

History 901
Spring Semester 2009
Tues. 9-11
5255 Humanities

Professor Susan L. Johnson
Office: 5117 Humanities
Office Hours: Thurs. 10-12 & by appt.
Office Phone: 263-1848
E-mail: sljohnson5@wisc.edu

Men and Masculinities in U.S. History

This seminar focuses on the history of male gender in that part of North America that is now the United States, though from time to time we will peer beyond contemporary borders. Before the 1990s, most historians who studied gender were women's historians, which reflected a crucial reality: the experiences and perspectives of women were largely neglected in the discipline of history, while the experiences and perspectives of men were constantly—one might say obsessively—examined and reexamined. Women's historians have performed, and continue to perform, the task of restoring women to a field that since its inception had centered on men. As the field of women's history grew, however, scholars realized that although most history had been written as the history of men, very little of that history paid attention to how men experienced and expressed themselves *as men*, that is, as human beings whose lives, like those of women, were shaped in part by gender. And even as scholars came to that realization, they also recognized that people seemingly sexed female could and did inhabit male genders. The field of gender history now incorporates the history of both women and men, the history of gender relations, and the history of how gender has shaped human experience in larger ways—for example, how racism and imperialism have been imagined as gendered, such that those in power often figure themselves as more “manly” or “masculine” than those over whom they hold power. The field also considers the ways in which those who inhabit the broad and fluid borderlands of gender (most people, actually, but especially cross-gender people in a variety of cultures throughout human history, as well as some contemporary gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people) help to expose the constructedness of gender itself. These aspects of gender history will be our central concerns, as well as the very multiplicity of masculinities in U.S. history, which have been shaped by social relations of colonialism, violence, desire, race and ethnicity, production and consumption, class, and religion, and which have infused so many other aspects of human existence, including economic relations, expressive culture, political culture, the practice of science, notions of kinship, and ideas about nature.

Course requirements

1. *General:* Faithful attendance, careful completion of weekly readings before class meets, interactive and respectful participation in discussion. Class is a place for collective learning, and collective learning requires both active listening and thoughtful speaking. If you must miss a class meeting, please inform me well in advance (unless you face an emergency, of course), and we'll work out an alternative assignment for you to complete for that day (which will probably take you longer to complete than it would take you to prepare for and attend the scheduled class). Please try not to miss any class meetings.
2. *Cofacilitation:* Each week, one or two of you will serve as cofacilitator(s) for class discussion. In the week that you cofacilitate, you will also read and report on one of the supplemental texts assigned. Your report should last no more than 10 minutes. It should not be a chapter-by-chapter regurgitation of the book, but rather a well-crafted overview of the book's historical content, primary source base, and historiographical contribution. It should serve as both an overview of the book you've read and a springboard for discussion of the reading assigned to the whole class. In other words, you'll be responsible for making connections between the reading you've done on your own and the assigned weekly reading.

3. *Written work:* You will write two kinds of papers for this class.

First, you will write a 3-4 page (750 to 1000 word) thought piece that brings Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization*, and Summers, *Manliness and Its Discontents*, into dialogue with each other. This paper should be double-spaced, with standard one-inch margins. It should have no grammatical or typographical errors or misspellings. When in doubt, please consult: William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White, *Elements of Style*, 4th ed.; and *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 10th ed. (If you don't own these reference works, I suggest that you purchase them, as you'll use them throughout your career. Coming to terms with Strunk and White will be more fun if you purchase instead *Elements of Style*, illustrated by Maira Kalman [New York: Penguin, 2005].) Your paper is due on Thurs. Feb. 5 by 4 p.m. in my mailbox.

