

# SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES

## SOC 256, Fall 2012

### 10:30-11:20 Daily, A-206



**Instructor: Dr. Lori Saffin**

**Email: [lsaffin@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:lsaffin@bellevuecollege.edu)**

**Office Phone: (425) 564-2161**

**Office Location: A100-E**

**Office Hours: 8:30-9:20 M, W, & F, 1:30-2:30 T-TH and by appointment**

**Course Introduction:** Are all people clearly either “male” or “female”?  
Why do women and men appear to think so differently about sex?  
Does everyone around the world “have sex” in the same ways?  
Is sexual orientation learned?  
Why is penis size so important to men and breast size so important to women?  
Is there a sexual double standard for women and men?  
Are prostitution, pornography, and the adult sex industry harmful to society?  
Do we have a rape culture?

If any or all of these questions interest you, then you are in the right place! Over the course of the quarter, we will explore these questions as well as many other fascinating topics pertaining to sex and sexuality. I look forward to working with you and sharing my enthusiasm for the sociology of sexuality. I have a passion for this subject matter, and I hope that you have a passion too.

This class is about sex. But it’s not just about sex. It is also about gender, culture, and “deviance.” It is about the body. It’s about power, politics, inequality, and social change. Sociologists know that sex does not happen in a vacuum (although that might be appealing to some people!). To the contrary, sex is tied up with history, culture, politics, and power. We will explore these connections over the next several weeks. Our major goal is to understand how the larger social environment fundamentally shapes our intimate, private sex lives for better or worse.

We live in a society where sex is everywhere – on television and radio, in movies and the arts, on bus stop billboards and magazine advertisements. We talk about sex at home, in school, with our friends, and at work. We call people studs, sluts, pimps, players, whores, and prudes. We hear about sex drives, sex scandals, sex toys, sex addicts, and sex slaves. Sex is all around us, touching nearly every aspect of our lives – yet, we rarely take time to study it. In fact, we are often misinformed about sex. This course is designed to untangle sexual myths from sexual realities. You will probably look at sex and sexuality in a very different way after taking this class. As we all come to the course with strong ideas and beliefs about sexuality, the subject matter can be personally as well as intellectually challenging. Some of what you will learn might be shocking, surprising, or even make you angry. Nevertheless, I hope that you will learn from each class experience and take these lessons with you on your future endeavors.

## Required Texts:

1. Stomblor, et. al., *Sex Matters: The Sexuality and Society Reader*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Boston, Pearson Publications. 2010.
2. Additional articles or handouts are posted on the course website ([My BC](#) – under “shared documents”).

## Learning Atmosphere:

I believe that students learn best when they are actively involved in the teaching and learning process. Thus, this is an active and interactive course where you will often learn by doing. You are expected to observe the world, read, write, discuss, and participate. I think of our class as a collaborative learning community where we all teach and learn from each other. Every time you make a comment or ask a question, you teach something to the rest of us. I challenge you to abandon the traditional passive student role and to get involved with teaching and learning – I think you’ll enjoy it and learn a lot in the process.

*A note about course content:* Since sociologists examine just about every aspect of the social world, we will sometimes talk about provocative material in class. Please be advised that when we explore controversial topics, they will be framed in an academic context. Topics run the gamut in sociology and at times there may be material that makes people uncomfortable. Keep in mind that when we find ourselves in a space outside of our comfort zone, it’s an opportunity for learning. You may be confronted with subject matter that is difficult to watch, see, discuss, or listen to. You are free to leave the room at any time, but please know you will be responsible for any course material you may have missed while you were gone. Also, profanity exists in our social world and thus will be used throughout this course - so please be advised. If you have any questions or concerns about course content or climate, don’t hesitate to let me know.

## Learning and Course Outcomes:

After completing the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Explain the difference between key concepts in the field, such as “sex,” “gender,” “sexuality,” and “sexual orientation”;
2. Confront the limits and special problems of scientific research on sex and sexuality;
3. Compare norms and cultural perspectives on sexual behavior across societies;
4. Describe the ways in which our culture and society shape our sexual opinions and experiences;
5. Illustrate how gender influences sexual attitudes and behaviors;
6. Better understand sexual practices and perspectives that are outside of your own;
7. Recognize how sex and sexualities are marketed, packaged, and sold by society;
8. Critically examine how societies regulate sexual behavior;
9. Describe what “social construction” means and look at sexuality from a sociological perspective.

## General Education Outcomes:

This course’s General Education ratings are: 3 in Critical Thinking; 2 in Reading; 2 in Ethics; 2 in Historical and Intellectual Perspectives, and 2 in Cultural Diversity.

## General Course Rules and Expectations:

- **Attendance:** Attend all class meetings and come to class on time. Your presence in class contributes significantly toward your final grade in the course as I cover a lot of material in class that cannot be found in the readings. More than *three unexcused absences* or late attendances will lower your grade, and continue to do so as you miss more classes. To have an absence or tardy considered excused, you must discuss it with me prior to the absence or tardy, unless it is an emergency. Excused absences include doctor’s visits, family emergencies, and sometimes work-related issues. If you miss class, please connect with your colleagues to find out what you missed. I highly recommend that you get the names and contact information of one or

two of your classmates so you can contact them for any assignments or notes you may have missed while absent.

- **Preparation:** You should come to class having done all the assigned reading and homework and you should always bring the proper supplies with you daily, including your textbook. Note that the BC guideline for homework is two hours outside of class for each hour spent in class.
- **Assignments:** All assignments are due at the start of the class period. Assignments, papers, homework, or exams must be typed, printed out, stapled, and handed in at the beginning of class. Emailed assignments are not accepted. If you know you are going to be absent on the day an assignment is due, then turn it in early. All major due dates are indicated on the attached Course Calendar. Please see the writing guidelines for the format of submitting all written assignments.
- **Late Work:** I believe that one of the major lessons students take away from college is the importance of meeting deadlines. As a result, **no late work will be accepted** unless you have had it approved by me BEFORE the due date. Late work will receive a zero grade.
- **Contribution:** Learning about each other's experiences and perspectives is an integral part of the learning process in this course. I believe that you will learn a lot about yourself and your fellow classmates. Therefore, you are expected to be an active participant in our learning environment. An active participant can include contributing to discussions, but can also mean getting to class on time, taking notes, listening to your peers, and coming to class prepared. You should do your best to contribute to class discussions and activities.
- **Classroom Etiquette:** All electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom at all times. This includes cell phones, i-phones, laptops, i-pods/mp3 players, kindles/nooks, etc. If you need a laptop to take notes, I will need verification. All texting devices should be placed in your bag for the duration of the class. Please note that that texting, excessive talking, or other disruptive behavior is not only disrespectful to me, it is also disrespectful to the people around you. Your participation grade will be affected and lowered by these types of behaviors.
- **Respect:** I expect that your behavior in class be respectful. Learning about diverse experiences is central to this course, so it is of the utmost importance that you respect your classmates' experiences, differences, and opinions. In order for us to learn from each other, we have to allow each other to make mistakes and to offer unpopular positions for debate. This is a college classroom and as such, I expect students to behave as adults. I do not tolerate excessive talking or whispering, consistent late arrivals, or early departures. *Students who are disrespectful to their classmates or the instructor will be asked to leave class and will be marked absent until arrangements are made with the instructor to return to class and will result in your participation credit lowering.*
- **Plagiarism:** Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. This is a serious offense which can result in possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College and go on your permanent academic record. Do not do it! If you cheat/plagiarize, you fail. No excuses will be taken into account. Your work must be your own, except when you are asked to work with other students. Furthermore, you are required to acknowledge in your papers if you have borrowed any ideas, terms or phrases. Do not copy and paste material from Wikipedia or any other website into your assignments, as with is a severe form of cheating (that is very easy to catch, by the way). In this class your assignments should be grounded in the textbook rather than web resources, which are often wrong. If you have any hesitation or if you are in doubt about one of these issues, feel free to ask me.

## Bellevue College's Rules and Regulations:

- **Incomplete:** If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").
- **F Grade:** Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

- **Final Examination Schedule:** The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.
- **Withdrawal from Class:** College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.
- **Hardship Withdrawal:** Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.
- **Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing:** 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 Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services. If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.
- **Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:** Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter. Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Center, and review those needs with the instructor as well.
- **Distribution of Grades:** Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.
- **Return of Papers and Tests:** Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

## Students with Disabilities:

All students are responsible for all requirements of the class, but the way they meet these requirements may vary. If you need specific academic accommodations due to a disability, please speak with me and with the Disability Resource Center at (425)564-2498. You will need to obtain the appropriate documentation from the DRC in room B132. The disability accommodation documentation must be given to me before it is needed rather than afterward, so that we can make appropriate arrangements. You will need to make arrangements with the DRC in advance for test-taking or other accommodations.

