GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

‘Denmark: Brothel of the North?: Gender and Sexuality Studies’ is a course in English for Danish and international students. The course introduces the students to the history of concepts of gender and sexuality, and covers topics such as heterosexuality, homosexuality, sex education, HIV/AIDS, women’s emancipation, masculinity, prostitution, pornography, sexual nationalism, and transgenderism. We will use a diverse range of teaching methods including group work, excursions, movie screenings, and lectures. We will focus on Denmark, but also study how Denmark relates and compares to the rest of the world. The course does not require previous knowledge of theories of gender and sexuality, and aims to give the students the opportunity to share knowledge of their respective home countries in an academic setting.
Location: University of Copenhagen, Amager, Karen Blixens Plads 8.
Mondays: 12.0.25/12.0.35.
Wednesday: 15A.1.13.

Time: Monday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
First lecture is February 3rd and last lecture is May 13th.
Furthermore, there will be one excursion, two NGO-talks, three workshops and four movie screenings.
A total of 15 lectures, 1 excursion, 2 NGO-talks, 3 workshops and 4 movie screenings.

Coordinator: The course is organised by The Saxo Institute.
The coordinator is Peter Edelberg, The Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen.

Lecturer: Peter Edelberg, The Saxo Institute.

Assistants: There will be a teaching assistant from Danish Culture Courses, who will assist with practical matters.

Website: [www.danishculturecourses.ku.dk](http://www.danishculturecourses.ku.dk)
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/danishculturecourses](http://www.facebook.com/danishculturecourses)
E-mail: dcc@hum.ku.dk

Registration: Find the registration form on our website, fill it in electronically and send it to dcc-registry@hum.ku.dk from your KU-mail. The deadline is the 5th of March 2020. The course is offered to students enrolled at the University of or through Open University: [www.aabentuniversitet.hum.ku.dk](http://www.aabentuniversitet.hum.ku.dk).

We can only admit 60 students at this course. Students will be admitted according to the date, they hand in the registration form.

Exchange students can sign up for a maximum of 35 ECTS points at the UCPH per semester. If you wish to join this course but your enrollment in it will make your total amount of ECTS exceed the 35 ECTS limit, please contact the department(s) of the course(s) you’re registered for and ask to be withdrawn in order to make room for it. Once you have room for the 15 ECTS, please fill in the registration form and send it to dcc-registry@hum.ku.dk from your KU-mail. The registration deadline is March 5th 2020.
**Examination:** When you register for the course you are automatically registered for the exam.

**Historical Theme 1 – HHIB10211E:**

**Form of exam:** Written take-home assignment, optional subject. The subject of the assignment is agreed between the student and the teacher.

**Assessment:** Internal exam with one examiner, the 7-point grading scale.

**Exam language:** English.

**Extent:** 16-20 standard pages.

**Group exam:** The exam can only be taken individually.

**Make-up exam/re-exam:** Same as above

The assignment must be uploaded in Digital Exam no later than June 4th at 12 p.m. (noon).

After evaluation of the exam, the grade or result is automatically added to your transcript and reported to your home university by IUS (International Education & Grants). The grade will be published on KU-net Self Service four weeks after deadline for submission of exam paper.

**Literature:** Your personal syllabus is the textbook: Dagmar Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History* (Cambridge University Press 2011) and required readings uploaded in Absalon unless otherwise arranged.

A collection of pertinent books is available in the reference library. These books are only to be studied in the library, cf. list of books, which you can find in the Absalon room. The location is Saxo Knowledge Center 13B, 2nd floor at KUA2.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Mar. 5th:** Deadline for registration, change of exams and withdrawal.

**May 14th:** End-of-term celebration.

**Jun. 4th:** Deadline for submission of exam papers at 12 p.m. (noon) in Digital Exam.
**SCHEDULE**

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<td>Lecture 1:</td>
<td>Introduction: Studying Gender and Sexuality</td>
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<td>Wed. Feb. 5th</td>
<td>Lecture 2:</td>
<td>The Invention of Heterosexuality: Historicizing the Normal</td>
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<td>Mon. Feb. 10th</td>
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<td>The History of Homosexuality</td>
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<td><em>Sex og Samfund</em> (Danish Family Planning Organization)</td>
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<td>Lecture 5:</td>
<td>Women’s Emancipation, Feminism and Queer Theory</td>
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<td>Female Prostitution: Is Denmark the Brothel of the North?</td>
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<td>Mon. Mar. 30th</td>
<td>Lecture 10:</td>
<td>Transgender in Denmark</td>
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Wed. Apr. 15th Study Event: Workshop: Writing a Research Paper

Mon. Apr. 20th Lecture 11: Culture Wars: Pornography and Nudity


Mon. Apr. 27th Lecture 12: Art, Gender and Sexuality

Wed. Apr. 29th Excursion: SMK (Danish National Gallery)


Wed. May 6th Lecture 13: #MeToo in Denmark

Mon. May 11th Lecture 14: Debate: Danish Liberal-mindedness – Myth or Reality?

Wed. May 13th Lecture 15: Conclusion

The programme is subject to alteration.
PROGRAMME

Lecture 1: Introduction: Studying Gender and Sexuality
(Feb. 3rd)

I will introduce the course and we will discuss the: Why here? Why now? And why us? of studying gender and sexuality in a historical and cultural perspective.

