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Censorship & Morality
by Joe Escobar – Friday, April 8, 2016, 11:34 AM

This thread is for discussions on the Censorship & Morality topic.
To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT – SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Censorship & Morality

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Selective morality and censorship.
by Delbert Borden – Saturday, April 9, 2016, 6:37 PM

It's much more frequent in this modern era of media and political chiming to see censorship not as means to support, reaffirm, or usher in some ethical or moral code. Often times it is used to suppress truths, or ideas, that deviate away from the prescribed hive mentality that diminishes individualism and social-change.

In contrast, if we take a look at the present political landscape we can see that morality is no longer a prerequisite for the worlds most powerful position. When as a society we can accept candidates that: condone violence, call for mass deportations, the building of walls, and the frequent recirculation of propaganda by known hate groups in social media. Interestingly enough these actions are met with no sort of censorship, or punishment by the establishment or the media. Instead, we see the continued bloat of these personas as they advertise themselves as, "Telling it like it is" or " tired of being political correct." The reemergence and prominence nationally of these ideologies, proves that censorship and morality are only brought into question selectively.

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Re: Selective morality and censorship.
by Delbert Borden – Monday, April 11, 2016, 4:15 PM

The public treatment of Governor Spitzer, and his subsequent resignation from office is similar to a scenario in NJ where then Governor Jim McGrevey, was forced to leave office due to his sexual relationship with a male intern. The media pressure not only forced his resignation, but also the admission of his sexual orientation, resulting in the end of his marriage and the end to his political career.

However, Bill Clinton has had several allegations of sexual indeceny before, and during his presidency. Most notably was Monica Lewinsky. Political back lash from these events had some calling for Clintons resignation,

others wanted to see him impeached. Clinton, whose personality and popularity with the American public helped generate massive amounts of support for the President. Instead of Clinton recieveing the brunt of media negativity, Monica Lewinsky's name and character were smeared and unfortunately she's been considered one of the most notorious names in pop-culture during the late nineties and early 2000's. Clinton after the events grew more famous, as the American media likened his actions to that of JFK and his sexual endeavors were almost celebrated. Once again selective morality and censorship at its best.

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Re: Selective morality and censorship.
by Miguel Perez – Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 11:54 PM

I think in most cases of "sexual indecency" (I am not sure what else to call it) such as the case of Spitzer, or McGrevey what is most offsetting to the general public is what exactly they were doing, and who they were doing it with. We tend to make immorality a "cool" thing in certain context. In Spitzers case, I think his public image was damaged because he paid for a woman's sexual services, as opposed to Bill Clinton who did not have to pay but was more of a playboy in his scandal he was "desired" by multiple women, which is why so many people (probably men) where willing to show their support to Clinton. That hurt Monica Lewinsky because she was the home-wrecking woman while Clinton was the charming man who couldn't resist. It is even referred to as "the Lewinsky Scandal". Some people will glorify a man who can woo multiple women such as Kennedy. In McGrevey's case, i'm sorry to say, obviously had more to do with his sexual orientation, homosexuality unfortunately, still some Americans discomfort, simple as that.

Miguel

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Re: Selective morality and censorship.
by Delbert Borden – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 5:17 PM

McGreevy's situation is a little trickier then being outed as gay in his perspective sex scandal and his resignation from office. As a citizen in NJ during that time I recall the huge "family values" platform which was an integral piece of his campaign platform. So McGreevy wasn't just ousted as being gay, he was also guilty of adultery, and sexual misconduct prompted by a sexual harassmt suit by his employee/accuser. I believe the combination of these factors led to his resignation, not just his exposed sexual identity.

In regards to the Clinton situation the selectivity of his treatment is blatant, we look at the Lewinsky situation and we justify his actions and condemn hers. We akin Clintons actions to the debonair politician whose sexual endeavors were no fault of his own, much like JFK. However, we forget that one of Clintons accusers Juanita Broaddrick stated she was raped by Clinton before his Presidency; and Paula Jones who claimed she was sexually harassed while Clinton was Governor of Arkansas. Even with these compounded actions Clinton ran for President and won, as well as remaining in office after the Lewinsky scandal was validated. In this case we have a sexual affair, sexual harassmt, and a rape accusation none of which led to any permanent blemishing of the Clinton mystique.

