

# Men, manhood and masculinity

WGSS S304 / ANTH S250 WR (Summer Session A, 2020)

Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00–12:15 (ET)

Instructor: Andrew E. Dowe (*pronouns*: he, him, his, email: [andrew.dowe@yale.edu](mailto:andrew.dowe@yale.edu))

Office hours: Mondays, 13:30–15:30 (ET) and by appointment, sign up: [calendly.com/dowe](https://calendly.com/dowe)

## Course description

Masculinity, like ‘whiteness’ has long been a relatively opaque social category, receiving little attention as a focus of study in its own right. But social scientific scholarship on men and masculinities has grown exponentially within the past few decades. At one level, this is born of the recognition that early feminist and gender theory focused almost exclusively (and for obvious political reasons) on the position and experience of women. Men, except where they were situated as part of the problem (the abuser, the oppressor, the patriarch), were neither the object nor the subject of study; and scholarship on gay men was accommodated under the rubrics of queer studies and gay and lesbian studies. This changed in anthropology when the cultural construction of masculinity became the focus of enquiry, with ‘male’ and ‘female’ emerging as complex and changing symbolic categories. Sociological inquiry into the changing nature of work and family, at least in a Western context, resulted in a focus on the changing position of men. ‘Men and masculinity’ has subsequently become the subject of intense theorization. Recent theoretical developments have challenged stereotypes by showing how myriad masculinities are produced within specific historic and cultural domains, and have replaced monolithic notions of men’s power by demonstrating that men wield and access power differently, depending on their racial, class and sexual locations.

In this course, male bodies, sexualities and social interactions will provide the basis for understanding the cultural and historic constructions of masculinity. We will examine multiple masculinities and explore the relationship between hegemonic, non-hegemonic and subordinate masculinities.

## Course readings

All readings are available in the Course Reserves section of the Canvas site.

## Assignments and evaluation

**Participation** (10%) I value your regular attendance and informed contributions to our seminar sessions, including thoughtful comments, observations, questions and engagement with your colleagues.

**Quick takes** (15% total, 5% each) For three sessions of your choosing, you will submit a four-hundred-word thought piece in response to that session’s readings via Canvas *before* the week’s session. These quick takes are an opportunity to test out ideas for the paper due at the end of each week. You must submit two by the end of the week three. Your quick takes should draw upon the readings to analyze a topic that interests you. You might discuss a scholarly question, a current event or debate. Do *not* simply summarize the readings. You should treat the quick takes as formal writing assignments and organize each around an original argument that you support throughout. Be sure to include proper citations and a word count.

**Presentation** (10%) You will sign up to lead discussion in pairs twice. I will provide detailed guidelines.

**Papers** (60% total, 15% each) You will submit four six-page papers organized around themes of the course. I will provide detailed guidelines for each.

## Course policies

**Academic integrity:** Review the *Yale College Program of Studies* section on ‘Definitions of Plagiarism, Cheating, and Documentation of Sources’ (<https://catalog.yale.edu/undergraduate-regulations/policies/definitions-plagiarism-cheating/>). Properly cite your sources in all assignments, and if you are unsure what might constitute plagiarism, don’t hesitate to ask.

**Attendance and participation:** Attendance, informed participation and meaningful engagement with course themes and materials at all course sessions are expected. Unexcused absence or tardiness will impact your participation grade.

**Office hours:** I expect you to attend office hours at least once. If you are unable to attend scheduled office hours, contact me to schedule an appointment.

**Classroom community:** This course asks you to consider challenging questions about gender, sex, sexuality and identity. By enrolling, you agree to foster and contribute to candid and thoughtful discussion and respectfully engage assigned readings and other participants.

**Required readings:** You should complete all assigned readings in advance of each meeting and be prepared to discuss the central arguments and key points of each reading in relation to course themes and questions.

**Technology:** Please silence notifications on all devices for the duration of our discussions and screenings. I will not police your use of technology, but distraction will necessarily impact your grade.

**Extensions:** I will consider any reasonable request for an extension submitted well in advance and no later than forty-eight hours before the due date. Notify me as soon as possible of any extraordinary circumstances that might require an extension.

**Late Work:** I will deduct one letter grade for each day an assignment is late without an extension (e.g. B to B-).

**Communication:** I will respond to emails within twenty-four hours of receipt on weekdays; expect a response to email received during weekends by end-of-day Monday.

