

Prostitution in a Global Perspective, 1750-2012

Course Instructor: Simone Gamali Stewart
Instructor's email: sstewa35@jhu.edu

My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and by appointment. I am only on campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so appointments must be for these days.

Course Description

The notion that prostitution is the 'world's oldest profession' suggests both that sex work has a long history, and that this history is a homogeneous one based on unchanging gender roles and economic relations. In this course, students will learn to question the latter assumption, and examine the ways in which sex work, social attitudes towards it, and state attempts to regulate or suppress it have changed over time. Examining topics such as the development of the 'medical model' of prostitution regulation in the nineteenth century, the rise of an international anti-prostitution movement in the 1880s and 1890s, the centrality of erotic labor to new forms of leisure culture in the interwar period, and the responses of twentieth century nationalists to the specter of sex work in contexts as diverse as Egypt, China and Argentina, the course will introduce students to a number of central works in the historiography of sexuality and gender.

Prostitution is a term that is taken for granted by scholars, yet it lends itself to explaining the relationship between sex and labor and coercion and pleasure that is derived from women's bodies; and regional debates about regulation (of the population) policies. The organization of the course is roughly chronological, but also thematic. Thus, while it generally moves in a clear line from the eighteenth century to the present day, certain weeks (such as week seven, which focuses on male prostitution) cover a large time period and attempt to provide a longer history of a particular topic or practice that is not associated with a single historical moment. Through the readings and assignments, the class will investigate the extent to which sex work and its regulation have shaped and been shaped by particular notions of space, law, gender and race, and the ways in which the politics of sexuality have interacted with international humanitarianism, political economy, migration and globalization over the course of the past two hundred and fifty years.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course is a **reading seminar**. Students are expected to come to class having read the selections for the week closely and to participate in class discussions about the texts. There will be no official lecture; however, if the conversation suggests that knowledge in a particular area would benefit the discussion, I will give a brief lecture on the topic(s).

This class is run very much in the style of upper/graduate-level courses. With that being said, freshmen and sophomores should be challenged, but not overwhelmed, by discussions. Should anyone believe that they need assistance in successfully completing the course and participating in discussions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Students are expected to watch the three films that are assigned by the Sunday before we meet for that assigned week. They constitute another 'text' that we will discuss in class and thus they are part of the compulsory preparation for the class.

Class participation and presentation (35%): The course requires each student to make a fifteen to twenty minute class presentation. Students are tasked with introducing that day's readings (not just a mere summary of the text/s) and presenting three or more preliminary discussion questions to the class.

Papers

Two short papers (30%):

1. **Primary source Assignment (15%):** 3-4 pages. Due in Week Five class; paper to be submitted as a Word document to me via email on midnight of the Sunday before Week Five. From the list of primary sources under Week Five's topic 'Contagious Diseases and Moral Reform,' choose one, and write a 3-4 page analysis of this document as a source for the history of nineteenth century prostitution regulation and abolitionism in Britain. Did the historians we read for this week use this source? In what ways did they use it? How might you have used it differently, or what further information can this source give you that you did not learn from the readings? Using these questions as a guide, critically analyze your source, paying attention to its author(s), genre, structure, intended readership and tone.

2. **Digital history project (15%):** 3-4 pages. Due in Week Nine class; paper to be submitted as a Word document to me via email on midnight of the Sunday before Week Week Nine. Students should bring a hardcopy of the paper to the class on Monday. This project has two parts. In Part I (1-2 pages), critically analyze the spatial distribution of arrests for prostitution on the basis of either 1) race or 2) age using the information provided on the Stanford Spatial History Project 'Prostitution in Philadelphia: Arrests Made 1912-1918', at: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/spatialhistory/cgi-bin/site/viz.php?id=267> . In Part II (2 pages) discuss the ways in which historians such as those we have read this semester could use this information to make larger conclusions about prostitution, law, crime and regulation in early twentieth century Philadelphia. What broader conclusions could you make, and what are the limits of data such as this as a historical tool? How may its specific spatial representation as part of the Stanford Spatial History Project influence its utility? For background reading on the uses and limits of digital spatial history projects I highly recommend you read William Thomas and Edward Ayers, 'An Overview: The Differences Slavery Made: A Close Analysis of Two American Communities,' *American Historical Review*, 108:5, 2003, pp. 1299-1307.

