

SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES ~ SOC 358
SPRING 2017 – Monday & Wednesday 11 a.m. - 12:40 p.m. – FH 112

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. and also by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: An exploration of how sexualities are socially constructed and controlled. In this course we will use a sociological lens to examine how sexualities directly and indirectly shape our daily lives. We will adopt both a life-course perspective to understand the fluidity of sexual identities throughout our lives and within different cultural contexts. Topics include categorization of sexualities, representation of sexualities, sexual identities, sexual practices, sexual health and disease, commercial sex, and social control of sexualities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Describe and apply basic concepts and theories about the biological, psychological, and social factors that influence the social construction and control of sexualities.
- Compare and contrast life-course and cross-cultural perspectives on the way sexualities are directly and indirectly shaped.
- Counter the myths about sexual identity and sexuality.
- Discuss the impacts of sexualities and sexual identities in society on social programs and policies.

REQUIRED READING:

- 1) Mindy Stomblor, et al. Sex Matters: The Sexuality and Society Reader, 4th Edition. Norton & Company. (You can also purchase the e-book for \$40.00: <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/Sex-Matters/>)
- 2) Additional readings for this course will be posted online; it is very important to check the Canvas page for this course regularly.

PREPARATION and PARTICIPATION: I expect that you complete your readings prior to class and come to class ready to learn and participate in an informed manner. This is not a lecture based course, as questions are posed for discussion. The tone and dynamics of the class is in part up to you, as discussion proceeds more easily and in a more useful fashion (and is far more enjoyable) when students come to class prepared to participate. Participation is more than simply talking or “being” in class. Informed participation includes making connections between our discussions, readings and relevant current events; taking an active part in in-class exercises; asking questions about readings and lectures (keep in mind that one should not monopolize the conversation - sometimes participation means making room for others to speak). You are not expected to speak up at every class meeting, but general patterns of participation will be

noted. *At the discretion of the instructor (and the teaching assistant), pop quizzes may be used if it is apparent that students are not doing the readings.*

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT and BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS: Your behavior in college should model what you would appreciate in kind from others and what ultimately is expected of you out in the world. Professionalism in how you conduct yourself is required. Regular attendance is expected, but you are not rewarded nor penalized for this (as we only meet twice a week – *please come to class*). Experience has shown that students who miss class regularly tend to do poorly in the class because they are missing out on being able to discuss the readings and ask questions. Please arrive in a timely manner and be alert and attentive in class; late arrival is distracting and anything more than 10 minutes is disrespectful. If you feel the need to leave class for any reason, I ask that you do so in a respectful manner. Do not pack up your belongings before the end of class, as this makes it difficult for others to hear, think and concentrate. Out of courtesy to your classmates and myself, please silence your cell phones. In addition, disrespectful behavior (using technology unrelated to class activities, conversing loudly with your neighbor and other disruptive displays of rudeness or harassment) will not be tolerated. At the discretion of the professor, depending on the frequency or intensity of events, *displays of this type of behavior may result in a student being removed from the class.* If a student wishes to contest a grade on any assignment, they must write a memo explaining the objection and schedule an appointment to meet with the professor. There will be a 24 hour “cooling-off” in effect after handing back any assignments; *grades will not be debated in class or over email.*

Please be advised that this course will include open, frank, and sometimes very explicit discussion of a variety of sexually explicit materials (language and imagery), some of which are controversial and may be thought offensive. *If you do not wish to expose yourself to such materials, it is recommended that you do not take this class.* As with any serious scholarly endeavor, the point of our inquiry is critical understanding – not advocacy of positions. As an open forum for discussion in class is encouraged, it is expected that all students show consideration for differences in opinion and perspective. Express disagreement respectfully and be reflexive about your conduct and opinions. No one will be expected to reveal or discuss their own sexual orientation and/or experiences – oversharing is discouraged. You are expected to engage with the materials in a thoughtful manner to offer insights, questions and critiques regarding them. We are free to disagree with one another, even intensely, so long as we do so respectfully. Please do not interrupt one another (this includes both me and TJ) and refrain from talking with others during lectures or while others are speaking. Ground your comments about news events, personal experiences, and the like in the course materials. I expect all of us to be reflexive about our positions and feelings, opening them to the same degree of scrutiny that we apply to others. This classroom environment will be a safe space. *If students do not feel that they are up to this request, they should reconsider taking this course.*

OPEN DOOR and EMAIL POLICY: I have posted office hours so that you may come by to discuss matters related to the class. You may schedule another time with me (and/or with TJ) and you are more than welcome to drop by and just chat, if my door is open.

Email is the best way to get a hold of us; I will usually respond within 24 hours. Please do not expect immediate, late night, or early morning responses. When emailing, please be sure to label your subject as “Sexualities” and watch your tone, grammar/spelling, etc.: *always maintain a professional attitude in how you present yourself.*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: As mentioned previously, students are expected and responsible to have read the required materials prior to class and to actively participate in discussion. Other course materials inherent for the course will be assigned on Canvas or handed out in class. Tools of assessment include reflective writing assignments, three exams, a final paper/project and class presentation.

Assignment	Point Value	Date
Journal Assignments	100	Weekly journals posted on Canvas
Quizzes	100	Online quizzes will be posted for every chapter
Midterm Exam	100	Take home exam due Monday, May 1)
Paper/Project	100	Due Friday, June 2 (<i>topic due 4/21; outline due 5/19</i>); Presentations on Monday, June 5.
Final Exam	100	Take home exam will be due no later than Friday, June 9 before 11:59 p.m.
TOTAL	500	

GRADING SCALE: The grade distribution approximates : 94-100% = A, 90-93% = A- (Excellent; beyond expectation), 86-89% = B+, 83-85% = B, 80-82% = B- (Above Average; meets expectations), 76-79% =C+, 73-75% = C, 70-72% = C- (Good/Average), 60-69% = D (Below Average), and 59% and under is failing. Final grades will be determined by the **total points** accumulated for the various assignments and tests. Therefore, the percentage equivalent of your point total for assignments does not determine your final grade. Grades for all assignments will be posted on Canvas.

