sexually, and they provide men with a map of women’s erogenous zones; the media reports the sexual misconduct of presidents, sometimes implying that national security depends on matrimonial morality; and psychoanalysis claims that our true self can be discovered in the depths of our repressed sexual desires. This lecture course offers a survey of influential and representative texts written on the topic of human sex. A deceptively simple question runs throughout the course: is sexuality historical? Many books written and courses offered on the history of sexuality are in fact histories of the changing contexts within which sexuality was supposedly located at different times. The central argument of this course is that sexuality itself is historical, that it emerged in the nineteenth century and that it might be in the process of disappearing. In order to make visible the historicity of sexuality, this course focuses on the different ways sex has been regulated in the Western tradition, from ancient Greece until the present.

EVALUATION METHOD: There are five requirements, each worth 20% of the final grade:
1) One-paragraph summary and/or commentary for each class reading, due by 9:00 a.m. on the day of class. If your name begins with a letter from A to K, send your paragraph to aa2367@columbia.edu; if it begins with a letter from L to Z, send it to eln2111@columbia.edu. You can miss two of these summaries/commentaries, which means that throughout the semester you must send a total of 20 of them (each one being worth 1%).
2) First exam (February 19).
3) Second exam (March 27).
4) Third exam (May 1).
5) Eight-page research paper due on May 9, sent by email both to ps2403@columbia.edu and to the same TA to whom you sent your one-paragraph summaries throughout the semester.

TEXTS
The following books have been ordered at Book Culture (formerly Labyrinth Books):
1) Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*
2) Sigmund Freud, *Dora: An Analysis of a Case of Hysteria*
3) Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, vol. 1: An Introduction*
All the other texts are available online on Courseworks, in the “Shared Files” folder.
January 22: Introduction: How to Do the History of Sexuality

January 24: Sex in Antiquity: the Active/Passive Grid
Readings
David M. Halperin, “Is There a History of Sexuality?”
Holt Parker, “The Teratogenic Grid”

January 29: The Flesh (I)
Readings
Paul, “1 Corinthians 7”
- St. Paul (c.3-c.64), perhaps more than anyone else, defined Christian spirituality.
Augustine, *City of God*, Book XIV, chapters 1-6 and 11-28
- St. Augustine (354 – 430) is one of the most important Christian Philosophers, well known for his *Confessions*. In 391 he became bishop in Hippo, in northern Africa.

January 31: The Flesh (II)
Readings
John Cassian, *The Institutes of Cenobia and the Remedies for the Eight Principal Vices*, Book 6
John Cassian, *The Conferences*, 12th conference
- Cassian (c.360 – c.435) was a monk. These two texts were written for other monks.

February 5: The Flesh (III)
Readings
Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, II-II, QQ. 153 and 154
- Aquinas (c.1225-1274) is a major figure in Christian theology. He tried to reconcile the teachings of the Bible with the philosophy of Aristotle (who is simply referred to as “the Philosopher”).
- Benedict XVI (1927-) is the current Pope. He replaced John Paul II in April 2005. “Deus Caritas Est” is his first encyclical.

February 7: Eighteenth-Century Sex (I)
Readings
*Onania; Or, the Heinous Sin of Self-Pollution, and all its Frightful Consequences, in Both Sexes, consider’d, With Spiritual and Physical Advice to those who have already injur’d themselves by this abominable Practice*, pp. iii-xi, 1-32, 52-60, 105-24, 132-37
*Supplement to the Onania*, pp. 60-78
- *Onania* is the first book entirely devoted to the question of masturbation. The first edition, which is lost, probably came out in 1716. Historians have tried, but failed, to solve the mystery of its authorship.

February 12: Eighteenth-Century Sex (II)
Readings
S.A. Tissot, *Onanism: Or a Treatise Upon the Disorders Produced by Masturbation: Or, the Dangerous Effects of Secret and Excessive Venery*, pp. v-xii, 1-4, 20-86, 154-73
- Tissot (1728-1797) was one of the most respected physicians of the eighteenth century. *Onanism* was a huge success.
February 14: Libertinage
Readings
  ➢ The Marquis de Sade (1740-1814) wrote several very lengthy pornographic novels, filled with scenes of violence. He spent a good portion of his life in prison or in an asylum. Krafft-Ebing later coined the perversion “sadism” after him.

