Gender Theory for Historians (Hist 72000)
Fall 2012, Prof. D. Herzog, dherzog@gc.cuny.edu
Class: Tuesdays 2-4, Room 4433
Office Hours: Fridays 10-11:30 and by appointment; tel. 212-817-8468

This graduate seminar is designed to introduce students to both classic and more recent texts in the overlapping areas of women’s and gender history, queer studies, and feminist, psychoanalytic, deconstructionist and poststructuralist theory, with forays into a wide range of historiographical styles and occasional excursions into anthropology, sociology, literary criticism, and political philosophy. There will be special emphasis on: the historical intersections of gender, race, economics, empire, religion; the histories of subjectivities and epistemologies; and the histories of psychiatry, sexuality, disability, reproduction. Most of the texts will focus on the U.S. and Europe since the 18th c., with many focused on the recent past and near-present. Throughout, the goal will be to understand the practical usefulness of varieties of gender theory for the diverse historical research projects you all are engaged in. Requirements include thorough reading of the assigned materials, two critical questions about each assigned text sent to instructor and classmates in advance of class every time, thoughtful and active participation in class discussions, two short summary analyses of weekly readings also sent to instructor and classmates in advance of class (we will divide up the reading list amongst ourselves on the first day), and one longer final paper exploring the relevance of and putting to use some aspect(s) of gender theory for your own work. Questions and summaries must be emailed by 7 a.m. on Tues.

Required materials:
Carolyn Steedman, Landscape for a Good Woman: A Story of Two Lives
ISBN: 0813512581 /9780813512587
$ 19.95
Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality, Vol. I: An Introduction
0679724699 /9780679724698
$ 14.00
All readings marked with a * are on e-reserve at the Mina Rees Library.

Learning Goals:
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
*Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the evolution of theoretically-informed work in gender history and related disciplines from the 1970s to the present, including various applications of psychoanalytic, deconstructionist, and poststructuralist approaches
*Recognize both the historically and culturally variable nature of ideas about gender and sexuality and the consequential impact of those ideas despite their variability
*Identify key innovations in conceptualizing the historically variable intersections of gender and sexuality with issues of class, race, and disability
*Explain effectively the adaptability and applicability of critical concepts developed by feminist and queer theorists working in history and other social sciences and humanities to the study of such issues as violence, religion, and empire
Aug. 28 Introduction to the course

Sep. 4 Class and Capitalism
*Ellen Ross, “Fierce Questions and Taunts,” Feminist Studies (Fall 1982)
*Sonya Rose, “Gender at Work,” History Workshop (Spring 1986)

Sep. 11 The Trouble with Feminism
*Denise Riley, “Does a Sex Have a History?” (1988), in Joan Scott, ed., Feminism and History
*Joan Scott, “Rereading the History of Feminism,” Only Paradoxes to Offer (1996)

Sep. 18 and Sep. 25 No classes scheduled on GC calendar.

Oct. 2 The Politics of Envy
Carolyn Steedman, Landscape for a Good Woman (1987)

Oct. 9 The Intimacy of Violence
*Peggy Sanday, “The XYZ Express,” Fraternity Gang Rape (1990), pp. 38-59
*Matthias Bjornlund, “‘A Fate Worse than Dying’: Sexual Violence during the Armenian Genocide,” in Dagmar Herzog, ed., Brutality and Desire: War and Sexuality in Europe’s Twentieth Century (2009)

Oct. 16 No class. Instructor out of town.
Oct. 23 Civilization Clashes
*Ann Laura Stoler, “Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power” (1991), in Scott, Feminism and History
*Richard Fogarty, “Race and Sex, Fear and Loathing in France During the Great War,” in Herzog, Brutality and Desire (2009)

Oct. 30 Racial (In)Justice/Gender (In)Justice

Nov. 6 Reworking Freud. Start collecting primary sources and/or secondary scholarship for final paper.
*Sigmund Freud, “Screen Memories” (1899), in The Complete Psychological Works
*Sigmund Freud, Civilization and its Discontents (1931), Part II (= pp. 22-36) and Part V (pp. 68-74 only)

Nov. 13 Disability, Reproduction
*Kate Fisher, “‘Didn’t stop to think, I just didn’t want another one’: The Culture of Abortion in
*Michael Bérubé, “Biotech before Birth,” Tikkun 15, no. 3 (May-June 2000), pp. 73-79

Nov. 20 No class. Instructor out of town. Bibliographies and tentative outlines for final papers due by email.

Nov. 27 Foucault for Historians

Dec. 4 Queer Thinking

Dec. 11 Historicizing Emotions
*Laura Kipnis, “(Male) Desire and (Female) Disgust: Reading Hustler,” in Lawrence Grossberg et al., eds., Cultural Studies (1992)
*Omer Bartov, “Kitsch and Sadism in Ka-Tzetnik’s Other Planet: Israeli Youth Imagine the Holocaust,” Jewish Social Studies 3, no. 2 (Winter 1997)

Dec. 18 Final papers due by email no later than 5 pm