



HSTCMP 284

HISTORY OF SEX

Summer 2022, B-Term | Laurie Marhoefer

In 1895, most Europeans believed normal sex to be sex between a man and his wife, with most wives having sex solely out of a sense of duty rather than from enjoyment. Anything that went against this such as masturbation, premarital sex, birth control, and gay sex was seen as shocking, abhorrent, and a national crisis. Within a hundred years, though, that mindset would be reversed and transform the lives of hundreds of millions of people. What happened?

This course traces the surprising history of sex, including its acts and desires as well as related notions of gender, from medieval Europe to the present and examines the dramatic shifts in views on sex that touch on elements of the histories of women and gender, racism and oppression, religion, and politics and society.

5 credits (I&S, DIV)

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