*Students are encouraged to read, Mary Ting Yi Lui, *The Chinatown Trunk Mystery: Murder, Miscegenation, and Other Dangerous Encounters in Turn-of-the-Century New York City* (2007), pp. 17-51 which, while it does not speak about prostitution, addresses the issue of spatial policing and race. This will allow students to see these issues at play and understand how to better analyze the Spatial History Project findings for their paper.

3. Historiographical review paper (35%): Due Friday of the final week of class; paper to be submitted as a Word document to me via email by noon. Students will write a final, 10 to 12 page historiographical paper related to themes covered in this course. You may choose, for example, to examine historical writing on sex work in one particular country or region, investigate the literature on a certain theoretical problem (such as the relationship between prostitution and pornography), or analyze the historiography of an especially contentious event (such as the promulgation of the 1910 Mann Act in the US). You must meet with me in office hours by the end of Week Ten to discuss your topic for this paper, and a finalized statement of your topic should be emailed to me by the end of Week Ten. Any significant changes of topic before the deadline should be checked with me.

Paper extensions will be granted only as a result of medically documented illness.

Grading Breakdown

Class participation and presentation 35%
Primary Source paper 15%
Digital History paper 15%
Historiographical paper: 35%

Grading Rubric:

Thesis: All written work should have thesis; that is, a central argument which you are able to present at the beginning of your paper, illuminate through historical analysis over the course of your paper, and which should flow naturally to the conclusion of your paper.

Structure and Argumentation: All ideas should flow logically, underlining a clearly identifiable argument, and possible counter-arguments should be considered and defused.

Evidence: Key to a good history paper is use of evidence to buttress your arguments, from either primary or secondary sources (depending on the requirements of the paper). All sources must be properly cited. If you are unsure about the correct format of citations consult the Chicago Manual of Style's website (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html).

Language: All papers should be written using correct grammar and spelling, with coherent paragraph structure and clear language. If you have any questions about essay

writing conventions do not hesitate to ask me or visit me in office hours; you can also visit the Writing Center.

Textbook (To be purchased from whichever source you choose):

Judith Walkowitz, *Prostitution and Victorian Society: Women, Class and the State* (1980)

WEEK ONE: Does the “Oldest Profession” Have a History? Part One

31st January

Introduction

2nd February

Michel Foucault, *A History of Sexuality Volume I*, (1977) ‘We the Other Victorians’ pp. 3-23.

Judith R. Walkowitz, ‘The Politics of Prostitution,’ *Signs*, 6:1, 1980, pp. 123-135.

WEEK TWO: Does the “Oldest Profession” Have a History? Part Two

FILM SCREENING: *Dangerous Beauty, 1998* (Available as a DVD on Netflix and to rent for \$3.99 using Amazon video. You may also request/view it at the library.)

7th February

Elizabeth Bernstein, "The Meaning of the Purchase: Desire, Demand, and the Commerce of Sex." *Ethnography*, 2:3, 2001, pp. 375-406.

9th February

Noah D Zatz, ‘Sex Work/Sex Act: Law, Labor and Desire in Constructions of Prostitution,’ *Signs*, 22:2, 1997, pp. 277-308.

WEEK THREE: Bordellos and Bawdy Houses: Sex Work in the Eighteenth Century Atlantic World

14th February

Kathryn Norberg, "The Libertine Whore: Prostitution in French Pornography from Margot to Juliette," in Lynn Hunt (ed.) *The Invention of Pornography*, (1993) pp. 225-

252.

16th February

Felicity A. Nussbaum, 'One Part of Womankind: Prostitution and Sexual Geography in Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure,' *Differences*, 7:2, 1995, pp. 16-41.

John Cleland, *Fanny Hill: Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*, (1748), pp. 4-36.

