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FASCISM AND SEXUALITY

MON./WED. 4:30-5:50, HARDENBERGH HALL A3 (M)/B4 (W)
FALL 2008

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Office hours: TBA

Course description:

This seminar will explore the relationships between fascism (primarily, but not exclusively in its German form) and sexuality. Primary topics of analysis in this course are the central importance of sexuality to fascism not only in historical practice but in theory, as well as the (dubiously) privileged status of sexuality in theories of fascism continuing through today. We will begin with the Nazi era, noting what constituted acceptable and forbidden expressions of gender and sexuality, in theory and in everyday life. We will proceed through the postwar era to the present, examining the ways in which artists, theorists, and historians have continually portrayed and analyzed fascism in sexual terms, paying particular attention to the recurring figure of “the gay Nazi.” We will also address such phenomena as gays and lesbians in the Holocaust (and debates over their memorialization), the intrinsic homophobia of much antifascist critique, the 1970s “Nazisploitation film,” and contemporary queer skinheads, with an eye toward which of these are historically specific and which still determine the terms and framing of discourse on fascism today.

No knowledge of spoken or written German is required.

Required texts:

- Erica Fischer. *Aimée & Jaguar: A Love Story, Berlin 1943*. ISBN 1555834507
- Jean Genet, *Funeral Rites*. ISBN 0802130879
- Heinz Heger. *The Men With the Pink Triangle: The True, Life-And-Death Story of Homosexuals in the Nazi Death Camps*. ISBN 1555830064
- Dagmar Herzog, ed. *Sexuality and German Fascism*. ISBN 1571815511
- George L. Mosse. *Nationalism and Sexuality: Respectability and Abnormal Sexuality in Modern Europe*. ISBN 0865274290
- Andrea Slane. *A Not So Foreign Affair: Fascism, Sexuality, and the Cultural Rhetoric of American Democracy*. ISBN 0822326930
- William Styron. *Sophie's Choice*. ISBN 0679736379
- readings to download from Sakai

Optional texts:

- Laura Frost. *Sex Drives: Fantasies of Fascism in Literary Modernism*. ISBN 0801438942
- Klaus Theweleit. *Male Fantasies, Volume 2: Male Bodies : Psychoanalyzing the White Terror*. ISBN 0816614512
- George L. Mosse. *The Fascist Revolution: Toward a General Theory of Fascism*. ISBN 0865274355
- Kriss Ravetto. *The Unmaking of Fascist Aesthetics*. ISBN 0816637431
- Erica Fischer. *Aimée & Jaguar: Eine Liebesgeschichte, Berlin 1943*. ISBN 3462034995
- Heger, Heinz. *Die Männer mit dem rosa Winkel*. ISBN: 3875362152

All required and optional texts are on reserve in Alexander Library.

Films:

We will be discussing several films in this course. It is your responsibility to have watched each film either on reserve at the Language Institute (20 Seminary Place, just off College Ave., <http://languageinstitute.rutgers.edu>) or at home on your own by the time we discuss it in class.

Course requirements and grading:

Class Participation: **30%**

Your participation grade includes a range of factors including:

- Attendance. This is a discussion-based seminar, so being in class is essential. If you have to miss class, please let me know in advance.
- Discussion and preparation. All students are expected to take part actively in class discussion. To this end, you are expected to bring with you to each class **three** written or typed clusters of questions that you think would contribute to a productive discussion and deepen your understanding of the text at hand. I will collect these at the end of every class and provide occasional written commentary. Your questions should total around half a page if handwritten (although I will not be counting words).