## Resources

**Accessibility:** The Resources Office on Disabilities (<http://rod.yale.edu>) facilitates accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Please do let me know of any individual learning needs (documented or not) and how I might best accommodate them.

**Writing assistance:** While I will offer feedback the substance of drafts and submitted assignments, the Drop-in Writing Partners and Residential College Writing Tutors coordinated by the Center for Teaching and Learning (<http://ctl.yale.edu/writing>) are exceptionally well-equipped to assist with writing mechanics and style.

## Course outline

### Week 1

#### **Monday: Men, manhood and masculinity**

- Connell, R.W. (1995). 'The Social Organization of Masculinity.' In Whitehead, Stephen and Frank Barrett (Eds.), *The Masculinities Reader*, 30-50. 2001.
- Kimmel, Michael and Michael A. Messner (2010). 'Introduction.' In *Men's Lives* (8th ed), xi-xlx.
- Halberstam, J. (2002). 'The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Men, women, and masculinity.' In J. K. Gardiner (Ed.), *Masculinity Studies & Feminist Theory: New directions*, 344-367.
- Selections from *Gentleman's Quarterly (GQ) Magazine: New Masculinities issue* (November 2019)
- Screening: Katz, Jackson (2013). *Tough Guise 2: Violence, Manhood & American Culture*.

#### **Wednesday: Male bodies**

- Freud, Sigmund. (1925). 'Some Psychological Consequences of the Anatomical Distinction between the Sexes.' In R. Adams & D. Savran (Eds.), *The Masculinity Studies Reader*, 14-20. 2002.
- Fausto-Sterling, Anne. (2000). 'That Sexe Which Prevaileth.' In *Sexing the Body: Gender politics and the construction of sexuality*, 30-44.
- Lindemann, Kurt (2010). "Masculinity, Disability, and Access-Ability: Ethnography as Alternative Practice in the Study of Disabled Sexualities." *Southern Communication Journal* 75 (4), 433-51.
- Jordan-Young, R. M., & Karkazis, K. (2019). 'Multiple T's.' In *Testosterone: An Unauthorized Biography*, 24-34.

### Week 2

#### **Monday: Manhood rituals**

- Geertz, Clifford (1972). 'Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight.' *Daedalus*, 101(1), 1-37.
- Mosse, George L. (2000). 'Shell-Shock as a Social Disease.' *Journal of Contemporary History* 35 (1): 101-8.
- Kimmel, Michael (2008). 'Guyland: Gendering the transition to adulthood.' In C. J. Pascoe & T. Bridges (Eds.), *Exploring Masculinities: Identity, inequality, continuity and change* (pp. 107-120).
- Meyerowitz, Joanne (2010). "'How Common Culture Shapes the Separate Lives": Sexuality, Race, and Mid-Twentieth-Century Social Constructionist Thought.' *Journal of American History* 96 (4): 1057-84.
- Screening: Reddish, Paul (1996). *Guardians of The Flutes: The Secrets of Male Initiation*. (51 mins)

#### **Wednesday: Sociality**

- Carrigan, Tim, Connell, Bob [R.W.], & Lee, J. (1985). 'Toward a New Sociology of Masculinity.' *Theory and Society*, 14(5), 551-604. [Excerpts]
- Connell, R. W. (1995). 'The History of Masculinity' and 'Neoliberalism and Men's Interests.' In *Masculinities*, 185-203, 253-255.
- Ouzgane, L., & Coleman, D. (1998). 'Postcolonial Masculinities.' *Jouvert: A Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, 2(1).
- Whitehead, Stephen (2001), 'Man: The Invisible Gendered Subject?' In Whitehead, Stephen and Frank Barrett, *The Masculinities Reader*, 351-368.

**\*Saturday: First paper due, 5:00 pm**

## Week 3

### **Monday: Masculinities**

- Halberstam, Judith. (1988). 'An Introduction to Female Masculinity.' In *Female Masculinity*, 1-43. \*Read pp. 1-9, 13-29, 40-41
- Lancaster, Roger. (1988). 'Subject Honor and Object Shame: The Construction of Male Homosexuality and Stigma in Nicaragua.' *Ethnology*, 27(2), 111–125.
- Sinnott, Megan. (2012). 'Korean-Pop, Tom Gay Kings, Les Queens and the Capitalist Transformation of Sex/Gender Categories in Thailand.' *Asian Studies Review*, 36(4), 453–474.
- Bridges, Tristan (2014). "A Very 'Gay' Straight?: Hybrid Masculinities, Sexual Aesthetics, and the Changing Relationship between Masculinity and Homophobia." *Gender & Society* 28 (1): 58-82.
- Screening: Peirce, Kimberly (1999). *Boys Don't Cry*.

