Christianity and Sexuality
Yale Divinity School
Summer Session I

General
Location: TBA
Instructor: Mary-Jane Rubenstein
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   Sexuality Studies at Wesleyan University
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Description
This course will explore a range of Christian teachings on attitudes toward, and
technologies of, sex and sexuality. We will read medieval and modern theologies of
sexuality, as well as contemporary historical, sociological, and cultural studies. Points of
focus will include confession, mysticism, marriage, celibacy, queer and trans* practices
and identities, and reproductive justice.

Writing
There are no written assignments for this course, but I would like to ask you to keep a
journal or notebook in which you take reading notes (with page numbers) and engage in
brief reflections on the material so that you’ve got some thoughts and questions to raise
in class.

Reading
Please read as slowly and attentively as you can. Readings should be completed before
the class on which they are assigned. Please bring a copy of a study Bible to class,
preferably NRSV. Copies of The New Annotated Oxford Study Bible will be available at
the bookstore.

Course Schedule

Monday, June 3: Creation
Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, Part 1, Q 92; Q93, A1-4, 6
Phyllis Trible, “Eve and Adam: Genesis 2-3 Reread”
Daniel Boyarin, “Gender”
For reference:
   Genesis 1:26 – 31, 2: 4-25
   Galatians 3:23-29
   Colossians 3:9-11
   1 Corinthians 11:1-16
   Ephesians 5:22 – 6:9
Tuesday, June 4: Fall
Augustine of Hippo, *City of God*, excerpts from chapters XIII and XIV
Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Q154*, Article 12
John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality*, pp. 91-99
Mark Jordan, *The Invention of Sodomy in Christian Theology*, chapters 2 and 5
For reference:
  - Genesis 18-19
  - Judges 19

Wednesday, June 5: Incarnation
Catechism of the Catholic Church, “He Was Conceived…,” 115-128
Laurel Schneider, “Promiscuous Incarnation”
Sandra Cisneros, “Guadalupe, the Sex Goddess”
For reference:
  - Matthew 1-2
  - Luke 1-2

Thursday, June 6: Gender, Authority, Power
C. S. Lewis, “Priestesses in the Church?”
John Paul II, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*
Amy de Rogatis, “Be Fruitful and Multiply”
Mary-Jane Rubenstein, “An Anglican Crisis of Comparison, With Continual Reference to the Church of Nigeria”

Friday, June 7: Life in Community
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faithful, “On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons”
Dale Martin, “Familiar Idolatry and the Christian Case against Marriage”
Kathy Rudy, “Gay Communities and the Value of Family”
Joy Ladin, “In the Image of God God Created Them: Toward Trans Theology”
Rowan Williams, “The Body’s Grace”