WEEK FOUR: Venereal Disease and Medical Control in the Nineteenth Century

21st February

Alain Corbin, *Women For Hire: Prostitution and Sexuality in France After 1850*, (1990), 'Parent-Duchatelet and Regulationism', pp. 2-29.

Bruno P.E. Wanrooij, 'The Thorns of Love: Sexuality, Syphilis and Social Control in Modern Italy', in Roger Davidson and Lesley Hall (eds), *Sex, Sin and Suffering: Venereal Disease and European Society Since 1870* (2001), pp. 137-159.

23rd February

Laura Engelstein, *The Keys to Happiness: Sex and the Search for Modernity in Fin-de-Siècle Russia*, (1992), 'Female Sexual Deviance and the Western Medical Model', pp. 128-164.

WEEK FIVE: Contagious Diseases and Moral Reform: Regulationists versus Abolitionists

Primary Source Paper Due in Class

Primary Sources (choose one of the following):

1. The Shield, Issue 1, March 1870 (Josephine Butler's abolitionist newspaper). Available on the course Blackboard.
2. Contagious Diseases Act Available on the course Blackboard AND Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Contagious Diseases Acts, 1868-69, pp. i-v. Available full text via Google Books at <http://tiny.cc/4asdbw>
3. Charles Taylor Bell, The Contagious Diseases Acts (women) from a sanitary point of view: Paper read before the Medical Society of London, (1870) pp. 1-8. Available on the course Blackboard.

28th February

Judith Walkowitz, *Prostitution and Victorian Society: Women, Class and the State*, (1980), 'The Contagious Diseases Acts: Regulationists and Repealers', pp. 67-149.

2nd March

Miles Ogborn, 'Law and Discipline in Nineteenth Century English State Formation: The Contagious Diseases Acts of 1864, 1866 and 1869,' *Historical Sociology*, 6:1, 1993, pp. 28-55.

Richard Phillips, 'Imperialism and the Regulation of Sexuality: Colonial Legislation on Contagious Diseases and the Age of Consent,' *Journal of Historical Geography*, 28:3, July 2002, pp. 339-362.

WEEK SIX: Intersections: Sex Work, Gender and Race in European Imperialism

7th March

Ann Laura Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*, (2002), 'Gender and Morality in the Making of Race,' pp. 41-78.

9th March

Philip Howell, 'Sexuality, Sovereignty and Space: Law, Government and the Geography of Prostitution in Colonial Gibraltar', *Social History*, 29:4, 2004, pp.444-464.

Elisa Camiscioli, *Reproducing the French Race: Immigration, Intimacy and Embodiment in the Early Twentieth Century*, (2009), 'Black Migrants, White Slavery: Métissage in the Metropole and Abroad', pp. 99-127.

WEEK SEVEN: Preserving the Hygiene of the Nation: The Nationalist Response to Sex Work

13th March

Donna Guy, *Sex and Danger in Buenos Aires: Prostitution, Family and Nation in Argentina*, (1991), 'Patriotic Prostitutes and Dangerous Men' pp. 180-203.

Gail Hershatter, *Dangerous Pleasures: Prostitution and Modernity in Twentieth Century Shanghai*, (1999), 'Revolutionaries', pp. 304-326.

15th March

Antoinette Burton, *Burdens of History: British Feminists, Indian Women and*

Imperial Culture, 1865-1915, (1994), 'The White Woman's Burden: Josephine Butler and the Indian Campaign, 1886-1915', pp. 127-170.

WEEK EIGHT: Spring Break.

WEEK NINE: From Trade to Hustlers: Historicizing Male Prostitution

FILM SCREENING: *My Hustler* (USA, 1965)

28th March

Jeffrey Weeks, "Inverts, Perverts, and Mary-Annes: Male Prostitution and the Regulation of Homosexuality in England in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," *Journal of Homosexuality*, 6:1/2, 1981, pp. 113-134.

Dan Healey, 'Masculine Purity and "Gentlemen's Mischief": Sexual Exchange and Prostitution between Russian Men, 1861-1941', *Slavic Review*, 60:2, 2001, pp. 233-265.