In these instances morality and censorship and how they are punished are governed by those with elitist power which the Presidential office has in abundance. This gives those with that power the ability to suppress, coerce, and shroud events such as these using the media as its conduit. But, it seems local and state politicians don't have that power, which led to the resignations of Spitzer and McGreevy and countless other Governors and Mayors who were caught in such scandals.

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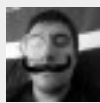


Re: Selective morality and censorship.
by Delbert Borden – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 8:34 PM

Professor Escobar said Wikipedia covered wars, and Presidential elections very well; so I thought

perhaps they covered Presidential and political sex scandals just as well. Unfortunately i wasn't able to upload the link on to moodle but i assure if you look you'll see the list is quite lengthy showing that sex scandals in politics seem to be the rule, and not the exception. Making "morality" more of a catch phrase for a political slogan rather than an actual quality seen in many political figures past or present. From Jefferson and his slave concubines, to Buchanan our only President not married and his allegedly long time relationship with a former Vice-President. It all was quite shocking, because it also shows how censorship can be regarded as suppression of evidence if it takes decades, or centuries for this information to become public knowledge making punishment impossible. "Those in power write the history, while those who suffer write the songs," (Frank Harte). Although he was speaking about life in Ireland this quote rings true here as well.

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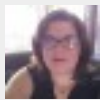


Sapho vs. Reality
by [Joe Paredes](#) – Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 4:54 PM

What I find compelling about the sapho film is that all because something was made by someone and produced, but not agreeable with the status of society makes it justice to go after the maker/writer. Olga Nethersole was arrested and almost prosecuted for making such a creative film. The outrage it brought in the society to think women could have multiple lovers was not ever seen though? That's what kind of brings my attention up to a stop. Women never hsd lovers in the 20th Century or prior to that?

the short film we watched about sapho, it said " It provoked the guardians of morality." Does this mean just angers certain individuals who watched it?

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women having multiple partners today
by [Sara Kosydar](#) – Friday, April 15, 2016, 4:42 PM

Back then it was not ok to discuss or show any sexual behavior. Since back then women did not have many rights we were not thought of our individual person as men were. Just as today when boys or men have sex during high school or at anytime they get high fives from their friends while women usually get looked down upon for having sex with one person let alone multiple. If men date multiple women he is either thought of as exploring his options or cheating, while women are thought of as easy or whores even today. (didn't want to use the other word they are called because I thought it would be inappropriate to say on a forum)

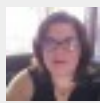
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Re: Sapho vs. Reality
by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 8:33 PM

I too was shocked that they arrested Olga instead of the writer or even the director. Maybe they could have arrested the male actor. In the video it said that someone had to be punished and since the character couldn't be punished they went after the actress who played the character. I found that to be especially surprising. It surprised me how modest they were back then especially compared to today. Today you see basically everything on tv and on the internet. So to have a woman arrested for playing a character that has multiple lovers is very shocking and weird.

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Censorship. Is it a good thing ?
by [Sara Kosydar](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 2:21 PM

I don't think it is right for the government to choose what we can or cannot watch, listen or get information. I can see where sometimes it might be necessary for the government to want to use censorship to fulfill its interests or plans, but morally I think it is wrong because I don't like being lied to or being manipulated especially if it is about wars. What's your opinion ? Were there times that you have thought it was a good thing for the government to censor things that were going on at the time?

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Re: Censorship. Is it a good thing ?

by [Meghan Jacinto](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 5:06 PM

I personally think enforcing censorship won't do much. Usually when the experts pass legislation laws attempting to help or protect a specific group of people, it is hard to enforce it, and people don't generally listen. For example, people who voted for the prohibition act still drank even after it was passed. I think that's a problem the progressives, or modern liberals, face a lot when wanting to change society, and thus, not a lot of their advocated change has much impact.

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Re: Censorship. Is it a good thing ?

by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 8:39 PM

I personally don't think that censorship is a good thing. I understand that it might be good at certain times. I think it is good to censor what your kids watch, so they don't see inappropriate things but other than that no. I know the government has probably censored things for their own interests, but I think that this is wrong. With holding information to me is the same as lying. People don't like being lied to or having their opinions manipulated.

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The Sapho "Crime"

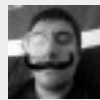
by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 6:57 PM

Consider Sapho and comment on the state of censorship prevalent in the United States in 1900. What do you find most compelling about the entire episode?

I found the entire episode very interesting, but the part I found most compelling was the absurd reason that Olga Nethersole was arrested. She was arrested for public indecency for playing a character in a show. To me that just sounds absurd. Especially since the audience didn't see anything happen, in the ending scene it leads the audience to believe that the characters are going to have sex, but it is not shown. It was a more modest time, but arresting someone for doing their job is ridiculous to me. Another thing that I found very interesting was that Olga was arrested but what about her male costar? Didn't he commit the same "crime" that Olga committed or was the fact that he was a man enough to pardon him from this public indecency?

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Re: The Sapho "Crime"

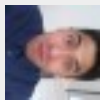
by [Joe Paredes](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 8:23 PM

I was listening to the beginning of the short clip we watched and it said it

" Provoked the Guardian of Morality "

Could this be the very far end of the spectrum progressives who embrace the change but maybe surpassed it too far? Or did it anger the society in general? Or did it truly just anger the people watching the movie to the point of finding a way to somehow get the " right " kind of people to arrest her and alot prosecute her?

Just a good discussion or idea to think about. I'm still very interested to know even more about Sapho and the Manns Act.

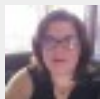


Re: The Sapho "Crime"

by [Miguel Perez](#) – Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 10:59 PM

I blew my mind that Olga Nethersole was arrested! I thought about it, and I wondered, why did they not arrest the playwright (Clyde Fitch) for writing such an "indecent" play, why did they not arrest the plays director? And like you mentioned why did they not arrest the male actor. I believe it was because the synopsis of the play was, "centering on a woman who has love affairs with men to whom she is not married. Nethersole had already added two such dramas, *Camille* and *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*, to her ongoing repertoire.^[3] *Sapho*'s lead character, Fanny LeGrand, seduces a naïve man named Jean Gaussin." ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapho_\(play\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapho_(play))) Which is ultimately the reason Olga was arrested, because SHE played a woman whom seduced a "naive" young man. Im glad times have changed.

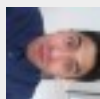
Miguel



During that time period it was not ok

by [Sara Kosydar](#) – Thursday, April 14, 2016, 11:20 PM

I also found it ridiculous that the actress was the one to get in trouble and not the producer during the time. I belive it is a bit ridiculous to arrest someone beacause the play was suggestive, but given the time period I can understand the outrage. In lecture we learned that during this time period the country was very protestant and I belive the play showing that much "sin" would be looked down upon. Especially a women showing such risqué behavior.



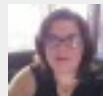
Sexual Morality

by [Miguel Perez](#) – Monday, April 11, 2016, 11:12 PM

Even though I grew up in the United States, because I grew up in a home that was culturally different from many of my white American compatriots though we see morality foundationally the same, we have differing views on how to build that foundation. In particular, my cultures moral views regarding sexuality. It was something we did not talk about until the age of 15–17, and even after, it was scarcely touched upon again. I believe Americans are more sexually restricted than we pretend to be. But, we aren't still living in the sexual stone age or the moral stone age for that matter (otherwise known as the turn of the century). And we are mature enough acknowledge sexuality in passing, Carl's Jr' commercials, sex scenes in movies, adds, TV shows. However I do not think however sexuality is something we are all that comfortable with.