Second, you will write a 12-14 page (3000 to 3500 word) historiographical essay that follows a particular interpretive theme in the history of men and/or male gender and traces that theme both through readings we've done together as a class and through other scholarship you've found that addresses the theme (you'll learn about some of this scholarship through the reports on supplemental texts that you and your classmates will give during the semester, and you should consult "America History and Life" and other relevant databases for more work, especially recent article-length scholarship). Feel free to review scholarship that does not focus exclusively on men and/or male gender so long as you can relate that scholarship to the history of men and/or male gender (in other words, women's history is fair game, as is history in which gender is but one category of analysis). For those of you who are new to the discipline of history, a historiographical essay is not unlike what scholars in other disciplines call a review of the literature or a review essay. It is, in other words, an overview of the ways in which various scholars have grappled with a particular set of intellectual questions. The best historiographical essays not only review the existing scholarly literature, but also make recommendations for future research and analysis. In choosing a topic for your historiographical essay, you might consider a set of questions that relates to your own scholarly work, or that you feel might help you broaden your expertise as a teacher. And although the assignment calls for a historiographical essay, do feel free to include scholarship from other disciplines, as well as theoretical work, that addresses the questions that interest you. Please discuss your interests with me before Feb. 24, and turn in a complete bibliography by 4 p.m. Thurs. March 5 to my mailbox. The completed essay is due by 4 p.m. Thurs. April 23 in my mailbox. *No late drafts accepted.* Unless you turn in a perfect paper, expect to receive this paper back with my comments on April 28 in class. You will have until 4 p.m. Mon. May 11 to perfect your paper and turn it in to my mailbox. Your historiographical essay should be double-spaced, with standard one-inch margins. It should have no grammatical or typographical errors or misspellings. It should include footnotes or endnotes. Please use the standard humanities style of documentation as detailed in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. (see esp. chap. 17 on what Turabian calls "notes-bibliography style"; if that style is new to you, read chap. 16 first), or *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. (If you don't own these guides, I suggest that you purchase one of them, as you'll use it throughout your graduate career.)

A note about scholarly writing: In the interests of full disclosure, I must make two confessions. First, in a former life, I worked as an editor in scholarly publishing. Second, and more important, I simply love writing: the sound and feel of words, the rhythm and texture of a sentence. As a result, I'm a stickler for clear, evocative prose that invites readers in rather than shuts them out. So I pay close attention to the form, as well as the content, of scholarly writing. Sometimes graduate students experience this attention as oppressive, and assume mistakenly that I'm *more* interested in form than content. Nothing could be further from the truth. What I want to encourage is writing that illuminates rather than obscures the intellectual content of your work. Still, it can be daunting to receive a paper back with ample editorial as well as analytical suggestions. I hope that you'll consider my suggestions in the spirit in which they are given—as evidence of my deep engagement in your intellectual project and your ongoing attempt to communicate that project effectively to your readers.

Readings

The following books can be purchased at the University Book Store, and are on reserve at College Library in Helen C. White Hall:

- Juliana Barr, *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman: Indians and Spaniards in the Texas Borderlands* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2007).
- Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States, 1880-1917* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1996).
- Kathleen M. Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1996).
- George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (New York: Basic Books, 1995).
- K. A. Cuordileone, *Manhood and American Political Culture in the Cold War* (New York: Routledge, 2005).
- Bruce Dorsey, *Reforming Men and Women: Gender in the Antebellum City* (Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 2006).
- Linda Espana-Maram, *Creating Masculinity in Los Angeles's Little Manila: Working-Class Filipinos and Popular Culture, 1920s-1950s* (New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2006).
- Steve Estes, *I Am a Man! Race, Manhood, and the Civil Rights Movement* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2005).
- Susan Lee Johnson, *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2000).
- Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline Davis, *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community* (New York: Routledge, 1993).
- Stephanie McCurry, *Masters of Small Worlds: Yeoman Households, Gender Relations, and the Political Culture of the Antebellum South Carolina Low Country* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1995).
- Dana Nelson, *National Manhood: Capitalist Citizenship and the Imagined Fraternity of White Men* (Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 1998).
- Gunther Peck, *Reinventing Free Labor: Padrones and Immigrant Workers in the North American West, 1880-1930* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).
- Martin Summers, *Manliness and Its Discontents: The Black Middle Class and the Transformation of Masculinity, 1900-1930* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina, 2004).

There is not yet an adequate published overview of the multiplicity of male genders in U.S. history. However, if you feel that you need some background reading in this area to supplement the assigned books, you might consult one of the following helpful texts:

- Michael Kimmel, *Manhood in America: A Cultural History*, 2d ed. (1995; New York: Free Press, 2005).
- Anthony Rotundo, *American Manhood: Transformations in Masculinity from the Revolution to the Modern Era* (New York: Basic Books, 1994).

Calendar and Assignments

Jan. 20

Course introduction

Jan. 27 **Manhood as Process**

Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization*

Supplemental texts:

Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale Univ. Press, 2000).

