**HISTORY 70900 – SEX & SOCIETY IN POSTWAR EUROPE, 1945-89**  
**CUNY GRADUATE CENTER, SPRING 2021**  
**PROF. JULIA SNEERINGER**

Class meets on Zoom weekly on Wednesdays 2-4pm (EST)  
Office Hours: Weds. 4-5 or by appointment  
Email: julia.sneeringer@QC.cuny.edu (not GC!)

**LEARNING GOALS:** Students will explore in detail moments in the social history of postwar Europe, East and West, using sex and gender as key categories of analysis. We will explore how the story of Europe shifts when sex and gender are the focus, reconsidering such phenomena as postwar reconstruction, the Economic Miracle, building socialism, consumer culture, youth culture, queer subcultures, labor migrations, race and decolonization, second wave feminism, 1968, terrorism, and the collapse of communism.

**REQUIREMENTS:** You are expected to attend class each week prepared to discuss the readings and, during one week, serve as discussion leader. You will produce written reviews throughout the semester (one goal of this course is to help you master the art of the academic review), as well as a historiographic essay on a topic of your choice. Your grade will be based on the following:

- **Four book reviews:** four 1000-word reviews of individual books or articles on the syllabus are due throughout the semester. A review must summarize the work’s argument; discuss its strengths, weaknesses, and use of sources; and assess its contribution to the field. Reviews must be submitted during the class in which the work is discussed. I will not accept reviews of a reading after we have already discussed it. If we’re only reading an excerpt of a larger work, you may focus your review on the section read for that day’s class. You may review any texts you choose (and you may also discuss more than one text in your review), but you must have submitted at least two reviews by March 17; the remaining two are due on or before May 5. Reviews must stick to the 1000-word limit – learning how to be both concise and analytically rigorous is a key part of this exercise. (First 2 reviews worth 10% each, second 2 @ 15% each = 50% of final grade)

- **Final review essay:** a historiographic review essay of c. 4000 words (c. 16 pages + bibliography + notes) on any topic of your choice within the course’s theme and time frame. You must discuss and analyze in detail at least three secondary works on that topic (an article counts as ½); due at the end of the semester. You may include no more than one work discussed in class. (30%)

- **Class participation & discussion facilitation:** each of you will serve as discussion leader for 1 session. Your semester-long engagement will also be evaluated. Discussion and debate are essential parts of doing history, and your active participation is vital both to the success of this class and your growth as a scholar. Excessive absences will negatively impact your grade. Please inform me of any emergencies that prevent you from attending; otherwise, I expect to see you here every week. (20%)
**READINGS:** The books listed below are recommended for purchase, as we’ll read extensively in them. You can acquire them through the GC online bookstore at [http://gc.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php?action=browse#books/2684327/](http://gc.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php?action=browse#books/2684327/) or wherever you get your books (good alternatives to amazon are abebooks.com and powells.com). Other readings will be posted on the course Blackboard page (Bb).


*NOTE: Judt will serve primarily as background, though we will certainly bring it into our discussions, as it makes a distinct argument. I’d prefer you not make it the focus of your short essays, though you may certainly refer to it.*

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

2/3  Introduction. 1945: Zero Hour?
READING: Judt, introduction / Herzog, Introduction & ch. 1

2/10  1945-49: Reconstructing Europe, Reconstructing Gender
READING: Judt chs. I-VI / *Miracle Years* articles by Heineman, Biess / Herzog ch. 2 / Black, “Expellees Tell Tales” [Bb]

2/17  The 1950s: Reconstructing Sex
READING: Judt pp. 226-77 / Herzog, ch. 3 / *Miracle Years* articles by Hoehn, Fehrenbach, Schissler / McLellan pp. 1-21 / Mort pp. 1-24 & 41-48

2/24  The Explosion of Consumer Culture

* Have you submitted a review yet? *
3/3 The Explosion of Youth Culture

3/10 Gay Subcultures before the Sexual Revolution
READING: Mort chs. 4-5 / McLellan ch. 5 / Whisnant, “The Homophile Movement” & “The Struggle over the Gay Scene’s Boundaries” [Bb]

3/17 Race in the New Europe: Guest Workers, Migration, Decolonization
READING: Judt pp. 278-309 / Shepard, “Veiled ‘Muslim’ Women, Violent Pied Noir Men, & the Family of France” [Bb] / Miller, “The Invitation” [Bb] / Perry, “Are We to be Mauled Down Simply Because We are Black?” [Bb]

* You must have submitted 2 reviews by today *

3/24 The Early 1960s: A Turning Point?
READING: Judt pp. 390-98 / Sneeringer, chs. 3-Epilogue / Mort ch. 7 / Marwick, “Youth Culture & the Cultural Revolution of the Long Sixties” [Bb]

3/31 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

4/7 1968: A Revolutionary Year?
READING: Judt pp. 401-21 & 436-49 / Herzog ch. 4 / Brown, Sixties Europe, entire

4/14 Terrorism & the Case of the Red Army Faction
READING: Judt pp. 453-77 / Melzer, Death in the Shape of a Young Girl, entire

4/21 The 1970s: A New Feminism, Gay Liberation

* Have you submitted a third review yet? *

4/28 The 1980s: Thatcherism, AIDS & Life Under Late Communism
READING: Judt ch. XVII / Herzog ch. 5 / McLellan chs. 6-8 / Schwarz, „The Silent Majority“ [Bb]

5/5 The Collapse of Communism: A Socio-Cultural Take

* You must have submitted your last 2 reviews by today *

5/12 Concluding Thoughts: Assessing the Postwar Period
READING: Weeks, “A Different World” & “Cultures of Restraint” [Bb]
* Final Papers due May 17 *

Articles cited: