

Curricular Roadmap

Sexing History's curriculum borrows from over three decades of historical thinking scholarship to not only teach the history of sexuality but to also stress the process of historical inquiry in secondary and undergraduate classrooms.

We employ the Stanford History Education Group's Reading Like a Historian approach in order to foster historical thinking in our own lesson plans.

Essential Questions for the Curriculum

1. HOW HAVE CHANGING ATTITUDES ABOUT SEX AND SEXUALITY SHAPED AMERICAN POLITICS, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY OVER THE COURSE OF THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES?
2. WHAT ROLE(S) HAVE VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS (LIKE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, PROFESSIONAL MEDICINE, SCHOOLS, CORPORATIONS, AND ORGANIZED RELIGION) PLAYED IN RESTRICTING AND/OR SERVING AS SITES OF LIBERATION FOR WOMEN AND SEXUAL MINORITIES?
3. HOW HAVE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE ACTIVISM CHALLENGED SEXUAL AND GENDERED NORMS IN MODERN U.S. HISTORY?

Historical Thinking Objectives

Along these lines, the *Sexing History* curriculum stresses the following skills:

CORROBORATION

Corroboration calls on students to compare and contrast multiple sources. In the process of comparing and contrasting sources, students are asked to think about how the authors' perspectives shaped their interpretation of events. The *Sexing History* curriculum includes a wide range of sources, from medical and government records to interviews, letters, and diaries, to focus on the skill of corroboration.

CONTEXTUALIZATION

Contextualization challenges students to understand the circumstances under which a document was created. The *Sexing History* curriculum emphasizes how documents are products of particular moments in time and requires students to connect what they read in sources to the background information provided in the podcast.

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Historical Thinking Objectives cont.

CLOSE READING

Close reading pushes students to evaluate the evidence and reasoning used in each source. The *Sexing History* curriculum thinks through such issues as the claims authors make as well as the types of evidence employed in a document. Close reading targets each source's words, phrases, images, and symbols to show how particular language indicates the author's perspective. Innuendo and coded language are specifically spotlighted in the *Sexing History* curriculum because they are an important part of the history of sexuality.

SOURCING

Sourcing asks students to think about author perspective and the purpose of a document. Sourcing considers when, where, and why a particular document was created. This historical thinking skill sometimes challenges students to consider if the source in question is "reliable." Instead of thinking about whether a source is "biased" or "reliable," though, the *Sexing History* curriculum adopts the language of purpose and perspective because of the long history of discounting the experiences of women and sexual minorities.