HONORS 1000
“Going Steady?”:
Documenting the History of Dating in American Culture, 1940-1990

Fall 2017
100 Auburn Avenue
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Course Description:

This course is geared towards potential History and Women’s Studies majors, but is open to any student interested in learning more about searching for and interpreting primary sources, an important skill for many humanities-oriented majors. In this course, we will be exploring various issues in the history of dating in American culture during roughly the second half of the 20th century, while also learning to search for primary-source materials documenting that history. Students will choose a topic within that broader topic and learn to search for a broad range of primary-source types on their chosen topic. In-class exercises will provide instruction and discussion on various source types.

This course is administered through a course guide available through the library’s Research Guides: http://research.library.gsu.edu/datinghistory. I recommend that you bookmark this site. **We will not be using iCollege for this course.**

You can access the course guide directly at the URL provided. You can also find this guide under the library’s Research Guide tab, listed under the categories of **Honors College, History, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.**

**Prerequisite:** Acceptance into the Honors College.

**Course Objectives:**

- Through in-class exercises and short assignments, you will gain experience in searching for and interpreting primary-source materials in a wide range of formats.
- You will develop basic searching skills, applicable to searching in the library catalog, in the library’s databases, and for online searching.
- You will practice basic discussion skills as we discuss examples of various types of primary sources.
- You will practice basic presentation skills by presenting the final results of your research as a brief PowerPoint presentation using in-classroom technology.
Required Texts:

You will be assigned short readings and viewings. All required readings will be made available through the course guide (http://research.library.gsu.edu/datinghistory). You may also be given short in-class readings and assignments. In class we will be using a variety of written and visual sources. You will not need to purchase any materials.

Attendance Policy:

Students missing four classes without documentable excuses will receive a failing grade.

Contact Information:

Please note that I do not check my email on weekends or after 8pm on weekday evenings.

Course Requirements:

Respectful discussion and other forms of participation will be integral to this course. You are strongly encouraged to participate in discussions, and to listen carefully to other students when they are speaking. Respectful listening and respectful speaking are both components of good participation. Consequences for disrespectful speech may include removal from the class session (making that day an unexcused absence). (See Attendance Policy)

Trigger Warning:

Students should also be aware that we are likely to be discussing topics like varying sexualities, teen pregnancy, abortion, date rape, and other potentially controversial and triggering topics. Please feel free to talk with me privately if you have concerns.

Assignments:

1. Readings as assigned (*asterisk in syllabus indicates required reading)
2. One-page paper describing chosen topic with list of possible keywords
3. Annotated bibliography of at least 10 primary sources
4. Final PowerPoint presentation of one of your 10 primary sources
5. Final reflection paper

The last three items will constitute your final project. Most of the work we do in class and outside of class will contribute to your final project. You must complete and turn in assignments #2, #3, #4, and #5 in order to receive a passing grade for this course.
You are required to meet with me to discuss topic ideas and brainstorm possible keywords prior to turning in your one-page paper. Signups for meetings will be done in class on Week 5. You can also always meet with me during my office hours or make an appointment with me during the semester!

You will print out the one-page paper (assignment #2) and turn it in to me during class on Week 7.

Your PowerPoint presentation (#3) will be presented in class on the assigned day. You will sign up for your presentation date in class on Week 7. Your presentation date will be either Week 14 or Week 15. **Note that your presentation is a PowerPoint slide of ONE of your ten primary sources. I do not expect you to have your entire final project done by your presentation date: just the one-slide PowerPoint presentation.

Your final project—your annotated bibliography, PowerPoint slide, and final reflection paper (assignments #3, #4, and #5)—will be turned in to me via email will be sent to me via email by the stated deadline (5 pm on the Week 16 date listed in the syllabus).

For more information about each of these assignments, see the Information about Final Projects tab on the course guide (http://research.library.gsu.edu/datinghistory). More information will be added here as needed.

All components of the end-of-semester final project must be sent to me directly at my library email address. Do not send these items to me through iCollege email or put them into iCollege’s Dropbox.

Late work will not be accepted except in the case of a documentable emergency. Please let me know as soon as possible if such an emergency comes up.

Grading:

HON 1000 is a pass/no-credit course. Your grade will be determined by the following points:

- Participation (meaningful contributions to class): 20 points
- *One-page topic selection paper with keywords (due Week 7) 10 points
- *Annotated bibliography of 10 primary sources (due Week 16) 25 points
- *PowerPoint presentation (delivered on either Week 14 or Week 15; turn in as part of final project, Week 16) 20 points
- *Final reflection paper (due Week 16) 25 points

You must complete and submit all items marked with an asterisk to receive a passing grade in this course.