February 19
FIRST EXAM

February 21: The Emergence of the Sexual Instinct
Readings
  ➢ Pinel (1745-1826) is one of the first modern psychiatrists. This short excerpt, which is not directly related to sex, marks a break with the old conception of madness.
C.F. Michéa, “Unhealthy Deviations of the Sexual Appetite”
  ➢ Michéa (1815-1882) was a psychiatrist. Here he is commenting on the case of Sergeant Bertrand, a man who was sentenced in 1849 for violating tombs and mutilating corpses.
  ➢ Ulrichs (1825-1895) campaigned for sexual reform in Germany. He had degrees in law, theology, and history.

February 26: Sexuality (I)
Readings
Carl Westphal, “Contrary Sexual Feeling”
  ➢ Westphal (1833-1890) was a German psychiatrist. This is the first major psychiatric article written on homosexuality.
  ➢ Krafft-Ebing (1840-1902) was a German-Austrian psychiatrist whose *Psychopathia Sexualis* had a profound influence. K-E introduced the terms “sadism,” “masochism” and “pedophilia.”

February 28: Sexuality (II)
Readings
Havelock Ellis, “The Problem of Sexual Abstinence,” pp. 196-216
Havelock Ellis, “Analysis of the Sexual Impulse,” pp. 1-22, 52-65
  ➢ Ellis (1859-1939) was a British sexual psychologist who campaigned for sexual liberation.

March 4: Sexuality (III)
Readings
Sigmund Freud, “The Aetiology of Hysteria,” pp. 96-111
Sigmund Freud, “Letter to Fliess [September 21, 1897],” pp. 111-113
  ➢ Freud (1856-1939) was an Austrian neurologist who founded psychoanalysis at the end of the nineteenth century.
March 6: Sexuality (IV)
Readings
Sigmund Freud, *Dora: An Analysis of a Case of Hysteria* (entire)

March 11: The Sexual Revolution: Concepts
Readings
Wilhelm Reich, *The Sexual Revolution*, pp. 3-33
➢ Reich (1897-1957) was an Austrian psychoanalyst, who began as a disciple of Freud but soon went his own way. He died in prison, ostracized by the medical profession.
➢ Marcuse (1898-1979) was a German philosopher and sociologist, whose work had a great influence on the Sexual Revolution.

March 13: The Sexual Revolution: Facts
There are no readings for today. We will watch the movie *Kinsey* (2004) in class.
➢ Kinsey (1894-1956) wrote books on entomology before turning to human sexual behavior.

SPRING BREAK

March 25: The Sexual Revolution: Facts
Readings

March 27
SECOND EXAM

April 1: The Sexual Revolution: Defining Obscenity
Readings
U.S. Supreme Court, “Roth v. United States, 354 U.S. 476 (1957)”
➢ Samuel Roth ran a literary business and had been accused of sending obscene materials through the mail for advertising. The Supreme Court upheld Roth’s conviction, but also offered a new legal definition of “obscenity.”
U.S. Supreme Court, “Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973)”
➢ Like Roth 15 years beforehand, Marvin Miller had been accused of sending obscene materials through the mail for advertising. The Court of Appeals of California upheld Miller’s conviction, and offered once again a new definition of “obscenity.”
➢ This is a short excerpt of the 1960-page report written by the Commission on Pornography. The commission had been ordered by president Ronald Reagan in 1985.

April 3: The Sexual Revolution: The Clitoris as Epistemological Monster
Readings
Sigmund Freud, “Femininity,” pp. 139-67
➢ Caprio (?-1992) was a psychiatrist and hypnotist.
Marie Bonaparte, *Female Sexuality*, pp. 1-12, 150-61
➢ Bonaparte (1882-1962) was a French princess and a devoted disciple of Freud. At the end of his life Freud escaped Nazi Germany thanks to her help.
- Masters (1915-2001) was a gynecologist and Johnson (1925-) is a psychologist.
Anne Koedt, “The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm”
- Koedt is a founding member of several radical feminist organizations.