Expected reading:


Lecture 2: The Invention of Heterosexuality: Historicizing the Normal
(Feb. 5th)

We will continue the discussion of what it means to study gender and sexuality from a cultural historical perspective and try to historicize the norm.

Expected reading:


Lecture 3: The History of Homosexuality
(Feb. 10th)

1989 was a pivotal year in Danish gay history. Denmark introduced, as the first country in the world, ‘gay marriage’. What went before and what happened after?

Expected reading:


Henning Bech. "Report from a Rotten State: 'Marriage’ and ‘Homosexuality’ in 'Denmark’” in Modern Homosexualities:


**Study Event:** Movie Screening: The Celluloid Closet (1995). Directed by Epstein and Friedman

Movies are a central source for gender and sexuality history. What can we learn from movies and how can we use them as source material?

**Expected reading:**


**Lecture 4:** Children, Education and Sexuality

Fear of child sex abuse has been a central theme in sexuality debates for the last 30 years. We will try to tackle a taboo and discuss how the specter of the pedophile haunts sex education.

**Expected reading:**


NGO-Talk: Sex og Samfund (Danish Family Planning Organization)
(Feb. 19th)

Family planning is controversial again and has probably always been. We will hear from the horse’s mouth what they do and which challenges they face.

Expected reading:


Lecture 5: Women’s Emancipation, Feminism and Queer Theory
(Febr. 24th)

Feminism is hot again! We will discuss the history of feminism and women’s emancipation in the light of the challenge of queer theory and postmodernity.

Expected reading:


Lecture 6: Male Prostitution: A Forgotten Subculture in Copenhagen
(Mar. 2nd)

Imagine City Hall Square in Copenhagen as a dismal place for those living on society’s margins. That was the reality in the 1950’s. How did it change?

Expected reading:


Lecture 7: Female Prostitution: Is Denmark the Brothel of the North?
(Mar. 4th)

Prostitution or sex work is still a hot topic in Denmark. How can we understand the debates without taking sides? What do they say about Denmark? Are we ‘the Brothel of the North’?
Expected reading:


**Lecture 8: The Quiet Revolution of Late-Modern Masculinity**

(Mar. 9th)

Much is going on with heterosexuality and straight masculinity while nobody (or few) are looking. Is straight masculinity undergoing a revolution?

Expected reading:


**Study Event: Movie Screening: Venner for Altid / Friends Forever (1987). Directed by Stefan Henszelman**

(Mar. 11th)

A classic Danish youth movie from the 1980s. What can we squeeze out of it with our accumulated knowledge about gender, sexuality, and history?

**Study Event: Workshop: Writing a Synopsis**

(Mar 16th)

I will talk about how to write a good synopsis for this course, and the synopsis will be due on April 1.

+ Mid-Way Evaluation.

**Lecture 9: Globalization and Sexual Nationalism**

(Mar. 23rd)

Homo-nationalism, sexual nationalism – these are some of the terms that try to frame the discussion today. How can we study sexual politics in the 21. Century?
Expected reading:


NGO-Talk: Saabah (Mar. 25th)

Saabah is an organization for minority ethnic LGBT+ persons in Denmark. We will hear about their work and their challenges.

Lecture 10: Transgender in Denmark (Mar. 30th)

Transgender is high on the agenda in politics today. What has happened in this field in Denmark and what is the backstory?

Expected reading:


A brilliant documentary about Denmark with English subtitles! What does transgenderism look likes from the perspective of the transpeople themselves?

Study Event: Workshop: Writing a Research Paper (Apr. 15th)

I will talk about how to structure a research paper for this course.

Lecture 11: Culture Wars: Pornography and Nudity (Apr. 20th)

Pornography and nudity is a central theme in any ‘sexual revolution’ or ‘liberal-mindedness’. Is Denmark as liberated as it wants to be? And how can we study porn as a historical phenomenon?
**Expected reading:**


**Study Event:** Movie Screening: *Hot Girls Wanted* (2015)  
**Directed by Bauer and Gradus**

Where does sex work, nudity and pornography meet? The internet is the new battle field of sexual politics.

**Lecture 12:** Art, Gender and Sexuality  
**(Apr. 27th)**

How can we study art as a cultural historical phenomenon? Is there more to art than the straight, white, male gaze? Where is it?

**Expected reading:**


**Excursion:** SMK (Danish National Gallery)  
**(Apr. 29th)**

We will get a tour of Denmark’s primary public art gallery and practice our new found skills of gender and sexuality critique.

**Study Event:** Workshop: Getting the Research Paper Right  
**(May 4th)**

Now you are writing your research paper for the course! What should you remember? How to get the details right.

**Lecture 13:** #MeToo in Denmark  
**(May 6th)**

‘Denmark: The country that #MeToo forgot’ it has been said. How come the so-called liberal minded and gender equal Denmark is not on the #MeToo wagon?

**Expected reading:**

Jannie Møller Hartley and Tina Askanius. "Framing Gender Justice: A Comparative Analysis of the Media Coverage of #MeToo in Denmark and Sweden".


Lecture 14: (May 11th) **Debate: Danish Liberal-mindedness – Myth or Reality?**

We will debate the concept of Danish liberal-mindedness. True, False? or perhaps the cultural historical perspective can take us further than that.

+ Final Evaluation.

Lecture 15: (May 13th) **Conclusion**

Goodbye and Good Luck and Final Evaluation. There will be cake...
ADDRESSES

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