



## HPS204F1H: Public Nudity: History, Law and Science Fall Term 2014

**Instructor: Professor Paul Thompson**  
**Office Hours: by appointment**  
**Lecture: Mondays 11-1**

### **Accessibility Needs ([www.accessibility.utoronto.ca](http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca))**

If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

### **OVERVIEW:**

Social and individual attitudes to “public nudity” are manifested in moral and religious claims, and laws and jurisprudence. Attitudes toward public nudity involve a complex interaction of ideology, science and law. It, therefore, provides a framework for understanding how a society defines key concepts such as “offensive”, “indecent”, “immoral” and “obscene”. These concepts have changed considerably in the last half century in the European and English-speaking world. At the same time, there has been an increasing acceptance of public nudity in those countries. The U.S is unique; it is dramatically and deeply divided about public nudity; it, therefore provides an important window on the roles of ideology, religion and law.

The acceptance of public nudity has waxed and waned over the millennia, as has the image of the “perfect” body and beauty. The ancient Greek γυμνάσιον (gymnasion) was, as the word in Greek implies, a place for naked (γυμνάσ) training. The acceptance of nudity within Christianity has varied over time, and by denomination. Ritual nudity was part of the apostolic tradition of Hippolytus of Rome but later, within Roman Catholicism, its acceptance declined. Some Eastern Orthodox churches retained the practices to the present. Interestingly, Cardinal Woytyla (later Pope John Paul II) considered nudity neither shameful nor immodest. Today, acceptance of public nudity is greater in Europe, with obvious regional differences, than in the United States. Australia arguably has the greater tolerance of public nudity among the European and English-speaking countries. In Canada, attitudes toward public nudity have become more liberal, and legal decisions, especially of the Supreme Court of Canada, have restricted the scope of Section 173 (1) [Indecent Acts] and Section 174 (1) and (2) [Nudity] of the Criminal Code. A transformation in Germany towards the end of the nineteenth-century, where nudism became

prevalent and more accepted, provides an interesting case study of the waxing and waning of acceptance.

The scientific study of nudity matured after the Second World War. Although sexual behaviours, attitudes and motivations are quite distinct from simple nudity – as we shall see – many researchers who focus on nudity publish in journals whose main focus is sexuality such as the *Journal of Sex Research*. An important journal is the *Journal of Social Psychology*, it contains articles on nudity, especially as it relates to negative body image.

Alfred Kinsey's research, in the late 1940s and early 1950s, into the sexual views and practices around the world, began the **scientific** study of sexuality as well as public nudity. Although much of the research of the Institute for Sex Research at Indiana University (founded in 1947) focused on sexual matters, it also conducted, and still does, empirical research into the social and individual attitudes towards nudity. Since the founding of that Institute (now known as Kinsey Institute for Sex, Gender and Reproduction) many universities have created similar units. These various institutes make a clear distinction between nudity and sexuality, as do naturists.

### Required Texts:

A "Coursepack" (CP in the schedule) of readings published by Canadian Scholar's Press Inc. : available at the UofT Bookstore

Barcan Ruth (2004) *Nudity: A Cultural Anatomy*. Oxford: Berg (available at UofT Bookstore)

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### TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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Date	Topic	Readings
September 8	Overview of the course + nudity in antiquity	No readings
September 15	Judaism and Christianity: historical analysis	CP: Cunningham
September 22	Nudism in Germany: a case study	CP Chad
September 29	"Offensive", "obscene", "immoral" and harm	CP: Sumner
October 6	Nudity and recent Canadian jurisprudence	CP: Supreme Court of Canada: Johnston vs R: Labaye vs R.
October 13	Thanksgiving: no classes	
October 20	Nudity, sex, naturism and biology	

October 27	Scientific studies of nudity	CP: Story (3 articles)
November 3	Negative body image and self-perception	CP: Sigman
November 10	Naturism in Canada in the twenty-first-century	CP: Woycke
November 17	November break: no Classes	
November 24	A Western cultural analysis of nudity	Barcan: Into and ch 1
December 1	Nudity and the media	Barcan: Ch 4

### Evaluation:

Assignment	Value	Due Date
Short Essay	25%	October 27
3000-word Research Essay	40%	December 1
Final Exam	35%	Scheduled by the Faculty of Arts and Science

**Penalty for Late Essays:** Essay must be submitted through Blackboard by midnight on the due date. Late essay will lose 1% per day for the first three days and 2% each day thereafter. Extensions are granted for documented personal issues or documented medical (mental and physical) illness.

**Term work assessment:** The two essays will be graded by TAs and returned in a timely fashion. If you think your grade does not reflect the quality of your work, you should first contact the relevant TA. I will adjudicate any continuing disagreement. If you ask for a reassessment, you need to be aware of the University policy that a revised grade may be higher or lower than the original grade.

**Plagiarism and other misconduct:** The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the UofT. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your UofT degree is valued and respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement. See: [www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac) and [www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources)

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. **Teaching Assistants and Instructors are required to report any instance of suspected academic dishonesty to the Program Office.**

Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work).

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers.
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.
- Misrepresentation:
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* [www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac). If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information from me or other available campus resources like the College Writing Centers [www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/centres/arts-and-science](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/centres/arts-and-science), the Academic Success Centre [www.asc.utoronto.ca](http://www.asc.utoronto.ca), or the U of T Writing Website [www.writing.utoronto.ca](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca).

### **Rules for the Conduct of Examinations/Tests**

No person will be allowed in an examination room during an examination except the students concerned and those supervising the examination.

Students must appear at the examination room well before the commencement of the examination.

Students shall bring their student photo ID cards and place them in a conspicuous place on their desks.

Bags and books are to be deposited in areas designated by the Instructor and are not to be taken to the examination desk or table. Students may place their purses on the floor under their chairs.

The Instructor has authority to assign seats to students.

Students shall not communicate with one another in any manner whatsoever during the examination.

No materials or electronic devices shall be brought into the room or used at an examination except those authorized by the Instructor. Unauthorized materials include, but are not limited to: books, class notes, or aid sheets. Unauthorized electronic devices include, but are not limited to: cellular telephones, laptop computers, calculators, MP3 players (such as an iPod), Personal Digital Assistants ("PDA" such a Palm Pilot or Blackberry), pagers, electronic dictionaries, Compact Disc Players, and Mini Disc Players.

**NOTE: November 3rd is the last day to withdraw without academic penalty. After this date a zero is assigned for incomplete work and the mark is calculated into the grade point average.**

**NOTE: December 2nd is the last day request Late Withdrawal (LWD). See your Registrar's Office for details.**

**Examination Period is from December 8-19th.**