

Manhood and Masculinities in the U.S.

Spring 2004 New College of California
Tues. 6:30-9:30PM

Raymond Buscemi

Em: rsbuscemi@yahoo.com

Vm: 415.600.5772

This course will explore the multiple expressions of manhood and masculinity in the context of U.S. history. Working from a combination of primary documents as well as historical and psychoanalytic writings, we will investigate the ways in which boys have become men, and how men have defined, defended, and asserted their manhood. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which class, ethnicity, and religion have contributed to the varying notions of American manhood.

Evaluation:

- attendance
- quality of participation
- 2 reaction papers; one re: a reading, one re: a film

Course text: American Manhood E. Anthony Rotundo
Course Reader

Students will need to rent the following DVD/Videos:

- Dead Man* (1996) dir. Jim Jarmusch
- Double Indemnity* (1944) dir. Billy Wilder
- The Maltese Falcon* (1941) dir. John Huston
- Citizen Kane* (1941) dir. Orson Welles

Week 1. Introduction: What makes a man?

Week 2. Gender

- XY, Elizabeth Badinter pp 1-34
- The Zuni Man-Woman Will Roscoe pp.123-145

Week 3. Puritan Manhood & The Sons of Liberty

- American Manhood pp. Introduction-30
- “The Trials and Triumphs of Self-Made Men” Frederick Douglass

Week 4. Boyhood U.S.A.

- American Manhood pp. 31-55
- Real Boys William Pollack pp.52-77

Week 5. Go West Young Man: Flight from the Feminine

- Manhood in America Michael Kimmel pp.43-78
- Strangers in the Land John Higham pp.3-34
- watch *Dead Man* **before** this class

suggested: “*The Omnipotent Mother*” Jessica Benjamin

Week 6. Masters and Slaves

- My Bondage and My Freedom Frederick Douglass pp.128-153
- Sadomasochism in Everyday Life Lynn S. Chancer pp 15-42

suggested: “Abolitionists and the Language of ‘Fraternal Love’” Donald Yacovone pp.85-95
in Meanings for Manhood Mark Carnes & Clyde Griffen, eds.

Week 7. Sadomasochism: Fact and Fetish

- Sadomasochism in Everyday Life Lynn S. Chancer pp 43-67
- Anal Pleasure & Health Jack Morin pp.171-191

suggested: Tales of Neveryon Samuel R. Delany

Week 8. **Prophets**

“The Transcendentalist” Ralph Waldo Emerson
The American Religion Harold Bloom pp. 96-111
The Fire Next Time James Baldwin

suggested: *A Love Supreme* John Coltrane

Week 9. **Workers**

American Manhood pp. 168-221

suggested: The Wages of Whiteness pp.133-156

suggested: “The Vital Relationship Between Work and Masculinity: A Psychoanalytic Perspective” Steven D. Axelrod

Week 10. **The Harlem Renaissance**

Gay New York George Chauncey pp. 227-267

“Bruce Nugent: Bohemian of the Harlem Renaissance” Charles Michael Smith

pp.209-220

in In The Life Joseph Beam, editor

in class video: *Looking for Langston*

Weeks 11. & 12. **Love and Sex**

For week 11: American Manhood pp. 109-128

“*Divorce and the Legal Redefinition of Victorian Manhood*” Robert L. Griswold

pp.96-110

in Meanings for Manhood Mark Carnes & Clyde Griffen, eds.

For week 12: The Invention of Heterosexuality Jonathan Ned Katz pp. 1- 32

Beyond Gay or Straight Jan Clausen pp.39-61

In class slide show: The Work of Paul Cadmus

Week 13. **Violence.**

“*Shattering Illusions: Same-Sex Domestic Violence*” Pam Elliot pp.1-8

in Violence in Gay and Lesbian Domestic Partnerships Claire Renzetti and Charles Miley, eds

Week 14. **Men in Film Noir**

The Matter of Images Richard Dyer pp.111-122

“Film Noir Femmes: Is the femme fatale a misogynist creation?” Deanna Wood

watch: *Double Indemnity* or *The Maltese Falcon* or *Citizen Kane*

Due: one or two page reaction paper re: one of the films assigned for this week.

Week 15. **Becoming Men: FTM in the USA**

“*The Third Sex?*” Louise Rafkin, San Francisco Chronicle Magazine 6/22/2003

“The Politics of Changing Men” R.W. Connell

highly recommended reading: Stone Butch Blues Leslie Feingold