The show Family guy sums it up pretty well in their theme song, "It seems today, that all you see, is violence in movies, and **SEX** on TV". We like to put up this façade of "Yeah we are okay with sex" but when it comes down to it, talking about sex makes us uncomfortable. Just walk by a high school sex ed. class. In the case of Sapho, this quote from the video really caught my attention, "The scandalous part of Sapho was, that at the end of the piece, Sapho was carried upstairs clearly to a bedroom, Sapho did not protest. She went willingly to have and illicit sexual relationship with the man." It's insane to me that she would be arrested for this, and not the playwright, or director, or the man he carried her upstairs. Of course she was acquitted. It was (at the time to some) a shock to see a woman portrayed as a human with sexual wants. "Women, they stressed, were different than men, possessing a moral sense and nurturing quality that men lacked." (Liberty, Equality, Power 7th, page 697). This was one of the deciding reasons for why women should hold the right to vote. The ending of Sapho took away a woman's "moral sense and nurturing quality" Sapho made men and women sexually equal. Which was new at the turn of the century.

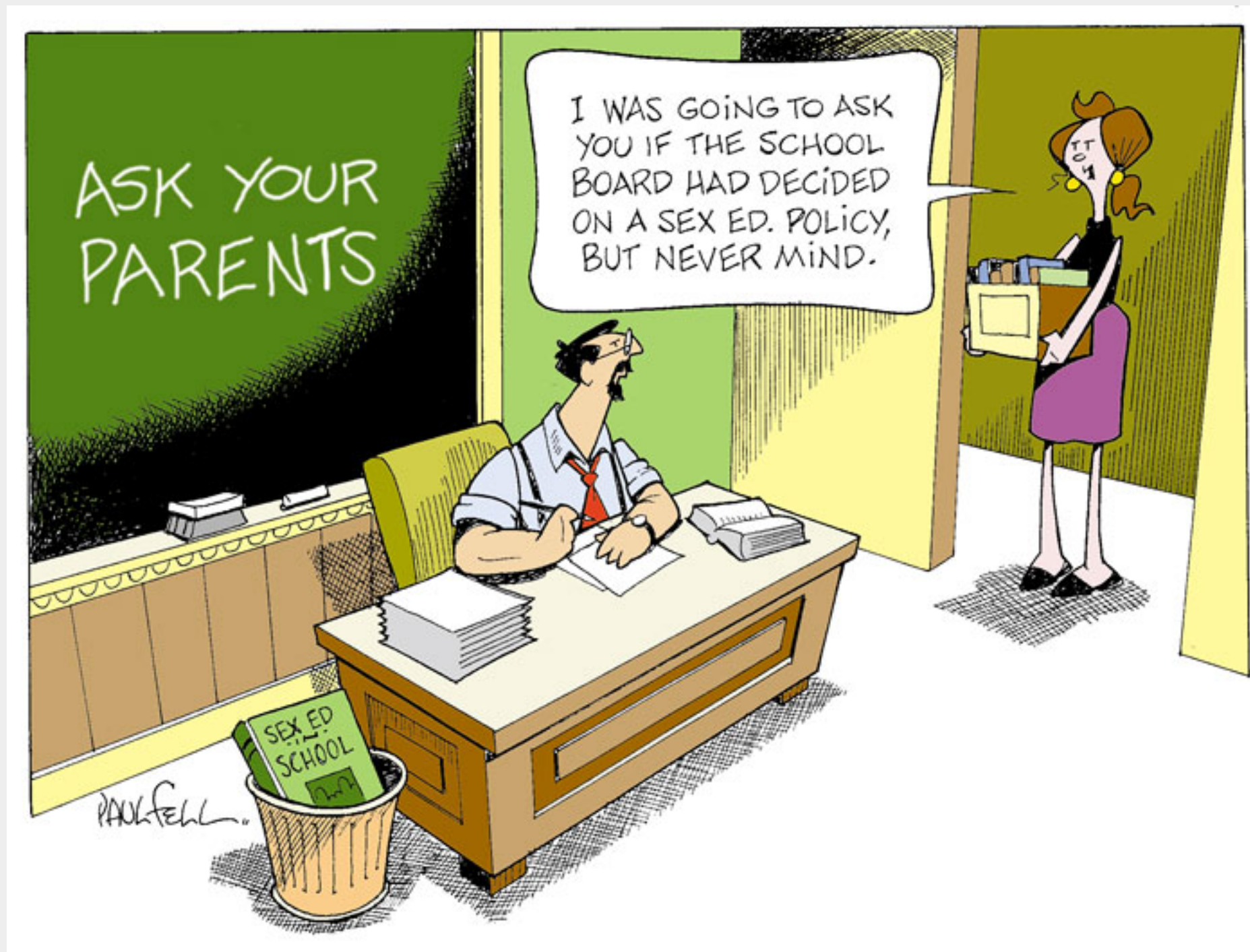
Miguel



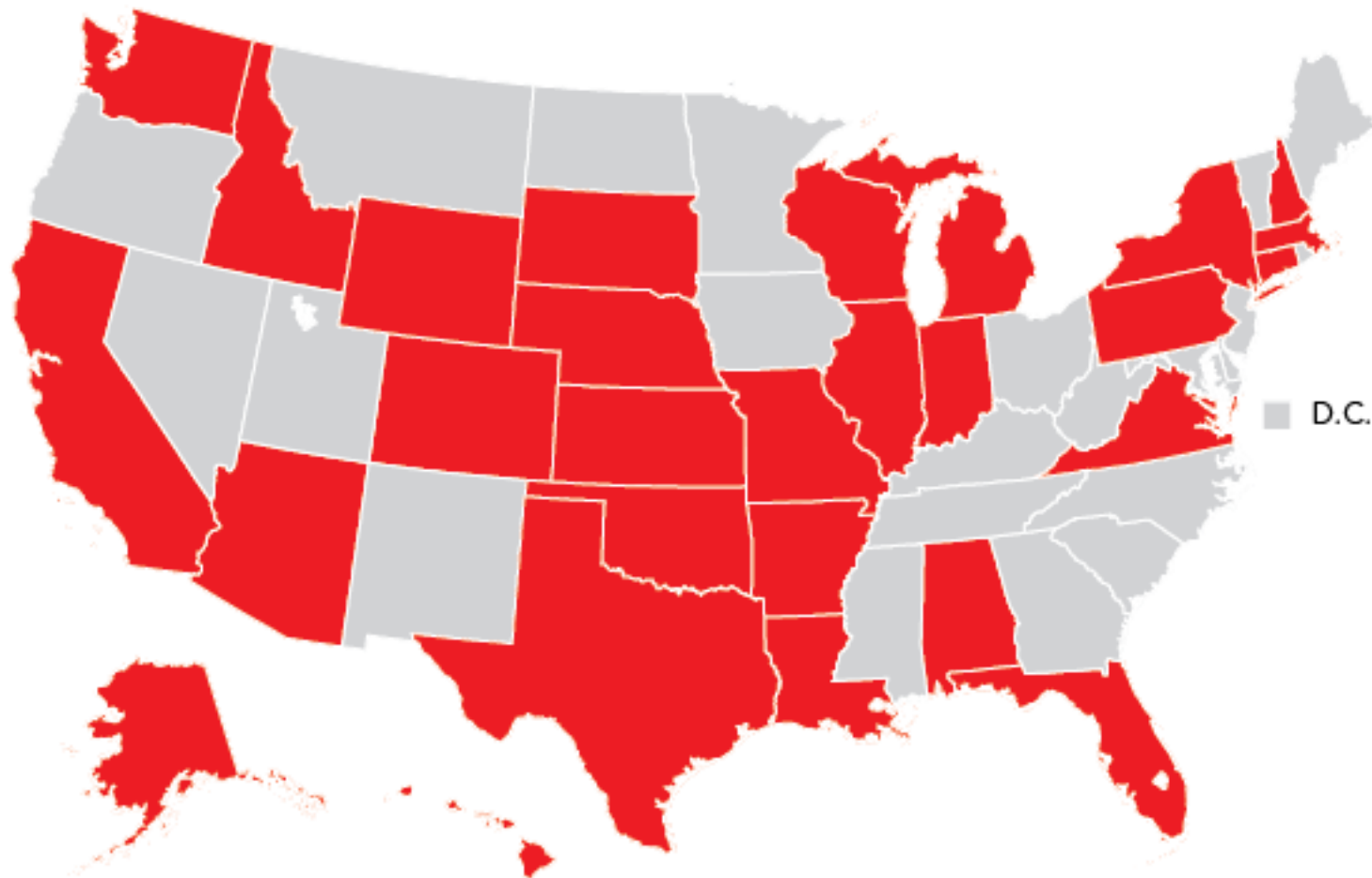
forced sexual ed

by [Sara Kosydar](#) - Friday, April 15, 2016, 4:30 PM

I can understand where you're coming from when you say that Americans are sexually restricted even though we turn on the TV and there is an advertisement using boobs to advertise food or cars. Our sexual education in this country isn't even required in all states which causes lots of women to have children early because either our parents don't want to teach us about it or because all states do not cover the topic. Then it brings the issue if we should force people's children to learn about sex. Which I can understand why some parents would be uncomfortable with the government deciding their children are gonna be forced to learn a specific way of sexual education. Especially if they want to teach their kids about abstinence.



States That Don't Require Sex Education



Note: Sex education typically includes discussion of STIs. In Illinois, sex education is not mandatory, but health education is required, and it includes medically accurate information on abstinence. In Mississippi, localities may include topics such as contraception or STIs only with permission from the State Department of Education. In Tennessee, sex education is required if the pregnancy rate is at least 19.5 or higher per 1,000 teen women ages 15-17.

Sources: Guttmacher

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The Mann Act: Then and Now

by [Meghan Jacinto](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 3:55 PM

At the turn of the century, the public display of sexuality for women was a new and sensitive topic. For example, the play of Sappho was regarded as inappropriate and “challenged the conventions of the day” because the story depicted a woman with many lovers (Source: 20 seconds during the video). During this time, the progressive movement was also at large. However, the progressives were not “progressive” towards this newfound public display of sexuality, but they did pass the Mann Act as a progressive measure to protect women. This is similar to how they intended to “protect” women with the 10 hour workday. The Mann Act was necessary during its time, because women were supporting themselves for the first time and began to flock to cities. Because of this, there were fears that the women were being forced into prostitution and shipped across