Ruth Oldenziel, *Making Technology Masculine: Men, Women, and Modern Machines in America, 1870-1945* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 1999).

John Pettigrew, *Brutes in Suits: Male Sensibility in America, 1890-1920* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2007).

Sarah Lyons Watts, *Rough Rider in the White House: Theodore Roosevelt and the Politics of Desire* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2003).

Feb. 3 **Manhood as Process**

Summers, *Manliness and Its Discontents*

Supplemental texts:

Stephen Kantrowitz, *Ben Tillman and the Reconstruction of White Supremacy* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2000).

Riché Richardson, *Black Masculinity and the U.S. South: From Uncle Tom to Gangsta* (Athens: Univ. of Georgia Press, 2007).

Marlon Ross, *Manning the Race: Reforming Black Men in the Jim Crow Era* (New York: New York Univ. Press, 2004).

Maurice Wallace, *Constructing the Black Masculine: Identity and Ideality in African American Men's Literature and Culture, 1775-1995* (Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 2002).

NOTE: First paper due Thurs. Feb. 5 by 4 p.m. in my mailbox.

Feb. 10 **Gender, Race, and Encounter**

Brown, *Good Wives*

Supplemental texts:

Anne Lombard, *Making Manhood: Growing Up Male in Colonial New England* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 2003).

Mary Beth Norton, *Founding Mothers and Fathers: Gendered Power and the Forming of American Society* (New York: Vintage, 1997).

Lisa Wilson, *Ye Heart of a Man: The Domestic Life of Men in Colonial New England* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale Univ. Press, 1999).

Feb. 17 Gender, Race, and Encounter

Barr, *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman*

Supplemental texts:

- James Brooks, *Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2002).
 Ramón Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, The Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1991).
 Steve Stern, *The Secret History of Gender: Women, Men, and Power in Late Colonial Mexico* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1995).

Feb. 24 A Gendered Nation

Nelson, *National Manhood*

Supplemental texts:

- R. W. Connell, *Masculinities*, 2d ed. (1995; Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2005).
 Clare Lyons, *Sex Among the Rabble: An Intimate History of Gender and Power in the Age of Revolution, Philadelphia, 1730-1830* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2006).
 Louis Warren, *Buffalo Bill's America: William Cody and the Wild West Show* (New York: Knopf, 2005).
 Michael Zakim, *Ready-Made Democracy: A History of Men's Dress in the American Republic, 1760-1860* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2003).

NOTE: By this date, you should have met with me to discuss your historiographical essay topic.

March 3 Antebellum Women and Men

McCurry, *Masters of Small Worlds*

Supplemental texts:

- Stephen Berry, *All That Makes a Man: Love and Ambition in the Civil War South* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2004).
 Lorri Glover, *Southern Sons: Becoming Men in the New Nation* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2007).
 Craig Thompson Friend and Lorri Glover, eds., *Southern Manhood: Perspectives on Masculinity in the Old South* (Atlanta: Univ. of Georgia Press, 2004).
 Maggie Montesinos Sale, *The Slumbering Volcano: American Slave Ship Revolts and the Production of Violent Masculinities* (Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 1997).

NOTE: Bibliography for historiographical essay due by Thurs. March 5 at 4 p.m. in my mailbox.

March 10 Antebellum Women and Men

Dorsey, *Reforming Men and Women*

Supplemental texts:

- Mary Blewett, *Men, Women and Work: Class, Gender, and Protest in the New England Shoe Industry, 1780-1910* (Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1990).
- Jeffery Bolster, *Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1998).
- Jeanne Boydston, *Home and Work: Housework, Wages, and the Ideology of Labor in the Early Republic* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1994).
- Margaret Creighton and Lisa Norling, eds., *Iron Men, Wooden Women: Gender and Seafaring in the Atlantic World, 1700-1920* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1996)
- Elliott Gorn, *The Manly Art: Bare-knuckle Prize Fighting in America* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell Univ. Press, 1989).

Spring Break!!!

March 24 Antebellum Women and Men

Johnson, *Roaring Camp*

Supplemental texts:

- Matthew Basso, Laura McCall, and Dee Garceau, eds., *Across the Great Divide: Cultures of Manhood in the American West* (New York: Routledge, 2001).
- John Mack Faragher, *Women and Men on the Overland Trail* (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1979).
- Amy Greenberg, *Manifest Manhood and the Antebellum American Empire* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2005).
- Sheila McManus, *The Line Which Separates: Race, Gender, and the Making of the Alberta-Montana Borderlands* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005).
- Adele Perry, *On the Edge of Empire: Gender, Race, and the Making of British Columbia, 1849-1871* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001).

