

**HIS 13: Global Sexualities**  
**Offered Remotely**  
Spring 2020  
Dr. Corrie Decker  
pronouns: she/her/hers  
[crdecker@ucdavis.edu](mailto:crdecker@ucdavis.edu)

**Course Description:** This course offers a survey of the global history of sexualities. We will investigate the theoretical concepts and constructs related to sex, sexuality, gender, marriage, and reproduction and delve into case studies on the modern history of sexualities worldwide as they intersect with the histories of slavery, imperialism, race, population control, law, and globalization.

**Readings:**

- Required: Buffington, Luibhéid, and Guy, eds., *A Global History of Sexuality: The Modern Era* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2014). The e-book version is available through the “Reading List” tab. If you can't access it there, sign into the library VPN to get the e-book version here: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ucdavis/detail.action?docID=1576327>
- Optional: Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* Ninth Edition (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2017)
- All other readings are posted as pdfs or weblinks on Canvas. See Canvas Modules for links.

**Course Requirements and Grading:** Regular attendance at lectures, as well as full preparation and participation are expected. The final course grade is based on the following components. All page lengths mentioned are double-spaced with one-inch margins all around.

- 15% Online Discussion Section Participation
- 15% Paper # 1: 500-750 word essay due Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> on Canvas Assignments
- 20% Online midterm exam on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> on Canvas Assignments
- 25% Paper # 2: 1,000-1,500 word essay due Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> on Canvas Assignments
- 25% Online final exam on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> on Canvas Assignments

**Class Policies:**

- **Asynchronous Online Course:** This course is run asynchronously, which means students are not required to participate in live class sessions. There will be opportunities for live engagement, but attendance at these sessions is not required. All of your work will be submitted online through Canvas or associated applications.
- **Late Papers:** There will be an automatic 24-hour grace period for submission of papers, no questions asked. Contact the professor immediately, and prior to the due date of the assignment, if you cannot meet this deadline.
- **Make-up Exams:** There are no make-up exams except in the case of an emergency. See “Illnesses or Other Disruptions” below.
- **Assignment completion requirement:** Failure to complete both exams and papers will result in failure for the class, unless the student petitions and qualifies for an incomplete (“I”) grade.
- **Lectures:** The lectures for this course will be in the form of videos posted on Canvas by the date listed on the schedule below. You are responsible for keeping up with the lectures,

which provide necessary context for the readings and help you prepare for discussions, exams, and papers. If you have questions about the lectures, sign up for virtual office hours or submit a question to be answered in the live Q&A session.

- **Weekly Reading Assignments:** All required readings for this course are available either on Canvas or in electronic format through the library VPN connection. The readings listed below should be completed by the time of your virtual discussion section. Check with your TA for more details.
- **Discussion Sections.** All students must register for and actively engage in one of the weekly online discussion sections for this course (see Canvas Discussions). Be sure to read ahead and be prepared to chat/write about the week's readings with the other members of your discussion section. Check with your TA for additional instructions.
- **Email:** Given the move to remote, online instruction this quarter, we ask for your patience in receiving communications from the professor and the TAs. In general, I will respond to emails related to this course once daily, Monday through Friday. The best way to contact me is to schedule an appointment for virtual office hours.
- **Office Hours:** My office hours will be held every Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11:30am via Zoom. Students can sign up for 15- or 30-minute meetings on <https://calendly.com/crdecker>. Ask your TA about when and how they plan to hold office hours.
- **Weekly Live Q&A Zoom Sessions:** Every Thursday, from 12:30 to 1:30pm, I will be available on Zoom to answer questions posted to the Canvas Q&A Page or Zoom Chat. Click on "Zoom" to see upcoming Zoom Q&A meeting invitations. This is your best opportunity to get clarifications on the lectures and readings from the professor.
- **Illnesses or Other Disruptions:** If you fall ill, need to take care of family or loved ones who fall ill, experience interruptions in your digital connections, or otherwise face a disruption that hinders your ability to keep up with the course, contact the professor and your TA as soon as you are able to do so in order to make alternative arrangements. For additional support, contact the Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS), <https://shcs.ucdavis.edu/services/counseling.html>, located in North Hall, phone: (530) 752-2349.
- **Student Accommodations:** If you need specific accommodation for exams or other assignments, please contact the Student Disability Center, <https://sdc.ucdavis.edu/>.
- **Online Conduct:** Please be sure to identify yourself by name in all online communications except where anonymous responses are solicited. Students are expected to communicate with each other respectfully and professionally whether through virtual communications or in person. Never assume the gender/sexual/ethnic/racial/class/etc. identity of the other students or instructors in the course.
- **Code of Academic Conduct:** Please familiarize yourself with the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct by reviewing its webpage: [https://ossja.ucdavis.edu/code-academic-conduct?utm\\_source=sja&utm\\_medium=redirect-page](https://ossja.ucdavis.edu/code-academic-conduct?utm_source=sja&utm_medium=redirect-page).
- **Resources FAQ:** Go to the Resources FAQ in Canvas Pages for additional resources that you might find useful.
- **Copyright:** All lectures, assignments, and course materials are copyrighted and may not be duplicated, posted online, recorded, or distributed without permission. Students violating this policy will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.
- We are facing highly unusual circumstances this quarter. With some understanding and patience, we can get through this term together!

**Note:** The syllabus is subject to change.

UC Davis History Department sites

UCD History Department website: <http://history.ucdavis.edu/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UCDDepartmentOfHistory/>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/History\\_UCDavis](https://twitter.com/History_UCDavis)

Instagram: history.ucdavis, <https://www.instagram.com/history.ucdavis/>

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week 1            CONCEPTS AND CONSTRUCTS OF SEXUALITIES**

March 31        Introduction to Global Sexualities

April 2         Sexuality and the Archive

*Reading Assignments:*

- Robert M. Buffington, Eithne Luibhéid, and Donna J. Guy, eds., *A Global History of Sexuality: The Modern Era* (Wiley Blackwell, 2014) [hereafter **GHS**], Chapter 1: Robert M. Buffington, “Introduction,” pp. 1-16.

### **Week 2            MARRIAGE**

April 7         Marriage, Sex, and the Law: Guest Lecture by Prof. Lisa Materson

April 9         Marriage Laws around the World &

A conversation with Prof. Sarah Zimmerman about her book: *Militarizing Marriage: West African Soldiers’ Conjugal Traditions in Modern French Empire*

*Reading Assignments:*

- *GHS*, Chapter 2: Buffington, Sabine Frühstück, “Sexuality and the Nation,” pp. 17-56.
- Fay Yarbrough, “Legislating Women’s Sexuality: Cherokee Marriage Laws in the Nineteenth Century,” *Journal of Social History* 38:2 (2004), pp. 385-406.

### **Week 3            SLAVERY**

April 14        Sexualities and Slavery in the Indian and Atlantic Ocean Worlds

April 16        Child Marriage and Sex Trafficking

**\*\* UPLOAD PAPER #1 TO CANVAS BY FRIDAY, APRIL 17<sup>th</sup> BY 5PM\*\***

*Reading Assignments:*

- *GHS*, Chapter 6: Robert M. Buffington and Donna J. Guy, “Sex Trafficking,” pp. 151-194.
- Matthew S. Hopper, “Slavery, Family Life, and the African Diaspora in the Arabian Gulf, 1880-1940,” *Sex, Power, and Slavery*, pp. 167-181. Available online through UC Davis Library: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ucdavis/detail.action?docID=1869112>

## Week 4      IMPERIALISM AND RACISM

April 21      Sexuality, Colonialism, and Agency: Guest Lecture by Prof. Rachel Jean-Baptiste  
April 23      Racism and Sexual Violence: Guest Lecture by Prof. Rachel Jean-Baptiste

### *Reading Assignments:*

- *GHS*, Chapter 3: Mytheli Sreenivas, “Sexuality and Modern Imperialism,” pp. 57-88.
- Rachel Jean-Baptiste, “‘A Black Girl Should Not be With a White Man’: Sex, Race, and African Women’s Social and Legal Status in Colonial Gabon, c.1900-1946,” *Journal of Women’s History* 22:2 (2010), pp. 56-82.
- “Sara ‘Saartjie’ Baartman,” South African History Online, <https://www.sahistory.org.za/people/sara-saartjie-baartman>

## Week 5      SEX EDUCATION

April 28      Global Sex Education  
April 30      **\*\*MIDTERM EXAM\*\***

### *Reading Assignments:*

- Kathy Davis, “OBOS Abroad: From ‘Center’ to ‘Periphery’ and Back,” *The Making of Our Bodies Ourselves: How Feminism Travels across Borders*, pp. 50-84.

