

Sex and Sexualities

SOC 256 | Spring 2020

Section 5551 | Online

Professor: Jennifer Lê

Office Location: online

Office Hours: by appointment

Phone: 425.564.2803 (office)

Email: jennifer.le@bellevuecollege.edu (preferred)



Course Description and Goals

This course will focus on issues of sexuality from a sociological perspective including sexual identities and practices and topics such as race, social control, education, etc. Critical thinking and discussion will be important components of the course.

Course Outcomes

After completing this course, successful students should be able to:

- Explain the difference between key concepts in the field, such as “sex,” “gender,” “sexuality,” and “sexual orientation”;
- Discuss how sexuality is socially constructed and compare norms and cultural perspectives on sexual behavior across societies;
- Describe the ways in which our culture and society shape our sexual opinions and experiences;
- Illustrate how gender influences sexual attitudes and behaviors;
- Better understand sexual practices and perspectives from a sociological perspective;
- Recognize how sex and sexualities are marketed, packaged and sold by society; and
- Critically examine how societies regulate sexual behavior.

Required Text and Readings

All readings will be available on Canvas. There is no textbook to purchase. If you prefer to buy a book (most readings are in there) you may: <https://www.amazon.com/Sex-Matters-Sexuality-Society-Reader/dp/0393935868>.

Attendance

As this is an online class, attendance will be counted by your online access to the course and the meeting of deadlines. In order to be considered an active member of the course, students must log into the course within the **first two days** of the quarter, or you will be withdrawn from the class.

Each week for this course begins on Monday, with the exception of the first week, and ends on Sunday. All assignments listed as due for each week will be due on Sunday by 11:59pm PST with the exception of initial discussion board posts, which are due each week on Thursday by 11:59pm PST.

Classroom Policies

As this is a college course, this classroom shall be treated as a professional environment. I expect everyone to be respectful of others. There will be zero tolerance for disrespect including but not limited to racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, and heterosexism.

Netiquette

The following are general guidelines to follow in an online classroom environment. These guidelines will help foster a positive and constructive learning environment.

1. Avoid using ALL CAPS as this suggests you are shouting and is more difficult to read.
2. Avoid using emojis (e.g. :-), >:(, etc.) and texting slang (e.g. lol, btw, etc.).

3. Keep your written communications focused and to the point.
4. Remember that your posts are public to the members of this class. Do not say anything online that you wouldn't say to someone's face.
5. Obey copyright laws. Do not use text, images, or other content without permission or proper citation.
6. As with all college courses, academic dishonesty (including plagiarism, cheating, multiple submissions, etc.) will not be tolerated.

Course Requirements

Discussion Posts

(330 points total, 30 points each)

A new topic of discussion will be available each week. Initial posts—your own response to the discussion topic—are due each week on Thursday by 11:59pm PST with the exception of the week of Thanksgiving. Response posts—responses made on your classmates' threads (not including replies made on your own thread)—are due each week on Sunday by 11:59pm PST. You are required to make a minimum of THREE posts each week (one initial and two response posts) but are encouraged to post more to demonstrate your engagement with your peers and the topic. Each post should use critical thinking, be thoughtful, concise, and include related research from the textbook or news sources.

TIP: thoughtful *response* posts should include critical reflection, meaningful questions, and/or related content or research from the textbook or news sources. Simple agreement or disagreement will not count toward your minimum number of posts.

Essays

(300 points total, 75 points each)

Throughout the quarter, you will be writing short papers that involve reflection, analysis, and at times, experiments or observations. Assignment guidelines will be available on Canvas.

Each paper should follow proper citation guidelines using either MLA or APA style. This website contains helpful guidelines: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>. The format for all papers should be double spaced, Arial 12 point font, with 1 inch margins on all sides, and no title page or running header. Guidelines and a grading rubric will be available for students to review. Papers are to be uploaded on Canvas on or before the due date.

Peep Show: A First Look at a Topic about Sex

(170 points total: 15 point proposal, 30 points of quizzes, 25 point bibliography, 100 point essay)

What is something that interests you about sex and sexuality? Your task will be to do some very initial research on a topic related to the sociology of sex and sexuality. Some examples include: dating apps and the impact on relationships, how the pandemic impacts the lives and finances of cam girls, male use of sex toys, racial differences in kink participation, etc. The sky is the limit! This project will be split up into three parts, the proposal and the library research. The proposal will include a little background information and a research question for a potential future research project. The library research component will include a review of two peer-reviewed journal articles and one additional source (limited to sociological sources like Pew Research, the Kinsey Institute, Guttmacher Institute, or a non-fiction book on the topic). The final product will be a 600- to 800-word essay summarizing what those sources had to say on your topic. The project will also include a few short quizzes.

Exams

(200 points, 100 points each)

You will have two exams for this class, each potentially consisting of multiple choice and essay questions. The exams will be available for a specific duration and will close by 11:59pm on the due date listed in the schedule.

Grades

Your grade will consist of the following:

TOTAL: 1000 points

A = 930 - 1000+

A- = 900 - 929

B+ = 870 - 899

B = 830 - 869

B- = 800 - 829

C+ = 770 - 799

C = 730 - 769

C- = 700 - 729

D+ = 670 - 699

D = 600 - 669

F = 0 - 599

Discussion Posts – 330 points (30 points each) = 33%

Essays – 300 points (75 points each) = 30%

Peep Show – 170 points total = 17%

Midterm Exam (100 points) = 10%

Final Exam (100 points) = 10%

Note: There will be no curve in this class, including for single assignments. Your grade is what you earn.