March 31 Reinventing Men

Gunther Peck, *Reinventing Free Labor*

Supplemental texts:

- Ana María Alonso, *Thread of Blood: Colonialism, Revolution, and Gender on Mexico's Northern Frontier* (Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 1995).
- Ileen DeVault, *United Apart: Gender and the Rise of Craft Unionism* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell Univ. Press, 2004).
- Elizabeth Jameson, *All That Glitters: Class, Culture, and Community in Cripple Creek* (Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1998).
- Stephen Norwood, *Strikebreaking and Intimidation: Mercenaries and Masculinity in Twentieth-Century America* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2002).
- Nayan Shah, *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2001).

April 7 Reinventing Men

Chauncey, *Gay New York*

Supplemental texts:

Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide-Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005).

John Howard, *Men Like That: A Southern Queer History* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1999).

Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard Univ. Press, 2002).

Thomas Winter, *Making Men, Making Class: The YMCA and Workingmen, 1877-1920* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2002).

April 14 Twentieth-Century Masculinities

Espana-Maram, *Creating Masculinity in Los Angeles's Little Manila*

Supplemental texts:

Yen Le Espiritu, *Asian American Women and Men: Labor, Laws and Love* (Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications, 1997).

Christina Jarvis, *The Male Body at War: American Masculinity during World War II* (DeKalb: Northern Illinois Univ. Press, 2004).

Martin Manalansan, *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora* (Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 2003).

Mary Murphy, *Mining Cultures: Men, Women, and Leisure in Butte, 1914-41* (Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1997).

Mary Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940* (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2001).

April 21 Twentieth-Century Masculinities

Cuordileone, *Manhood and American Political Culture in the Cold War*

Supplemental texts:

Robert Dean, *Imperial Brotherhood: Gender and the Making of Cold War Foreign Policy* (Amherst: Univ. of Massachusetts Press, 2003).

Christopher Dummitt, *The Manly Modern: Masculinity in Postwar Canada* (Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2008).

Barbara Ehrenreich, *Hearts of Men: American Dreams and the Flight from Commitment* (New York: Anchor/Doubleday, 1984).

James Gilbert, *Men in the Middle: Searching for Masculinity in the 1950s* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2005).

Laurie Mercier, *Anaconda: Labor, Community, and Culture in Montana's Smelter City* (Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 2001).

NOTE: Complete and polished draft of historiographical essay due by Thurs. April 23 at 4 p.m. in my mailbox. No late drafts accepted.

April 28 Twentieth-Century Masculinities

Kennedy & Davis, *Boots of Leather*

Supplemental texts:

Judith Halberstam, *Female Masculinity* (Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 1998).

Amber Hollibaugh, *My Dangerous Desires: A Queer Girl Dreaming Her Way Home* (Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 2000).

Daniel Hurewitz, *Bohemian Los Angeles and the Making of Modern Politics* (Berkeley: Univ. of Calif. Press, 2007).

Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (1982; Freedom, Calif.: Crossing Press, 1983).

Esther Newton, *Margaret Mead Made Me Gay: Personal Essays, Public Ideas* (Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 2000).

NOTE: Historiographical essay drafts returned to you in class.

May 5 Twentieth-Century Masculinities

Steve Estes, *I Am a Man!*

Supplemental texts:

Herman Graham, *The Brothers' Vietnam War: Black Power, Manhood, and the Military Experience* (Gainesville: Univ. of Florida Press, 2003).

Matthew Gutmann, ed., *Changing Men and Masculinities in Latin America* (Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 2003).

Susan Jeffords, *Hard Bodies: Hollywood Masculinity in the Reagan Era* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers Univ. Press, 1993).

Susan Jeffords, *The Remasculinization of America: Gender and the Vietnam War* (Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press, 1989).

Roger Lancaster, *Life is Hard: Machismo, Danger, and the Intimacy of Power in Nicaragua* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1994).

Evelyn Schlatter, *Aryan Cowboys: White Supremacists and the Search for a New Frontier, 1970-2000* (Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, 2006).

NOTE: Final, perfected historiographical essay due by Mon. May 11 at 4 p.m. in my mailbox.