Women Studies H3550. Women & Society – The Sex-Trade economy

SEMESTER: Spring 2017

INSTRUCTOR: Christelle TARAUD
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MEETING TIMES:
Monday: 12H30 pm-2H00 pm; and Tuesday: 4H30 pm-6H30 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Based on an interdisciplinary, intersectional, subalternist and post-colonial approach, this course is a general introduction to the history, sociology and anthropology of the economy of the sex-trade in Africa, America, Asia and Europe from the early nineteenth century to today. It aims to clarify: 1) the historiographical situation by questioning and analyzing the French regulatory system and its many avatars in Europe, the United States and in the colonial world, but also questioning the backlash to this system that consisted firstly of the abolitionist (born in England in the second half of the nineteenth century) and then the prohibitionist movements; 2) The relationship between class, “race” and gender in the sex market via issues of human trafficking and sex tourism in Europe, America, Africa and Asia; 3) The socio-economic issue - and its political connections – in the economy of sex with particular attention to individuals (prostitutes versus sex workers), their voices, their legal status, and even their mobilization (rallies and demonstrations, community collectives and trade unions, political and / or literary publications), but also the many heated debates that these demands for recognition and these mobilizations have provoked in places as diverse as France, the Netherlands and India to take only three specific examples in the world covered in the course.

In this course students will learn to work on the entire gamut of primary sources from the most traditional (e.g. essays, political statements, press reviews, administrative reports, demographic statistics, judicial archives, etc.) to less
commonly used sources such as iconographic materials (e.g. paintings, photography, postcards, films) as well as private diaries, correspondence, etc. These primary sources will be studied in each session and will be contextualized in relation to secondary sources.

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Attendance and participation are mandatory
- Each student is allowed one unjustified absence for the entire length of the course, with the exception of religious holidays
- Medical absences must be justified by a medical certificate
- Each absence beyond the authorized threshold will lower the final grade by ½ point (i.e.: with two absences a 19 becomes an 18, etc.)
- In addition to attendance students should plan on being punctual. Please note that 3 lateness (10 minutes or more) are equivalent to 1 full absence
- All assignments handed in late without the authorization of the instructor will be penalized

CLASS RULES

- No eating
- No cell phones
- No laptops or other electronic devices
- Leaving the room once class has begun is considered very impolite in France

COURSE MATERIALS AND, IF APPLICABLE, BIBLIOGRAPHY

In addition to the course handbook provided by the Columbia in Paris staff and compiled by your instructor, students must purchase and read (throughout the semester) Gayle S Rubin & Judith Butler, Marché au sexe, Paris, EPEL, 2002.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING PROCEDURES

In addition to regular attendance, students must complete advance readings of the texts that accompany each session in order to actively participate in the discussion. The preparation of these readings entails making note (in French) of the arguments you intend to bring to the classroom discussion (your notes will be used by the instructor to assess the quality of your oral participation and as part of your ongoing evaluation). Please note that while the course is based on primary source analysis, secondary bibliographies will also be used to enrich our understanding of the subjects. The reading of these sources is also mandatory.
Overall course evaluation is done under the following conditions:
- **Ongoing assessment** of your written notes prepared in advance for use during all class discussions: 20%
- **Oral presentation** of a primary source (you may use notes, but you may not read your presentation) for 30 to 40 minutes: 20%
- **Primary text commentary** (8 to 10 pages minimum): 30%
- **Final Exam**: 30%

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability should contact the administrative staff directly or see Enyi Koene in office 108B. All discussions will remain confidential.

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires of faculty and students alike the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity. Scholarship, by its very nature, is an iterative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars’ work, the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgement of those ideas in any work that inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited.

- In practical terms, this means that, as students,
  - you must be responsible for the full citations of others’ ideas in all of your research papers and projects
  - you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations
  - you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent
  - In case of plagiarism, the student’s assignment will be directly sent to the Director of the program and an F will be attributed to that particular assignment
COURSE SCHEDULE: 13 weeks + One day of visits: Friday March 31 (10H00 am-4H00 pm).

WEEK 1: February 6 - 12

Session 1 (February 6): *Presentation of the course: Sex-Trade Economy: Themes, questions and issues at stake; course syllabus; assignments and grading; distribution of classroom presentations; various instructions.*

Session 2 (February 7): *Methodology for writing a commentary of a primary source.*

WEEK 2: February 13 - 19

Session 1 (February 13): *French regulationism: a model for the organization of prostitution for Europe?*

Session 2 (February 14): *French regulationism: a model for the organization of prostitution for Europe?*

Primary sources:

- Petit dossier de documents primaires comprenant : deux pages du registre des courtisanes, des peintures de prostituées, le catalogue des prix de l’amour, et divers éléments sur Le Chabanais.
- **Alexandre Parent Duchatelet**, « Généralités sur les maisons publics de prostitution », *De la prostitution dans la ville de Paris*, Paris, J.B Baillière, Tome 1, 1836, p.270-356. To be consulted on [Gallica](http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k65208459.r=ParentDuch%C3%A2telet%2C+Alexandre) via the following link: http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k65208459.r=ParentDuch%C3%A2telet%2C+Alexandre-Jean-Baptiste

Secondary Bibliography:

WEEK 3 : February 20 - 26

Session 1 (February 20): The New-Orleans’s Storyville (USA) and his Red Light District in the 1910-1920’s.