Papers: **70%** (20% + 20% + 30%)

Each student will write 2 short (5-7 pp.) papers on works studied up to that point in the course; they will be due on **Wednesday, 10/15/08** and **Wednesday, 11/12/08**. Each of these short papers may be revised subsequently if you have definite ideas about how you can improve them, and the new grade will replace the old one. The final paper will be longer (10-15 pp.) and will be due on **Friday, 5/6/05**. A 1-page abstract/proposal for this paper will be due on **Monday, 11/24/08**.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

(S) = Sakai download

(F) = Film

Wed., 9/03: Introduction

Mon., 9/08: Elizabeth Heineman, "Sexuality and Nazism: The Doubly Unspeakable?" (S; the text is also chapter 2 of *Sexuality and German Fascism*), excerpt from Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (S)

Wed., 9/10: excerpts from Wilhelm Reich, *The Mass Psychology of Fascism*; Samuel Igra, *Germany's National Vice* (S); Rodney Collin, "Hitlerism as a Sex Problem" (S); Kurt Tucholsky, "Röhm" (S)

Mon., 9/15: Heinz Heger, *The Men with the Pink Triangle; Sexuality and German Fascism*, chapters 4 & 9; recommended: Geoffrey J. Giles, "The Institutionalization of Homosexual Panic in the Third Reich" (S)

Wed., 9/17: Martin Sherman, *Bent* (S); *Sexuality and German Fascism*, chapter 11

Mon., 9/22: George Mosse, *Nationalism and Sexuality* 1-113

Wed., 9/24: *Nationalism and Sexuality* 114-191; *Sexuality and German Fascism*, chapter 1

Mon., 9/29: Thomas Mann, "Mario and the Magician" (S)

Wed., 10/1: Veit Harlan, *Jud Süß* (F)

Mon., 10/6: Erica Fischer, *Aimée & Jaguar* 1-173

Wed., 10/8: *Aimée & Jaguar* 175-end; Claudia Schoppmann, "Days of Masquerade: An Introduction" (S)

Mon., 10/13: Excerpts from Klaus Theweleit, *Male Fantasies* (S)

Wed., 10/15: *Male Fantasies* (cont.); Andrew Hewitt, *Political Inversions*, chapter 1 (S)

***Paper 1 due**

Mon., 10/20: Jean Genet, *Funeral Rites*; Andrew Hewitt, "Sleeping with the Enemy: Genet and the Fantasy of Homo-Fascism" (S); Recommended: Richard J. Golsan and Melanie Hawthorne, "Introduction: Mapping the Terrain" (S)

Wed., 10/22: 10/20: Roberto Rossellini, *Germany Year Zero* (F); Harry Oosterhuis, "The 'Jews' of the Antifascist Left" (S); recommended: Randall Halle, "Between Marxism and Psychoanalysis" (S)

Mon., 10/27: Sylvia Plath, "Lady Lazarus," "Getting There," "Daddy" (S); Irving Howe, "Sylvia Plath: A Partial Disagreement" (S); John Romano, "Sylvia Plath Reconsidered" and responses in *Commentary* (S).

Wed., 10/29: Luchino Visconti, *The Damned*

Mon., 11/3: Liliana Cavani, *The Night Porter* (F); Susan Sontag, "Fascinating Fascism";
recommended: Michel Foucault, "Film and Popular Memory"

Wed., 11/5: Andrea Slane, *A Not So Foreign Affair*, 1-105

Mon., 11/10: *A Not So Foreign Affair*, 214-292; *Salon Kitty* (F)

Wed., 11/12: Don Edmonds, *Ilsa, She Wolf of the S.S.* (F)

***Paper 2 due**

Mon., 11/17: Pier Paolo Pasolini, *Salò, or the 120 Days of Sodom* (F); Recommended: Gary Indiana,
Salò, or the 120 Days of Sodom (on reserve)

Wed., 11/19: Murray Healy, *Gay Skins* (S); Rosa von Praunheim, *Männer, Helden, schwule Nazis* (Men,
Heroes, Gay Nazis) (F)

Mon., 11/24: Bruce LaBruce, *Skin Flick*

***Proposal for final paper due**

Mon., 12/1: William Styron, *Sophie's Choice*, pp. 1-??

Wed., 12/3: *Sophie's Choice* (cont.), Joan Smith, "Holocaust Girls" (S)

Mon., 12/8: Paul Verhoeven, *Black Book* (F)

Wed., 12/10: Conclusion