**April 8: Perverting Perversions: Rethinking the DSM**

**Readings**

Seymour Krim, “Revolt of the Homosexual”
- Krim (1922-1989) was an author and literary critic.
- Socarides (1922-2005) was a psychoanalyst.
Robert L. Spitzer and Jean Endicott, “Medical and Mental Disorder: Proposed Definition and Criteria,” pp. 15-39
- Spitzer was chair of the task force of the DSM-III. He was instrumental in the removal of homosexuality from the list of perversions in the DSM. He is currently professor of psychiatry here at Columbia University.

_Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR),_ pp. 566-76

**April 10: The Intensity of Sexual Desire: Hyposexuality**

**Readings**

William Masters and Virginia Johnson, “Playboy Interview: Masters and Johnson”

Helen Singer Kaplan, _Disorders of Sexual Desire_, pp. 55-94
- Kaplan (1929-1995) was a pioneer in the field of sex therapy.

_DSM-IV-TR_, pp. 539-41

**April 15: The Intensity of Sexual Desire: Hypersexuality**

**Readings**

Patrick Carnes, “The Presidential Diagnosis”

Patrick Carnes, _Out of the Shadows: Understanding Sexual Addiction_, pp. i-xii + 1-61
- Carnes is the executive director of the Gentle Path program at Pine Grove, located in Hattiesburg, MS. His book _Out of the Shadows_ is a pioneer book on the question of sexual addiction. On his website (www.sexhelp.com) you can take the “Internet Sex Screening Test.”

- Starr (1946-) is an American lawyer.

Martin P. Kafka, “A Monoamine Hypothesis for the Pathophysiology of Paraphilic Disorders”
- Kafka is professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He is also the President of the Massachusetts chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

Ginger Manley and Jean Koehler, “Sexual Behavior Disorders: Proposed New Classification in the DSM-V”
- Manley is a psychiatrist at Vanderbilt University, department of Psychiatry. Koehler is a sex therapist and professor of psychiatry at the University of Louisville Medical School.

**April 17: The End of Sexuality? Subordinating Desire and Urologizing Sex**

**Readings**

Rosemary Basson, “Women’s Sexual Dysfunction: Revised and Expanded Definitions”
Basson is the director of the Program in Sexual Medicine at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

Richard F. Spark, etc. “Impotence is not always psychogenic”

Spark is professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

King, etc. “Correlations between increased erection hardness and improvements in emotional well-being and satisfaction outcomes in men treated with sildenafil citrate for erectile dysfunction”

Park, etc., “Vasculogenic female sexual dysfunction: The hemodynamic basis for vaginal engorgement insufficiency and clitoral erectile insufficiency”

In addition to these readings, visit the following website: www.viagra.com

April 22: Michel Foucault and the Historical Criticism of Sexuality (I)
Readings

Foucault (1926-1984) was a French historian and philosopher. He once said that his dream would be to write a book that would be “an explosive powerful like a bomb and beautiful like a firework.”

April 24: Michel Foucault and the Historical Criticism of Sexuality (II)
Readings

Michel Foucault, “Friendship As a Way of Life”
Michel Foucault, “Sex, Power, and the Politics of Identity”
Michel Foucault, “So Is It Important to Think?”

Pierre Guyotat, Eden, Eden, Eden, pp. 1-5

Guyotat (1940-) is a French novelist. Eden, Eden, Eden (1970) was revered by many French intellectuals, including Roland Barthes, Philippe Solers – and Foucault. These are the first five pages of the novel, which goes on in the same vein for 181 pages (in the English translation).

April 29: Conclusion
There are no readings for today. In class we will watch excerpts from Woody Allen’s Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex (But Were Afraid to Ask).

May 1
THIRD EXAM

May 9
PAPER DUE (no hard copy! If your name begins with a letter from A to K, send your paper to aa2367@columbia.edu and ps2403@columbia.edu; if your name begins with a letter from L to Z, send your paper to eln2111@columbia.edu and ps2403@columbia.edu)