

Fall 2023

Prospectus: Sex, Love, and Race in African American Life and History

Professor Marcia Chatelain

Course ID and 7-digit Number: AFRC 2545.401, CRN 73464

Course Description and Level

This course discusses the political and social implications of sex, race and personal relationships in U.S. political and social history. In this class, we examine how ‘emotional’ experiences such as falling in love, having sex, getting married, coming out of the closet, and other deeply personal events in a person’s life are shaped by political, legal and historical forces. This course will examine the history of marriage rights, claims to ethnic identity, multiracial identity, sex education, and debates about marriage in the 20th century.

Class Structure for Fall 2023

In-Person Sessions Planned

We continue in-person instruction Fall 2023. We hope you consider building community, providing feedback, and making your course goals/activities as transparent to students as possible using Canvas and other technologies, as appropriate.

Out-of-class Activities

Reading: Weekly readings, usually a chapter in a book or an academic journal article or essay.
Lecture and classroom discussion weekly

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

Occasional Short Essay Quizzes about Readings

4 Short Papers on Topics of Students Choosing

Basis of Grading

Papers: 60%

Quizzes: 20%

Participation: 20%

Essential Course Policies

Required books:

Primary Texts:

Martha Hodes, ed. *Sex, Love and Race in America: Crossing Boundaries in North America*, (New York: New York University Press, 1999)

Peggy Pascoe, *What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)

Danzy Senna, *Caucasia*, (New York: Riverhead Trade, 1999)

Excerpts from:

Mary Bernstein and Verta Taylor, *The Marrying Kind? Debating Same-Sex Marriage within the Lesbian and Gay Movement* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013)

Karen DaCosta, *Making Multiracials: State, Family and Market in the Redrawing of the Color Line* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2007)

James J. Dowd and Nicole R. Pallotta, "The End of Romance: The Demystification of Love in the Postmodern Age," *Sociological Perspectives* 43.4 (2000), 549-580.

Susan Freeman, *Sex Goes to School: Girls and Sex Education Before the 1960s* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2008)

Alyson Hobbs, *A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014)

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, (1861), available online via docsouth.unc.edu

Randall Kennedy, *Interracial Intimacies: Sex, Marriage, Identity, and Adoption*, (New York: Vintage, 2004)

Regina Kunzel, *Fallen Women, Problem Girls: Unmarried Mothers and the Professionalization of Social Work, 1890-1945* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995)

Karen Leonard, *Making Ethnic Choices: California's Punjabi Mexican-Americans* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1994)

Ida B. Wells-Barnett, *Southern Horrors*, (1892) available online via Project Gutenberg

Any student may consult with [Student Financial Services](#) to find out what support they are eligible to receive to cover course costs or other items that ensure their health, safety, and secure learning environment.