### **Wednesday: Power**

- Pateman, Carole (1989). 'The Fraternal Social Contract.' In *The Disorder of Women: Democracy, feminism and political theory* (pp. 33–57).
- Halperin, David (1990). 'The Democratic Body: Prostitution and Citizenship in Classical Athens.' In *One Hundred Years of Homosexuality: And other essays on Greek love* (pp. 88–112).
- Segal, Lynne (2001) 'The Belly of the Beast: Sex as Male Domination.' In Whitehead, Stephen & Frank Barrett (Eds.), *The Masculinities Reader*, 100-111.
- Hearn, Jeff (2004). 'From Hegemonic Masculinity to the Hegemony of Men.' *Feminist Theory*, 5(1), 49–72.

**\*Saturday: Second paper due, 5:00 PM**

## Week 4

### **Monday: Masculinity at work**

- McElhinny, Bonnie (1994). 'An economy of affect: Objectivity, masculinity and the gendering of police work.' In A. Cornwall & N. Lindisfarne (Eds.), *Dislocating Masculinity: Comparative Ethnographies* (pp. 158–170).
- Kulick, Don (1997). 'The Gender of Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes.' *American Anthropologist*, 99(3), 574–585.
- Moodie, T. Dunbar (2001). 'Black migrant mine labourers and the vicissitudes of male desire.' In R. Morrell (Ed.), *Changing men in Southern Africa* (pp. 297–315).
- Thomson, William (2017). 'Masculinity at Its Margins: Migrant Construction Work in China.' *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly*, 45(3), 306–320.
- Screening: Fincher, Edward (2009). *Fight Club*.

### **Wednesday: Empire**

- Dyer, Richard (1997). 'The White Man's Muscles.' In *Race and the Subject of Masculinities*, edited by Harilaos Stecopoulos and Michael Uebel, 286-314.
- Krishnaswamy, R. (1998). 'The Economy of Colonial Desire.' In *Effeminism: The economy of colonial desire*, 15-52.
- Puar, Jasbir K., & Rai, A. (2002). 'Monster, Terrorist, Fag: The War on Terrorism and the Production of Docile Patriots.' *Social Text*, 20(3), 117–148.
- Rogers, Richard A. (2007). 'Deciphering Kokopelli: Masculinity in Commodified Appropriations of Native American Imagery.' *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* 4 (3), 233-55.

**\*Saturday: Third paper due, 5:00 PM**

## **Week 5**

### **Monday: Borders**

- Wiegman, R. (1995). 'Bonds of (In)Difference.' In *American Anatomies: Theorizing Race and Gender* (pp. 115–146).
- Decena, Carlos (2011). 'Code Swishing.' In *Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Same-Sex Desire among Dominican Immigrant Men*, 139-171.
- Halberstam, Judith [Jack] (2001). 'Oh Behave! Austin Powers and the Drag Kings.' *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 7 (3), 425-52.
- Cantú, Lionel (2011). 'Entre Hombres/Between Men: Latino Masculinities and Homosexualities.' In *Gay Latino Studies*, edited by Michael Hames-García and Ernesto Javier Martínez, 147-67.
- Screening*: Jenkins, Barry. (2019). *Moonlight*.

### **Wednesday: Men's Rights**

- Ging, Debbie (2017). 'Alphas, Betas, and Incels: Theorizing the Masculinities of the Manosphere.' *Men and Masculinities*, 1-20.
- Ferber, Abby L. (2000). 'Racial Warriors and Weekend Warriors: The Construction of Masculinity in Mythopoetic and White Supremacist Discourse.' *Men and Masculinities*, 3(1), 30–56.
- Chowdhury, Romit (2014). 'Conditions of Emergence: The Formation of Men's Rights Groups in Contemporary India.' *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 21(1), 27–53.

### *Optional*

- Currier, D. M. (2013). 'Strategic Ambiguity: Protecting Emphasized Femininity and Hegemonic Masculinity in the Hookup Culture.' *Gender & Society*, 27(5), 704–727.
- Garlick, Steve (2010). 'Taking Control of Sex?: Hegemonic Masculinity, Technology, and Internet Pornography.' *Men and Masculinities*, 12(5), 597–614.

**\*Friday: Fourth paper due, 11:59 PM**