

SOCIOLOGY/E 192

SENIOR SEMINAR: “Sexual Citizenship”

Winter 2008

Tuesdays, 11:00-12:20, from Jan. 8 through Feb. 12

Conference Room, LGBT Resource Center

Prof. Steven Epstein

Department of Sociology

University of California, San Diego

Contact info:

Office phone: 858-534-0489

Email: sepstein@ucsd.edu

Home page: <http://sociology.ucsd.edu/~sepstein>

Drop-in office hours this quarter:

**Tue. 5:00-6:00 and Thu 11:00-12:00
in the Social Science Building, Room 476**

A copy of this syllabus can be found at <http://sociology.ucsd.edu/~sepstein/courses/>.

Summary:

Does citizenship have a sexual dimension? Do individuals have a right to sexual self-determination? Are some individuals or groups effectively turned into second-class citizens as a consequence of how they live their sexualities? Increasingly since the mid 1990s, scholars, activists, funding agencies, and non-governmental organizations have adopted the concept of “sexual citizenship.” The term has been used to call attention to a diverse assortment of political, social, and cultural claims and struggles that link sexual beliefs, practices, and identities to membership in nations or political communities.

In this senior seminar, we use the concept of “sexual citizenship” to think concretely about the relation between sexuality, rights, laws, and national belonging. We will examine a range of topics, including sodomy laws, age of consent laws, the debate over military service by gays and lesbians, the same-sex marriage debate, and restrictions on transgender citizenship.

Course Mechanics:

- ◆ Each week we will discuss one article or book chapter. (On certain weeks we also will watch portions of films.) All course readings are available for download via **e-reserves** (<http://reserves.ucsd.edu/>). Please note that you will be responsible for downloading and printing each item. You can access the files from any campus computer, and you can print them with an ACS laser printing account (see <http://sdacs.ucsd.edu/~icc/laser.php>). You can also download and print the files from off-campus, but in order to do so you need to specify a proxy in your web browser (an easy process; see <http://www-ono.ucsd.edu/documentation/squid/>). In the case of any problems accessing e-reserves, library staff are available to help you.
- ◆ I expect **all** participants in the seminar to do the reading before coming to class, and to arrive **prepared** to participate.
- ◆ The seminar is graded pass/not pass. To pass the course, you must come to class, do the reading, participate in discussion, and complete a very short weekly writing assignment (less than a page) that is due at the beginning of each class. These writing assignments should be typed, double-spaced.
- ◆ With regard to the writing assignments, standard expectations about academic integrity apply. I am committed to strict enforcement of university regulations concerning plagiarism and integrity of scholarship, which means that I report all such cases to university administrators. Please familiarize yourself with the “UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship” (<http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>). You should understand that examples of plagiarism include obtaining text from any source (including the internet), and passing off such text as your own work, rather than citing the source of the material.

Schedule:

TUE, JAN 8: INTRODUCTION

No assigned reading. Two newspaper articles will be distributed, read, and discussed in class.

TUE, JAN 15: WHAT IS SEXUAL CITIZENSHIP?

Richardson, Diane. 2000. *Rethinking Sexuality*. London: Sage, 75-84, 98-115.

TUE, JAN 22: AGE OF CONSENT

Schaffner, Laurie. 2005. "Capacity, Consent, and the Construction of Adulthood." Pp. 189-205 in *Regulating Sex: The Politics of Intimacy and Identity*, edited by E. Bernstein and L. Schaffner. New York: Routledge.

TUE, JAN 29: SEXUAL CITIZENSHIP AND MILITARY SERVICE

Film: "Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story" (Jeff Blecker, 1995)

Ray, Col. Ronald D. (USMCR). 1994. "Lifting the Ban on Homosexuals in the Military: The Subversion of a Moral Principle." Pp. 87-101 in *Gays and Lesbians in the Military: Issues, Concerns, and Contrasts*, edited by W. J. Scott and S. C. Stanley. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

TUE, FEB 5: SEXUAL CITIZENSHIP AND THE MARRIAGE DEBATE

Film: "Tying the Knot" (Jim de Sève, 2004)

Chauncey, George. 2004. *Why Marriage? The History Shaping Today's Debate over Gay Equality*. New York: Basic Books, 59-86.

TUE, FEB 12: TRANSGENDER CITIZENSHIP

Currah, Paisley, and Shannon Minter. 2005. "Unprincipled Exclusions: The Struggle to Achieve Judicial and Legislative Equality for Transgender People." Pp. 34-48 in *Regulating Sex: The Politics of Intimacy and Identity*, edited by E. Bernstein and L. Schaffner. New York: Routledge.