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(Not So) Hidden Desires: The History of Sexuality

Lecturer: Dr. Christine Chisholm

Sexuality is typically misunderstood as a private and marginal component of history, rather than central to how we mark and understand change over time. Historian and educator Dr. Christine Chisholm will guide you through an examination of how humans have talked about, expressed, and explored sexuality in the past. Lectures will provide information on the different ways in which people have defined and understood sexuality in different social, geographical and temporal contexts. From ancient Greece to modern sex stores, participants in this class will get the chance to consider the various ways in which love, lust, desire, and bodily expression are central to human communities across the ages.

Schedule of topics:

Week 1

What is the History of Sexuality? And how does the body fit into it?

Week 2

The "Discovery" of Sexuality in the 19th Century

Week 3

Mapping Fantasies: Colonial History and Sexuality

Week 4

Cruel Fates: Sexual Violence (This week will primarily focus on the use of sexual violence in armed conflicts and consider the reasons for its prevalence)

Week 5

Eugenics: Breeding the Human Race

Week 6

Sex for Hire: The History of Sex Work