country (Source: 1 minute of the second video). Times were certainly changing, but people were also concerned for women and keeping the proper moral values within the city. Personally, I think the Mann Act is still necessary today, because the Mann Act can be connected to human trafficking, which is a large modern problem in the United States.

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Re: The Mann Act: Then and Now

by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 8:51 PM

I wouldn't say that the Mann act is necessary today. I understand what you mean that it could be useful today because it pertains to human trafficking which is a big problem today. I could be wrong but as I understand the Mann Act it was passed specifically to protect women. Like you said during this time many women were flocking to the city to get jobs. They were afraid that these women would be taken advantage of and that they'd be stuck in a life of prostitution. While that could still be a threat today, I don't think it as big of a threat as it used to be. I think that the Mann Act should be extended to protect every victim of human trafficking not just women.

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Re: The Mann Act: Then and Now
by Miguel Perez – Saturday, April 16, 2016, 10:21 PM

I believe the Mann Act has been amended, or at least reworded to protect anyone who has been can be victim to sexual crimes especially in the form of human trafficking. "**The Mann Act** is a federal statute that prohibits interstate or foreign transportation of an individual with **the** intention of engaging such individual in sexual activity or prostitution. **The Mann Act** is also known as **the** White Slave Traffic **Act**." (prostitution.uslegal.com/federal–mann–act/)

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