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Academic Honesty Policy:

All written and presented work for this course must be your own. Please refer to the university’s Policy on Academic Honesty published in the On Campus: The Undergraduate Co-Curricular Affairs Handbook, available to all members of the university community.

Disability Services:

Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought.

Course Evaluations:

Your constructive assessment of each course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at this university. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. All exercises listed are in-class exercises unless otherwise indicated in class. Each week’s readings are available on the course guide’s tab for that week.

Week 1: Introduction to Course
Introductions: Who are we?
Discussion of syllabus, assignments, course topic, acceptable/unacceptable language
Homework for in-class exercise (emailed a week before class begins):
Click on one of the Seventeen magazine online quizzes linked on the course guide’s Week 1 tab. Take the quiz there and print out your results to bring to class.

Week 2: Overviews: Group and then General Class Discussion of Assigned Readings
*Beth Bailey, “From Front Porch to Back Seat: A History of the Date”
*individually assigned articles (divided among attendees)
    *Kathy Peiss, “Charity Girls and Cheap Pleasures”
    *Rona M. Wilk, “What’s a Crush?: A Study of Crushes and Romantic Friendships at Barnard College, 1900-1920”
    *Eleanor Alexander, “The Courtship Season: Love, Race, and Elite African American Women at the Turn of the Twentieth Century”
*(All assigned articles are in the July 2004 OAH Magazine).

Week 3: Advice Manuals
*“Setting Up Housekeeping,” in The Tall Girl’s Handbook (1959)
*“Roommate, Know Your Roommates,” from Max Wylie, Career Girl, Watch Your Step! (1964)

Week 4: Popular Fiction
*Maureen Daly, Seventeenth Summer (1944), excerpt
*Henry Gregor Felsen, Two and the Town (1952), excerpt
**You will be instructed in class on Week 3 which of these selections you should read first and which to read second.
Week 5: Film and Video
*Ken Smith, Mental Hygiene: Better Living Through Classroom Films (excerpt)
VD Attack Plan (1973) (http://bit.ly/1E41MYc) (Disney cartoon [yes!]. Not required, but… interesting)
*In class: Sign up for meetings with instructor.

Week 6: Popular Magazines
*Daniel Sugarman, PhD and Rollie Hochstein, “Love and Sex,” Seventeen (July 1965)
*Ragni Lantz, “The Pleasures and Problems of the Bachelor Girl,” Ebony (June 1966)
Exercise: Searching in Reader’s Guide Retrospective (database)

Week 7: Newspapers
*Meet in Library Classroom
Exercise: Searching in ProQuest Historical Newspapers (databases) and alternative newspaper sources Left Index (database) and Great Speckled Bird (digitized newspaper)
*Twenty-minute meetings with instructor on topics this week (if you haven’t already done this!).

*Assignment due:
  ● Paragraph or two on your topic
  ● List of at least five possible keywords
*In class: Sign up for presentation date (Week 13 or Week 14).
*Note: Your presentation will be a one-slide PowerPoint presentation on ONE of your primary sources. I do NOT expect you to have your full final project done by your presentation date! All completed final projects are due on the Week 16 date listed at the end of the syllabus).

Week 8: Queer Identities
*Meet in Library Classroom
Week 9:  
Sex Education  
*Meet in Special Collections & Archives  
Guest Instructor: Women’s Collections Archivist

Week 10:  
Dating at an HBCU  
*Meet in regular Honors College classroom  
Guest Instructors: Public Services Archivists, Local HBCU

After-class screening (optional): “No Means No,” *A Different World* (1989) (a “very special episode”)

Week 11:  
Popular Culture: “True Romance” Comic Books  
*Meet in Colloquium Room, Library South 8  
Guest Instructor: Popular Culture Archivist

Week 12:  
Nuts and Bolts  
Discussion and information about of topics, final presentations and projects

Week 13:  
Presentations

Week 14:  
THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15:  
Presentations (last day of class)

[Week 16]  
Drop-in Laboratory Session (optional)

**FINAL PROJECTS DUE at 5:00 pm of day exam would be scheduled.**

Final projects must be sent directly to me at my library email address.

**Do NOT send your final projects through iCollege email or put into iCollege’s Dropbox.**

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