

History 258/358

# History of Sexuality in the U.S.:

## Topics in the History of Sexual Violence

This undergraduate/graduate colloquium explores the history of sexual violence, with particular attention to the intersections of gender and race in the construction of rape. We discuss the changing definitions of sexual violence in law and in cultural representations from early settlement through the mid-twentieth century, including court cases, feminist responses to rape, and the history of lynching and anti-lynching movements. In addition to introducing students to the themes of sexual history and the literature on sexual violence, the course attempts to teach critical skills in the analysis of secondary and primary historical texts. Students write short weekly reading responses and a 7-9 page final paper. No final exam.

Limited enrollment, permission of instructor required (attend first class to apply). Priority to history, feminist studies, and American studies major and minors.

Spring 2009  
Prof. Estelle Freedman  
5 units (graded only)  
Th 2:15-4:05