



Adam and Eve by Lucas Cranach the Elder 1472 - 1553 [Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery]

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Department of History

Spring 2024

Sex and Empire

This course explores the historical narratives surrounding modern empires and colonialism, with a specific focus on the role of sex and gender. Modern empires as complex political and social structures built upon and operated based on difference—racial, religious, sexual. Colonial encounters not only produced unequal and uneven conditions for the colonized, but also in the construction of racialized and gendered structures in the formation of modern capitalism, market economies, political regimes, citizenship, everyday violence and so on. This course examines the historical literature at the intersections of power and historical experience in the framework of a variety of themes including modern family, marriage, property, labor, incarceration, sex trafficking, displacement, and reproduction as they relate to sexuality, race, and religion categories in imperial contexts. The course spans the early nineteenth century to the present and framed around global and cross-cultural perspective to analyze how scholars have engaged with sexuality and gender to explore broader themes pertaining to formation of modern empires and colonialism.

Course Requirements

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Attendance, Participation	15%
Discussion Post & Questions	30%
First Paper	15%
Second Paper	20%
Final Paper (Exam Week)	20%

Week 1 Introduction

January 22
January 24

Week 2 Victorian Morality, Sexual Difference, and Gender

January 29
January 31

Week 3 Defining Sex: Body, Race, and Medicine in the 19th Century

February 5
February 7

Week 4 Feminism and the Feminists

February 12
February 14

Week 5 Invention of Sexology: Hysteria, Hormones, and Lust from Kraft-Ebbing to Freud

February 19
February 21

Week 6 Sex Between Wars

February 26
February 28

Week 7 Spring Break

Week 8 Population Bomb and Reproductive Technologies

March 11
March 13

Week 9 March 18 March 20	Non-Aligned Feminisms
Week 10 March 25 March 27	Sex Revolution around the World
Week 11 April 1 April 3	AIDS
Week 12 April 8 April 10	Gay Marriage
Week 13 April 15 April 17	Trans/Imaginarities
Week 14 April 22 April 24	Sex for Sale / Porn for Sale
Week 15 April 29 May 1	Conclusion