## Grading:

Grades are based on six factors. (1) Participation and Discussion, (2) In-class activities (3) Exams, (4) Weekly Reflection Papers, (5) Cranium group work, and (6) a Field Work Assignment. Each of these elements is awarded a specific number of points:

Participation/Discussion	50 points
In-class activities (5 at 10 points/each)	50 points
Exams (2 at 100 points/each)	200 points
5 Reflection Papers (5 at 20 points/each)	100 points
Cranium Group Work (5 at 25 points/each)	100 points
Field Work Assignment	100 points

---

**TOTAL**

**600 points**

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	555-600	93-100%
A-	543-554	90-92%
B+	525-542	88-89%
B	501-524	83-87%
B-	477-500	80-82%
C+	465-476	78-79%

Grade	Points	Percentage
C	435-464	73-77%
C-	417-434	70-72%
D+	405-416	67-69%
D	357-404	60-66%
F	356 & Below	59% & Below

## Description of the 6 Grading Components:

### 1. Participation/Discussion: (50/600 points)

Participation is essential to the format of this class and will therefore contribute significantly toward your grade. In short, your success in this class depends on your active participation. Participation includes attendance, getting to class on time, class discussions, and group work. Disruptive behavior, excessive talking, texting while in class, or other interruptions will lower this portion of your grade. As noted in the *General Course Rules and Expectations*, more than *three unexcused absences* will lower your grade, and will continue to do so, as you miss more classes. Do not take this portion of your grade lightly!

### 2. In-Class Activities/Discussion Questions: (50/600 points)

Throughout the quarter, there will be 5 randomly-delivered in class activities. Each activity is worth 10 points each and will be based upon the readings or application of the readings for that given day. These activities cannot be made up. The purpose of these activities is to hold students accountable for reading and to ensure students attend class regularly.

### 3. Exams: (200/600 points)

There will be two exams worth 100 points each – essentially a midterm and a final. The exams are based upon readings, in-class discussion, and lecture and will be testing students on their comprehension of complex materials, ideas, and theories. Each exam will primarily consist of essay questions. Please note that you cannot make up missed exams. The first exam will be split between two days during our class October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The second exam will be over material discussed during the latter half of the class, so it will not be comprehensive. The second exam will be on Wednesday,

December 5<sup>th</sup> during our scheduled exam time, 9:30 – 11:20, so plan ahead. Please note that I do not give make-up exams, allow students to take exams early or late.

#### **4. Reflection Papers: (100/600 points)**

Over the course of the quarter, you will complete 5 reflection papers (20 points each). I will provide students with a prompt that connects specific reading(s) and/or film clip(s) to larger issues, current events, or even your own life. For example, I might ask students to complete the “Heterosexual Questionnaire” and discuss how they felt taking the questionnaire. The purpose of these reflection papers are to ensure that you are keeping up with the readings and allows students to make connections to their own lives and apply key concepts beyond the assigned readings. Reflection papers should be one-two pages typed in length.

#### **5. Cranium Discussion Group Work (100/600 points)**

Over the course of the quarter, you will participate in 4 Cranium Discussion Group Work sessions (25 points each). The purpose of this group work is to reach deeper levels of learning by utilizing all learning styles. Early in the quarter, I will assign students randomly to groups of four. This will be your quarter-long Cranium Group (although I reserve the right to re-assign groups at any time, particularly if a group has become dysfunctional). Prior to each Cranium day, your group will decide on which role s/he will inhabit. Each group member will take on all of roles over the course of the quarter (meaning if you sign up to be the Creative Cat for round one, you must choose a different role for the other three group work days). For those of you that are familiar with the board game Cranium, here are your four roles:

- A) **Data Head** – For this role, you will bring in additional information from the reading assigned. This could be statistics or more information regarding the thesis of the article. Ultimately, you are the analysis person and are bringing in more information to help your group members further comprehend the article.
- B) **Word Worm** – For this role, you need to pull in any and all major vocabulary terms, major ideas, or key points from the reading. You must bring four copies of your handout for all group members.
- C) **Creative Cat** – For this role, you need to be... creative! Bring in an image, a collage, a video clip or link that you will share with your group, a drawing - something that best shows the main points of the reading.
- D) **Star Performer** – For this role, you are essentially the leader, the illuminator, the conductor, the point-person that coordinates your group. You will be in charge of writing a detailed thesis of the reading, coming up with 3 central questions about the reading (not “What is this reading about?” or “What is the author saying?,” and submitting all of your group’s completed work. You will need to bring four copies of your thesis/questions for all group members.

On Cranium days, you will work in this group and present the information you are assigned pertaining to your role the group. The Star Performer is the leader and person in charge for that day. The information (and hence copies) brought by the Star Performer and the Word Worm you will be able to use on your exams – so do these well! Your Cranium grade will depend on the material that you submit individually (quality and thoroughness) as well as your contribution to the group discussion. I will be walking around to check contribution and ensuring that discussion is conducted in a meaningful way. What this means is that not all group members automatically receive the same grade.

#### **6. Fieldwork Assignment (100/600 points):**

You are required to complete 1 out of the following 5 fieldwork project. (The due dates vary depending upon the assignment you select.) Each activity requires you to make observations about some aspect surrounding sex and sexuality, and then write a brief paper about what you learned. Descriptions of the fieldwork exercises are attached. Fieldwork papers are 3-4 pages long. Please remember: I will not accept late work, so plan ahead.

##### **Fieldwork Assignment Option A) Learning about Sex and Sexuality**

For this assignment, you need to investigate how children learn about sex and sexuality. There are a couple of ways that you can do this:

A) Go to a major bookstore (ex: Barnes and Noble) and analyze books revolving around sex education for children. What kind of messages are kids provided? Are there pictures? Is there a particular age-range? Are there gendered differences in books geared toward girls and boys? Who is purchasing these books?

B) Interview a sex education teacher. How do they teach kids about sex? What content do they use? Where do they get their materials? Do they need to get parental permission? Are boys and girls segregated? Why or why not?

C) Survey 20-25 people about their memories of learning about sex. What patterns do you see? Are there differences for men and women? Age? Race/ethnicity/nationality? How did they feel learning about sex?

D) If you have some other idea for conducting your own research on how we learn about sex and sexuality, run it by me!

In your paper, be sure to explain what you did, collect relevant data (pictures are great forms of data), and at minimum answer the questions listed. Equally important, you need to explain how your findings relate to the topics discussed in class. Your paper should be 3-4 typed pages. Turn in your detailed fieldnotes along with your paper (Your fieldnotes are graded!). **If you choose this assignment, it is due on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class.**

### **Fieldwork Assignment Option B) Media Influences on Teenage Sexuality**

For this assignment, you will need to analyze the impact of the media on shaping teens' conception of sexuality. There are a couple of ways you can do this:

A) Research what shows are most popular for teens and tweens and watch a couple of episodes (examples include: Secret Life of the American Teenager, The Hills, Gossip Girl, 16 and Pregnant, iCarly, One Tree Hill, 90210, Degrassi, The OC, The Vampire Diaries – I'm sure there are others!) Take detailed fieldnotes about what messages teens are getting about sex and sexuality.

B) Research what music videos are most popular for teens and tweens and watch these videos. Take detailed fieldnotes as you watch these videos. What messages are teens and tweens getting about sex and sexuality? Lyrics? Clothing? Props? Who is the audience? Why are these representations featured the way they are?

C) If you have some other idea for conducting your own research regarding media influences on teen and tween sexuality, run it by me!

In your paper, be sure to explain what you did, collect relevant data, and at minimum answer the questions listed. Equally important, you need to explain how your findings relate to the topics discussed in class. Your paper should be 3-4 typed pages. Turn in your detailed fieldnotes along with your paper (Your fieldnotes are graded!). **If you choose this assignment, it is due on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class.**

### **Fieldwork Assignment Option C) Sexual Bodies, Behaviors, and Pleasure**

For this assignment, you will need to examine the sexual body, gendered sexual behaviors, and/or get research about sexual pleasure that is often happening "behind the scenes." There are a couple of ways that you can do this:

A) If tackling issues of the sexual body, interview men and women about penis (or breast sizes) and often our obsession with such body parts. Talk with men about why penis size is so important to them? Do they measure? Do they compare themselves to other men? How do they know if they are small, average, large? Conversely ask women if penis size is important to them? Why or why not. Do they feel they have to "build a man up?" Is there a difference in impact for heterosexual men compared to gay men?

B) In terms of sexual pleasure, you can survey men and women about things such as faking orgasms, how often they are satisfied by their sexual partner, if having an orgasm is how they define “good sex,” how do they know they are pleasing their partner, how they feel if their partner cannot have an orgasm, etc.?

C) If you have some other idea for conducting your own research revolving around the sexual body, behavior, and pleasure, run it by me!

In your paper, be sure to explain what you did, collect relevant data, and at minimum answer the questions listed. Equally important, you need to explain how your findings relate to the topics discussed in class. Your paper should be 3-4 typed pages. Turn in your detailed fieldnotes along with your paper (Your fieldnotes are graded!). **If you choose this assignment, it is due on Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class.**

#### **Fieldwork Assignment Option D) Sexual Variations and Practices**

For this assignment, you will need to conduct research on sexual variations outside of heteronormative sexual practices. There are a couple of ways you can do this:

A) Visit CSPC (Center for a Sex Positive Culture) in Seattle. You can attend a workshop, interview members at a drop-in session, or take a class! Note this is for those who are 18 and older. Report out what you find about this flourishing BDSM community.

B) Check out webspaces for alternative forms of sexuality (examples could be the poly community (which is huge in Seattle), furies, otherkin, nudists, s&m –and many others). Report out what you find – patterns, who is involved, why they are involved, etc.

C) If you have some other idea for conducting your own research revolving around sexual variations, run it by me!

In your paper, be sure to explain what you did, collect relevant data, and at minimum answer the questions listed. Equally important, you need to explain how your findings relate to the topics discussed in class. Your paper should be 3-4 typed pages. Turn in your detailed fieldnotes along with your paper (Your fieldnotes are graded!). **If you choose this assignment, it is due on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class.**

#### **Fieldwork Assignment Option E) Commercializing Sex**

For this assignment, you will need to conduct research on the commercialization of sex and sexuality. There are a couple of ways that you can do this:

A) Visit a strip club and take field notes. Who are the clients? Dancers? What is the race/ethnicity of these folks? Who makes the most money? What are the policies re: alcohol consumption, touching, etc.? Are these obeyed? Note this is for those who are 18 and older.

B) Go to a sex shop (examples are Lovers, Babes in Toyland, Castle, Wild at Heart, the Crypt). What kinds of sex toys are being sold? How are they racialized? Who is the target audience? What is the atmosphere like in these stores? Note this is for those who are 18 and older.

C) Go online and look at porn titles, names, major categories, etc. How are these gendered? Racialized? What is most popular? What do these “themes” say about sex and sexuality?

D) If you have some other idea for conducting your own research revolving around commercializing sex, run it by me!



In your paper, be sure to explain what you did, collect relevant data, and at minimum answer the questions listed. Equally important, you need to explain how your findings relate to the topics discussed in class. Your paper should be 3-4 typed pages. Turn in your detailed fieldnotes along with your paper (Your fieldnotes are graded!). **If you choose this assignment, it is due on Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at the beginning of class.**

**Please note that your grades will be available 24/7 on Jupitergrades.com. A generic ID # and password will be distributed to you within the first week of the quarter. Make sure you log on and check in frequently, so you know exactly where you stand throughout the quarter!**

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, COSIDERATIONS, OR COMPLAINTS ABOUT A GRADE YOU RECEIVED, I ASK YOU TO TAKE 24 HOURS TO REEXAMINE THE ANSWERS OR THE WRITING THAT YOU SUBMITTED AND THEN COME AND TALK WITH ME.

**\*\* General Guidelines for All Written Work \*\***

All papers or written work should be typed, in Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced with 1" margins on all sides, and stapled. Assignments are due at the beginning of class – promptly at 10:30 p.m. – no late work will be accepted. Late papers or assignments will receive a zero. No emailed assignments will be accepted. Your work must be cited in MLA style and you must always give proper credit to the texts from which you draw and formulate your ideas. Title pages and bibliographies are not counted toward the minimum page requirements. Student information (name, assignment title, class) is single-spaced, at the top left-hand side of the page. Do not put extra spaces between paragraphs and paragraphs contain no less than four sentences. Magazines, newspapers, journals, and books are *italicized*. Movie titles, article titles, song titles, etc. are "in quotation marks." Quotes inside of a quotation use 'single quotation marks.' Papers should be written from an academic perspective – so no colloquial language please!

**Instructor Notes:**

If at any point throughout the quarter you are confused or unclear about the expectations of the course, course material, a grade you received, or any other matters, I strongly encourage you to come talk with me early. It is my goal that all students succeed in this course; but, I can only help you if you meet me half way. Furthermore, if you are having personal problems or other issues going on outside of school, please let me know. I recognize that we all have lives outside of school, and am very willing to work with students, but I can only do so if I know there is a problem!

## Syllabus

You should be looking at your syllabus on a daily basis so you know what is expected of you in class. Also, you are expected to have read the readings assigned for the current day by the time you arrive in class!

\*\*Though I will try to remain as faithful as possible to this syllabus, I reserve the right to make changes. These will be announced in advance in class. \*\*

### Week 1

#### **Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>: Introduction to the Course**

Go over syllabus; class introductions; beginning definitions

#### **Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>: Thinking Critically about Sex, Gender and Sexuality**

In class exercise on definitions

#### **Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>: Basic Definitions**

Readings: "Preface," pp. xiii-xiv

In class exercise on definitions (continued)

#### **Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>: The Social Construction of Sex**

Readings: "The Five Sexes: Revisited," on course website



### Week 2

#### **Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>: Intersexuality: Where Science Meets Sex**

Readings: "Who Will Make Room for the Intersexed?" pp. 9-23

"Defining Genitals: Size Does Matter," pp. 23



#### **Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>: Male... Female... And? Sex is not so Simple**

Readings: "The M/F Boxes," on course website

"Sex and the Trans Man," pp. 24-26



#### **Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>: Societal Difficulties for Trans Folks**

In class discussion and power point presentation on current statistics

#### **Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>: The Social Construction of Sexuality**

Readings: "'Homosexual' and 'Heterosexual': Questioning the Terms," on course website

"Alfred Kinsey and the Kinsey Report," pp. 50-55

**Reflection Paper #1 Due**

#### **Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>: Gay 101 – Historical Considerations**

In class discussion and power point presentation



### Week 3

#### **Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>: Sexuality: Orientation or Preference?**

Readings: "The Heterosexual Questionnaire," on course website

"Gay by Choice? The Science of Sexual Identity," pp. 33-37

**Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Complicating Definitions of Sexuality**

Readings: "Straight Dude Seeks Same: Mapping the Relationship between Sexual Identities, Practices, and Cultures," pp. 27-32

**Cranium Discussion Group #1 on Straight Dudes article**



**Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Men on the DL**

Readings: "Latinos on da Down Low," pp. 323-333

**Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>: "Coming Out"? Bisexual Identity**

Readings: "Hiding in the Closet? Bisexuals, Coming Out, and the Disclosure Imperative," pp. 38-45

**Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>: Learning About Sex**

Readings: "The Death of the Stork," pp. 157-168

**Reflection Paper #2 Due**

**Week 4**

**Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>: "Becoming" Sexual**

Readings: "Fear of Sex: Do the Media Make them Do It," pp. 172-183

**Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>: No Class – College Issues Day**



**Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>: Sexual Education – Abstinence Only?**

Readings: "Going Too Far: Sex, Sin and Social Policy," pp. 202-211

**Field Work Option A Due**

**Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>: Coming of Age Narratives**

Readings: "Doing Desire," on course website

**Cranium Discussion Group #2 on Doing Desire article**

**Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>: The Male Sexual Body**

Readings: "The Sorcerer's Apprentice: Why Can't We Stop Circumcising Boys," pp. 227-232



**Week 5**

**Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>: Penis Size and Penis Envy between Men**

Readings: "Hung: A Meditation on the Measure of Black Men in America," pp. 223-226

**Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>: Masculinity in a Bottle**

Readings: "Fixing the Broken Male Machine," pp. 235-247

**Field Work Option B Due**

**Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>: Women's Sexual Pleasure**

Readings: "Faking It," on course website

**Reflection Paper #3 Due**

**Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>: No Class (Conference in Baltimore)**



**Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>: No Class (Conference in Baltimore)**

## Week 6

### **Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>: Controlling Women's Sexual Pleasure**

Readings: "Female Genital Cutting," pp. 232-233

"In Search of Better Sexual Pleasure: Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery," pp. 251-256

### **Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>: Social Control of Sexuality: Defining "Age-Appropriate" Sexual Relations**

Readings: "The Social Control of Adult-Child Sex," pp. 389-398

"Too Young to Consent," pp. 401-403

### **Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>: Controlling Women of Color's Bodies**

Readings: "The Sexual Politics of Black Womanhood," pp. 405-416

### **Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>: "Fag" Discourse and Social Control**

Readings: "Dude, You're a Fag," pp. 430-442

"In the Closet," pp. 444-454

**Field Work Option C Due**



### **Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>: No Class – Professional Development Day**

## Week 7

### **Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>: Exam #1 – Part 1**

### **Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>: Exam #1 – Part 2**

### **Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>: Defining "Normative" Sexual Practices**

Readings: "The Pursuit of Sexual Pleasure," pp. 280-288

"Asexuality," pp. 297-298



### **Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>: Is Monogamy "Normal"?**

Readings: "Against Love: A Treatise on the Tyranny of Two," pp. 293-297

### **Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Is Monogamy "Normal"?**

Readings: "Against Love: A Treatise on the Tyranny of Two," pp. 293-297

## Week 8

### **Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>: Sexual Variations - Discipline**

Readings: "Sexual Spanking, the Self, and Deviance," pp. 338-344

### **Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>: Sexual Variations - BDSM**

Readings: Visit <http://sexuality.org/1/bdsm/bdsmfaq.html>

"BDSM or Intimate Violence," p. 478



### **Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>: Sexualizing Power**

Readings: Visit <http://www.mistressmatisse.com/welcome.html> to read about one of the Seattle area's more infamous dominatrixes. Pay particular attention to the Rules and Boundaries.

**Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>: Polyamory, Polygamy, and Swinging**

Readings: Visit <http://www.sexuality.org/swinging.html> and read what swinging is, who participates, different types of swinging, and why people/couples swing  
Visit <http://www.polyamorysociety.org/> and learn what polyamory is, how it differs from swinging, explore the types of polyamory and other background

**Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>: CyberSex**

Readings: "Sexuality in Cyberspace" on course website  
**Reflection Paper #4 Due**



**Week 9**

**Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>: NO CLASS**

**Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>: Commercial Sex – Prostitution**

Readings: "The Worst Part is the Screwing," on course website

**Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>: Sex Work**

Readings: "Sex Work for the Middle Class," pp. 515-520  
**Field Work Option D Due**



**Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>: What Happens in Vegas Stays in Vegas**

Readings: "Marketing Sex: US Legal Brothels," pp. 541-547

**Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>: Commercial Sex - Strip Clubs**

Readings: "Strip Clubs and their Regulars," p. 521  
"The Production of Identity and the Negotiation of Intimacy," on course website  
**Cranium Discussion Group #3 on Production of Identity article**

**Week 10**

**Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>: Sex as a Global Commodity**

Readings: "Human Rights, Sex Trafficking, and Prostitution," pp. 533-538  
"Sexuality and Militarism," pp. 539-540

**Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>: Sex Tourism**

Readings: "Fantasy Islands," on course website

**Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>: Pornography**

Readings: "Pornography and Media," on course website  
**Field Work Option E Due**

**Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>: No Class - Holiday**

**Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>: No Class – Holiday**



## **Week 11**

### **Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>: Pornography**

Readings: "Creating a Scene" on course website

**Reflection Paper #5 Due**

### **Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>: Pornography**

Readings: "Overcome: The Money Shot," pp. 524-532

### **Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>: Lecture on Rape and Sexual Assault**

### **Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>: Rape Culture**

Readings: "I Wasn't Raped, But..." pp. 469-477

### **Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>: "Rape-Prone" College Campuses**

Readings: "Sexual Assault on Campus," pp. 480-490

"Linking Sexual Aggression and Fraternities," p. 493

**Cranium Discussion Group #4 on Sexual Assault article**



## **Week 12**

### **Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Creating a Sex-Positive Society**

Readings: "Sex Matters," pp. 549-554

### **Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>: Wrap Up and Review for Final Exam**

### **Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>: Exam #2 (9:30-11:20) in A-206**