30th March

Jennifer V. Evans, "Bahnhof Boys: Policing Male Prostitution in Post-Nazi Berlin," *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 12:3, 2003, pp. 605-636

WEEK NINE: Vixen or Victim? Narratives of White Slavery at the Fin-de-Siècle

Digital History Paper Due in Class

4th April

Judith Walkowitz, *City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late Victorian London*, (1992), 'The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon', pp. 81-119.

Stephanie Limoncelli, *The Politics of Trafficking: The First International Movement to Combat the Sexual Exploitation of Women*, (2010), Chapter 3, 'Constructing the Traffic as an International Social Problem', pp. 42-69.

6th April

Pamela Haag, *Consent: Sexual Rights and the Transformation of American Liberalism*, (1999), "White Slavery or the Wages of Sin? Privacy and Sexual Violence in the Modern Liberal Context," pp. 63-92.

WEEK TEN: The Flapper and the Dancing Girl: Leisure Culture and Erotic Labor in the Early Twentieth Century

FILM SCREENING: 'The Goddess' (1934, China)

11th April

NO CLASS

13th April

Judith Walkowitz, "The Vision of Salome': Cosmopolitanism and Erotic Dancing in Central London, 1908-1918." *American Historical Review*, 108:2 (2003), pp. 337-76.

Frederick Wakeman Jr, 'Licensing Leisure: The Chinese Nationalists' Attempt to Regulate Shanghai, 1927-1949', *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 54: 1, 1995, pp. 19-42.

Katherine Bliss, *Compromised Positions: Prostitution, Public Health and Gender Politics in Revolutionary Mexico City*, (2001), Chapter 1 'Prostitution, Sexual Morality and Reformism in Revolutionary Mexico City', pp. 1-21.

WEEK ELEVEN: The Sexual Front: Prostitution and War in the Twentieth Century

18th April

NO CLASS

20th April

Philippa Levine, *Prostitution, Race and Politics: Policing Venereal Disease in the British Empire* (2003), 'Colonial Soldiers, White Women and the First World War', pp. 145-176.

Annette F Timm, 'Sex with a Purpose: Prostitution, Venereal Disease and Militarized Masculinity in the Third Reich', in Dagmar Herzog (ed), *Sexuality and German Fascism* (2005), pp. 223-255.

Robert Sommer, 'Camp Brothels: Forced Sex Labor in Nazi Concentration Camps', in Dagmar Herzog (ed), *Brutality and Desire: War and Sexuality in Europe's Twentieth Century*, (2009), pp. 168-195.

WEEK TWELVE: Sex Wars: The Late Twentieth Century Sex Work Debates

25th April

Nan D. Hunter, 'Contextualizing the Sexuality Debates', in Lisa Duggan and Nan D

Hunter, *Sex Wars: Sexual Dissent and Political Culture*, (2006), pp. 15-27.

Carole Pateman, 'What's Wrong with Prostitution?' in Jessica Spector, *Prostitution and Pornography* (2006) pp. 50-79.

27th April

Jessica Spector, 'Obscene Division: Feminist Liberal Assessments of Prostitution Versus Feminist Liberal Defenses of Pornography,' in Jessica Spector, *Prostitution and Pornography* (2006), pp. 419-443.

WEEK THIRTEEN: Sex Across Borders: Sex Tourism and the Trafficking Paradigm
Part One

FILM SCREENING: Lilya 4-Ever (Sweden, 2003)

Historiography paper due this Friday at noon

2nd May

Sophie Day, "The re-emergence of 'trafficking': sex work between slavery and freedom," *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 16:4, 2010, pp. 816-834.

Stephanie Limoncelli and Gail Kligman, 'Trafficking Women After Socialism: From, To and Through Eastern Europe', *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State and Society*, 12:1, 2005, pp. 118-140.

4th May

Jacqueline Berman, 'The Left, the Right, and the Prostitute: The Making of U.S. Antitrafficking in Persons Policy,' *Tulane Journal of International and Comparative Law*, 14:269 (2006) pp. 269-293.