

## **Senior Seminar: Sex and Democracy**

Professor Shah Spring 2009

HSS 3086

Thursdays, 2:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

Explore how central sexuality (and our obsession with it) has become to politics, culture, identities, and history. Many of the topics engage contemporary debates about marriage, lesbian and gay sexualities, transgender rights, contraception, and sexual violence. We will do this by exploring the political, legal and cultural tensions between freedom of religion and freedom of sexual practice. What constitutes the good life and how do people live it, judge it, regulate it and value the good life.

Book:

Ann Pellegrini & Janet R. Jakobsen, *Love the Sin: Sexual Regulation and the Limits of Religious Tolerance* (Beacon Press, 2004)

April 2, Introducing us and the issues

April 9 Read Chap Intro, pp. 1-18 and Chapter 1 19-44

April 16 Read Chap 3

No Class April 23rd

April 30 Read Chap 4

May 7 Read Chapter 5 and Conclusion 127-153