Extra Credit

A video links will be posted in the Canvas assignment link. This videos is to be watched and analyzed. The requirements for the paper are on Canvas. Students may complete ONE total of these extra credit opportunities for a possible 20 points. These extra points are added onto a student's total points for the course. No late work will be accepted without a pre-approved reason. Please view the full assignment sheet on Canvas.

Late Policy

Exams

All missed exams must be pre-approved by the instructor PRIOR to the due date. Make-up exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor and must occur **before** the due date, if at all. Missed exams without prior approval can only be made up if the absence accompanies an approved excuse and if immediate notice is given to the instructor via email or phone.

Assignments

Late papers may be submitted late for any reason and will receive a 10% deduction per day late. Any missed assignments (papers and portrait) not pre-approved by the instructor must accompany an approved excuse* in order for an extended due date to be given. Late textbook work and discussions are not accepted, with the exception of initial posts for discussions that must be submitted before the discussion closes for the week (11:59pm Sunday night).

*Approved absences include school-sponsored event participation, hospitalization, childbirth, major accident or injury, or bereavement. It is the student's responsibility to provide the instructor appropriate documentation within a reasonable timeframe. Unapproved absences will result in zeros on assignments and exams and **cannot** be made up.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 – April 8-12

Topic	What is sociology? And what is sex??		
Readings	Vogt Isaksen "The Sociological Imagination: Thinking Outside the Box"	Christina	Sanders et al.
Assignments Due	Week 1 Discussion		Peep Show: Proposal

Week 2 – April 13-19

Topic	Gender		
Readings	Messner	Kimmel	Davis
Assignments Due	Week 2 Discussion	Essay 1	Peep Show: Proposal 2 (if required)

Week 3 – April 20-26

Topic	Foundations of the Sociology of Sexuality		
Readings	Bullough	Donnelly, Burgess, and Simonds	Weiner AND O'Connor
Assignments Due	Week 3 Discussion	Peep Show: Literature Review Module and Mini Quizzes	

Week 4 – April 27 - May 3

Topic	Sexual Identities			
Readings	Rupp and Taylor (and McCann)	Escoffier	Phillips	Carrigan
Assignments Due	Week 4 Discussion		Essay 2	

Week 5 – May 4-10

Topic	Sex and Social Statuses					
Readings	Siebers	Barmon, Bender, and Burgess	Truong	Poulson-Bryant	Brandt	Sheff and Hammers
Assignments Due	Week 5 Discussion			Midterm Exam		

Week 6 – May 11-7

Topic	Sex Ed	
Readings	Simonds and Jungels	Fine and McClelland
Assignments Due	Week 6 Discussion	Peep Show: APA Module and Mini Quizzes

Week 7 – May 18-24

Topic	Sexual Bodies				
Readings	Braun	Wade	Darby	Fortin	TBA
Assignments Due	Week 7 Discussion			Peep Show: Bibliography Due	

Week 8 – May 25-31

Topic	The Sex Industry			
Readings	Sarracino and Scott	Frank	Brents and Hausbeck	Shapkina
Assignments Due	Week 8 Discussion		Essay 3	

Week 9 – June 1-7

Topic	Social Control of Sexuality			
Readings	Mullis + Baunach AND Cavalier + Burgess	Lepore	Walters	Hoover
Assignments Due	Week 9 Discussion		Peep Show: Essay	

Week 10 – June 8-14

Topic	Sexual Violence	
Readings	Gavey AND Tesene	Edwards et al.
Assignments Due	Week 10 Discussion	Essay 4

Week 11 – June 15-19 (including Final Exams)

Topic	Sex Positivity and Final Exam		
Readings	Windsor and Burgess		
Assignments Due	Week 11 Discussion	Final Exam	Extra Credit Paper
*As this is the last week of the quarter, all outstanding assignments will be due on Friday, June 19			

Sexual Assault Resources

If you experience sexual assault or rape, there are many resources on campus to help you. It is not your fault for what happened and you do not have to go through this alone. Submit a CARE Team report using “Report Concerns” link on the Bellevue College website. Be sure to click on Title IX so that your report gets routed to Rachel Wellman and Jill Powell in the Title IX office. We also have counseling services available for free for all students. You can call (425.564.5747), go to their offices (upstairs in the B Building—I’m happy to walk you there if it feels intimidating), or email the counselors (askacounselor@bellevuecollege.edu). Please note that email is not a confidential means of communication. You may also request an appointment online. Public Safety is also able to help with certain things: 425.564.2400. For emergencies please call 911. Finally, an excellent resource is the National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1.800.656.4673, open 24 hours. I am also happy to be a resource and help you get the help you need.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Disability Resource Center

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.
<http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one’s own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

Copyright Notice

All documents disseminated by your instructor are under copyright by said instructor. Any re-use or distribution of these materials outside of our classroom without permission is copyright infringement and is considered a crime.

Final Comments

It is my goal to make this course worth your time and effort. Therefore, I will do all that is reasonable and within my power to ensure that you learn and succeed. If you are concerned with any aspect of this course please feel free to contact me.