## Week 6      EPIDEMICS

May 5      Venereal Diseases in History  
May 7      HIV/AIDS

### *Reading Assignments:*

- *GHS*, Chapter 4: Laura J. McGough and Katherine E. Bliss, “Sex and Disease from Syphilis to AIDS,” pp. 89-118.
- Elanah Uretsky, “The Risk of Success: Cultural Determinants of Chronic Disease and Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Urban Chinese Men,” *Health Promotion International* 26:2 (Nov. 2011), pp. 212-219.
- Selection of newspaper articles about HIV/AIDS

## Week 7      REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

May 12      What is Reproductive Justice?  
May 14      Forced Sterilization in Film  
**\*\*UPLOAD PAPER #2 TO CANVAS BY FRIDAY, MAY 15 by 5PM\*\***

### *Reading and Other Assignments:*

- *GHS*, Chapter 5: Eithne Luibhéid, “Sexuality and International Migration,” pp. 119-150.

- Laura Harrison, “‘I Am the Baby’s Real Mother’: Reproductive Tourism, Race, and the Transnational Construction of Kinship,” *Women Studies International Forum* 46 (2014), pp. 145-56.
- Watch the documentary “La Operación” (1982) about US forced sterilization in Puerto Rico during the 1950s and 1960s.

**Week 8 SAME-SEX DESIRE**

May 19 Same-Sex Sexualities and the “Gay Rights” Movement in the West  
 May 21 Sexual Minorities in International Politics

*Reading Assignments:*

- *GHS*, Chapter 8: Richard Parker, Jonathan Garcia, and Robert M. Buffington, “Sexuality and the Contemporary World: Globalization and Sexual Rights,” pp. 221-260.
- Don Romesburg, "When Historians Help Make History: California's groundbreaking new K-12 framework," *AHA Perspectives on History*, October 3, 2016, <https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/october-2016/when-historians-help-make-history>
- Catherine Morris, "Why California is Teaching Its Students About the LGBT Community," *The Atlantic*, July 21, 2016, <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/07/why-california-is-teaching-its-students-about-the-lgbt-community/492221/>
- Sylvia Tamale, “Homosexuality is not un-African: It is legalized homophobia, not same-sex relations, that is alien to Africa,” *Aljazeera America*, April 26, 2014, <http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2014/4/homosexuality-africamuseveniugandanigeriaethiopia.html>

Join us for a special Zoom Q&A discussion with **Professor Don Romesburg** of Sonoma State University on Thursday at 12:30pm!

**Week 9 NON-BINARY GENDER**

May 26 Sex and Gender in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries  
 May 28 Transtopia in the Sinophone Pacific: Guest Lecture by Prof. Howard Chiang

*Reading Assignments:*

- *GHS*, Chapter 7: Hai Ren, “Sexuality and Mass Media,” pp. 195-220.
- Howard Chiang, *Transtopia in the Sinophone Pacific* (forthcoming book), Introduction

**Week 10 GLOBAL SEXUALITIES TODAY**

June 2 Current Debates about Gender, Sex, and Sexuality  
 June 4 Conclusions

*Reading and Other Assignments:*

- A Chinese Dating App for Gay Men Is Helping Them Have Kids, Too, *Bloomberg Business Week*, March 20, 2019: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2019-03-21/a-chinese-dating-app-for-gay-men-is-helping-them-have-kids-too>
- Listen to RadioLab Podcast, Gonads: X&Y, <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolab/articles/gonads-xy>, 40:55 min.

**\*\*\*\*ONLINE FINAL EXAM: Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*\***