HIST 310: Men & Masculinities in U.S. History
DR. RYAN DEARINGER

2-CREDIT WEEKEND COLLEGE (ONSITE), SPRING 2012
April 20 (7-10pm) and April 21 (9am-5pm)
*PORTLAND*

HIST 310 explores the meanings of manhood and the different constructions of masculine identity in America between the late-18th century and the beginning of the 21st century. As such, it is a course on the cultural and social history of gender in America. Prior to the 1990s, historians who studied gender were women’s historians who strove to incorporate the perspectives and experiences of women, who had been neglected in a discipline (history) that had long privileged the perspectives and experiences of men, whose lives had been examined and reexamined for centuries. However, as the field of women’s history grew in scope and influence, scholars recognized that although most history was written as the history of men, very little of it paid attention to how men experienced and expressed themselves as men, i.e., as human beings whose lives, like those of women, were defined and circumscribed by gender. The field of gender history now incorporates the history of women and men in addition to exploring how gender has shaped human experience in much larger ways. Examining the extent to which masculinity has historically been socially and culturally constructed will challenge us to stop taking masculinity for granted, to expose its performative and fragile nature, and to analyze its iterations throughout American history. There is not a single “masculinity” but multiple “masculinities” in U.S. history which have been shaped by social relations of class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and several other factors.

*Course meets @ EOU Portland/OIT Metro Center, 7732 SE Harmony Rd., Portland, 97222, Rm. 143

ONE REQUIRED BOOK: