

# Sex and Sexualities

SOC 256 | Winter 2020

Section 5531 | Online

Professor: Jennifer Lê

Office Location: A100-B, online, or by phone

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## 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.

## 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member of the course, students must log into the course within the **first two days** of the quarter, or you will be withdrawn from the class.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 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*

(300 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. The lowest discussion grade will be dropped.

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*

(250 points total, 50 points each)

Throughout the quarter, you will be writing a short paper every other week (600 words max) 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.

### *Sex in the Field Paper*

(300 points total)

Students are required to write a research paper over the course of the quarter. The research, specifically, is fieldwork. Fieldwork requires you to go out and make observations—depending on your topic, these could be online or in public.

The final paper will be a 4-5 page paper on a topic of your choosing relating to the sociology of sexuality, expanding on lectures or readings on a topic preapproved by the instructor. You should also consult the journals Sex Roles, Journal of Sex Research, and the Annual Review of Sex Research for ideas (these are available through the BC Library website). And of course, you can email Dr. Lê as well about your papers well before the due date. The final paper will be due in stages:

Proposal (detailed topic idea(s) with supporting evidence) – 20 points

Fieldwork Questions – 20 points

Fieldnotes – 50 points

Basic outline – 35 points

Detailed outline – 75 points

Final Paper – 100 points

### *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 = 630 - 669

D- = 600 - 629

F = 0 - 599

Discussion Posts – 300 points (30 points each) = 30%

Essays – 200 points (50 points each) = 20%

Sex in the Field Paper (300 points total) = 30%

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 – January 2-5

<b>Topic</b>	What is sociology? And what is sex??		
<b>Readings</b>	Vogt Isaksen “The Sociological Imagination: Thinking Outside the Box”	Christina	Sanders et al.
<b>Assignments Due</b>	Week 1 Discussion		Sex in the Field: Proposal

Week 2 – January 6-12

<b>Topic</b>	Gender		
<b>Readings</b>	Messner	Kimmel	Davis
<b>Assignments Due</b>	Week 2 Discussion	Essay 1	Sex in the Field: Proposal 2 (if required)

Week 3 – January 13-19

<b>Topic</b>	Foundations of the Sociology of Sexuality		
<b>Readings</b>	Bullough	Donnelly, Burgess, and Simonds	Weiner AND O’Connor
<b>Assignments Due</b>	Week 3 Discussion		Sex in the Field: Fieldwork Questions

Week 4 – January 20-26

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

Week 5 – January 27 - February 2

<b>Topic</b>	Sex and Social Statuses					
<b>Readings</b>	Siebers	Barmon, Bender, and Burgess	Truong	Poulson-Bryant	Brandt	Sheff and Hammers
<b>Assignments Due</b>	Week 5 Discussion			Sex in the Field: Fieldnotes		

Week 6 – February 3-9

<b>Topic</b>	Sex Ed	
<b>Readings</b>	Simonds and Jungels	Fine and McClelland
<b>Assignments Due</b>	Week 6 Discussion	Midterm Exam

Week 7 – February 10-16

<b>Topic</b>	Sexual Bodies				
<b>Readings</b>	Braun	Wade	Darby	Fortin	TBA
<b>Assignments Due</b>	Week 7 Discussion		Sex in the Field: Basic Outline		

Week 8 – February 17-23

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

Week 9 – February 24 – March 1

<b>Topic</b>	Social Control of Sexuality				
<b>Readings</b>	Mullis + Baunach AND Cavalier + Burgess		Lepore	Walters	Hoover
<b>Assignments Due</b>	Week 9 Discussion		Sex in the Field: Detailed Outline		

Week 10 – March 2-8

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

Week 11 – March 9-15

<b>Topic</b>	Sex Positivity				
<b>Readings</b>	Windsor and Burgess				
<b>Assignments Due</b>	Week 11 Discussion		Sex in the Field: Final Paper	Extra Credit Paper	

Week 12 – March 16-20 – Final Exam Week

Week 12 - March 16-20 - Final Exam Week	
Topic	Final Exam
Readings	No readings
Assignment Due	Final Exam
*As this is the last week of the quarter, all outstanding assignments will be due on Monday, March 16	

### 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](http://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](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.