Session 2 (February 21): The New-Orleans’s Storyville (USA) and his Red Light District in the 1910-1920’s.

Primary sources:
- Corpus of photography by E.J Bellocq. To be consulted via the following link: http://www.atgetphotography.com/The-Photographers/Bellocq.html

Secondary Bibliography:

WEEK 4 : February 27 –March 5

Session 1 (February 27): Colonial era regulations: how the sex trade globalized via European imperialism: The Maghreb example from 1830 to 1962.

Session 2 (February 28): Colonial era regulations: how the sex trade globalized via European imperialism: The Maghreb example from 1830 to 1962.

Primary sources:
- E.A Duchesne, De la prostitution dans la ville d’Alger depuis la conquête, Paris, J.B Baillière, 1853, p.20-34. To be consulted on Gallica via the following link: http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k28714x/f20.item.r=Prostitution%20en%20algerie

Secondary Bibliography:
30. To be consulted on JSTOR via the following link:
http://www.jstor.org/stable/27933632


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**WEEK 5 : March 6 - 12**

Session 1 (March 6): Abolitionism and (neo)regulationism in the XIXth and XXth centuries.

Session 2 (March 7): Abolitionism and (neo)regulationism in the XIXth and XXth centuries.

*Primary Sources:*
- Joséphine Butler, *Une voix dans le désert*, Neuchâtel, Bulletin du Comité Continental, 1876, p.1-60. To be consulted on Gallica via the following link: http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k54691653/f6.doble.r=Josephine%20Butler

*Secondary Bibliography:*

March 13 is a Day off and the make-up class will take place on Friday March 17th (10H00 am-4H00 pm).

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**WEEK 6 : March 20 - 26**

Session 1 (March 20): White slavery: questions at the heart of the sex trade at the end of the XIXth century and the beginning of the XXth century.

Session 2 (March 21): White slavery: questions at the heart of the sex trade at the end of the XIXth century and the beginning of the XXth century.
**Primary Sources:**
- **Albert Londres**, « La responsabilité est sur nous », *Le chemin de Buenos Aires (la traite des blanches)*, Paris, Le serpent à plumes, collection « Motifs », 1994, p.255-263. To be consulted on Gallica via the following link: [http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k2057893.r=albert%20londres](http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k2057893.r=albert%20londres)

**Secondary Bibliography:**

**Commentary on a Primary Source Text is due in Week 6!**

**WEEK 7 : March 27 – April 2**

Session 1 (March 27): *Trafficking in human beings and sexual Migration: assessing the situation today.*

Session 2 (March 28): *Trafficking in human beings and sexual Migration: assessing the situation today.*

**Primary Sources:**

**Secondary Bibliography:**
WEEK 8 : April 3 - 9

Session 1 (April 3): *The birth of sexual tourism in the XIXth century in the East and the West.*

Session 2 (April 4): *The birth of sexual tourism in the XIXth century in the East and the West.*

**Primary Sources:**
- Dossier de photos orientalistes et de cartes postales coloniales.

**Secondary Bibliography:**
- Martine Geronimi, « L’Orient, géographie imaginaire : les écrivains français et les villes de désir », *Téoros* [Online], 25-2 | 2006, Online since 01 October 2011, To be consulted via the following link: [http://teoros.revues.org/1470](http://teoros.revues.org/1470)
- Martine Geronimi, « Storyville et le tourisme sexuel : une tradition inventée ? », *Téoros* [Online], 22-1 | 2003, Online since 01 May 2012. To be consulted via the following link: [http://teoros.revues.org/1847](http://teoros.revues.org/1847)

SPRING BREAK APRIL 10 – APRIL 17

WEEK 9 : April 17 - 23

Session 1 (April 18): *From the prostitution of minors in Thailand to the prostitution of men in Haiti: sex-trade economy composed according to criteria of gender, class and « race ».*

**Primary Sources:**
- Brochure ECPAT contre l’exploitation sexuelle des enfants dans les voyages et le tourisme
- « Fragile », affiche contre la prostitution des enfants en Thaïlande.
Secondary Bibliography:

- Franck Michel, « Le tourisme sexuel en Thaïlande : une prostitution entre misère et mondialisation », Téros [Online], 22-1 | 2003, Online since 01 May 2012. To be consulted via the following link: http://teoros.revues.org/1822

April 17 is a Day off (public Holiday) and the make-up class will take place on Friday March 17th (10H00 am-4H00 pm).

WEEK 10 : April 24 - 30

Session 1 (April 24): Prostitution or Sex work?

Session 2 (April 25): Prostitution or Sex work?

Primary Sources:


Secondary Bibliography:


WEEK 11 & 12 : May 1 - 14

Session 1 (May 3): The mobilization of prostitutes around the world: an economy of exploitation and challenging domination.

Session 2 (May 9): The mobilization of prostitutes around the world: an economy of exploitation and challenging domination.
Primary Sources:

Secondary Bibliography:

May 1 & May 8 are days off (public Holidays) and the make-up classes will take place on Friday March 17th (10H00 am-4H00 pm).

WEEK 13 : May 15 - 21

Session 1 (May 15): Revisions for the Final

Session 2 (May 16): Final Exam.