

Race and Sex in America

512: 366 Summer 2017

Session II – June 26th – August 4th

Monday-Thursday 1:00-2:55pm

Frelinghuysen Hall A1



“Hollywood Protective Association” sign, California, 1920

Instructor: Julia Bowes

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This course investigates the ways that race, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality have intersected to shape the experiences of different groups across American history. It primarily addresses how the understanding of blackness and whiteness, manhood and womanhood, heterosexuality and homosexuality has changed over time. The course will cover diverse topics from slavery in the colonies to the sexual revolutions of the late twentieth century, considering how race and sex have intersected in issues ranging from military service, immigration, and labor movements to interracial marriage, the Ku Klux Klan and popular culture. Throughout the course, students will be invited to reflect on how the historical material covered and the conceptual lens of intersectionality can help us make sense of the present. Students will make use a rich array of sources including documentary footage, oral histories, political testimonies, memoirs, films and popular music.

The course does not require any background in American history, and welcomes the perspectives students from different disciplinary majors bring to the classroom.