470-500	A
450-469	A-
430-449	B+
415-429	B
400-414	B-
380-399	C+
365-379	C
350-364	C-
300-349	D
0-299	F

ADA/DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: CWU encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and welcomes students into the University’s educational programs. Any student who feels that she/he may need accommodations based on a disability should make an appointment to see me and be sure to have a copy of the *Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments* from Disabled Student Services (DSS). If you have a disability-related need for modifications or reasonable

accommodations in this course, it is your responsibility to visit DSS in Hogue 126 (call 963-2214) as early in the quarter as possible.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Therefore, academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at CWU and all members of the community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Students are expected to understand and abide by the University's Code of Conduct; all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed. Academic integrity includes a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception; this includes plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized collaboration. The work that you submit must be in your own words; otherwise you will receive a failing grade. Please direct any questions that you may have to the instructor. Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated and will be reported according to University policy: <http://www.cwu.edu/resources-reports/cwup-5-90-0104-academic-dishonesty>

JOURNAL ASSIGNMENTS: An online journal will be posted weekly during the quarter, where you will be responding to the readings and material covered in class. This is intended to be a reflection, as it gives you a chance to express yourself and challenges you to apply the concepts covered in class to your life and perceptions of reality. These are private journals rather than discussion based so you can be as open as you feel comfortable being. Weekly assignments are posted on Canvas from Wednesday 1 p.m. to Monday 11 a.m.; students are expected to respond to **all** postings (these are worth up to 10 points each). **Only excused make-ups will be allowed**, so please do the journals as they are assigned every week. You are strongly encouraged to save all of your journals separately in a word document before posting; you are responsible for submitting your work on Canvas on time and also allowing for any wonkiness that may occur with your internet connection.

FINAL PROJECT: For final papers/projects (10-15 pages), students will be conducting written projects examining an aspect of sexuality (including, but not limited to: categorization of sexualities, representation of sexualities, sexual identities, sex practices, sexual health and disease, commercial sex, and social control of sexualities) across the life course and/or within different cultural contexts (*However, the topic must be approved by me in advance*). Projects **must** be sociological in their orientation (you may use interdisciplinary materials). This may be an individual or group project. Your book should offer some ideas on the various subject matters that would be appropriate, but you must use *outside* academic resources (take a look at the back of your book for sources to begin with...) for your projects and cite your sources using APA or ASA format. You will need to select your topic by April 21 and hand in an outline on or before May 19; **Final papers are to be handed in by June 2** (*late work will be deducted by 5 points for every day it is late, but I will not accept late papers after June 9*). If you are doing a craft project, you are required to give a presentation on Monday, June 5 (this can be either a poster or 5 minute verbal presentation), and this will count towards

your project grade. I will also allow extra credit for presentations other than craft projects.

WRITING CENTER: CWU has a writing center where you can get free assistance and great advice on revising your writing (www.cwu.edu/~writingcenter) and they are located in the Learning Commons in the library. Please call 963-1270 to check for times available and to schedule an appointment.

QUIZZES: Quizzes will be posted to correspond with materials covered in each chapter; it is recommended that you do the reading prior to taking the quiz as you will not be able to re-take it. **Make-ups are not available**, as the quizzes will be available leading up until the day of the exam (Chs 1-5 for the midterm, and Chs 6-10 for the final) that covers the material. Each quiz is worth 10 points and you need to do all 10.

EXAMS: There will be two take-home exams during the quarter with essay questions which will cover materials from your readings and what is presented and discussed in the classroom. We have additional readings for this course and there will be use of media in the classroom; just reading the textbook will not be sufficient in order to pass this class. Please confer with the instructor prior to the deadline for the exam if there are extreme circumstances (medical or family emergency; *I do expect verification*); only excused absences will be allowed an extension – up to one week. If you are ill, you must seek medical care to qualify. Students must provide written documentation of a university-approved absence prior to the exam. The final exam will be comprehensive in the sense that you will be using earlier learned concepts. Exams must be handed in either in person or submitted through Canvas (*not by email*).

EXTRA CREDIT: I am open to suggestions related to activities of a sociological nature and credit for participation in campus and off-campus activities that relate to sociology and class material (worth up to 5 points per event/activity; limited to 4 different activities/events that occurred this quarter). For example, I encourage you to attend *Rock Against Rape* and various events surrounding *Pride Week*. I will occasionally make suggestions about activities around campus or books or films that are relevant to the subject matter, but ultimately it is your responsibility to present ideas for approval in advance (these can also include watching films and documentaries). Extra credit will be added to the final grades. *All work must be handed in on the last day of class or by Friday, June 2. Do not ask during finals week, as the answer will be “no.”*

COURSE SCHEDULE: The schedule of readings may not correspond exactly to the schedule of lectures. Topics in lecture may vary a bit from week to week depending on the pacing of lectures and the interests of the class (e.g. films/documentaries may be shown in class, we may also have guest lecturers). However, students should keep up with the reading schedule as noted, as well as the weekly writing assignments (these are posted on Canvas from Wednesday-Monday).

PLEASE NOTE The instructor does reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, due dates, or exam days as needed to fit course needs or adjust

to situations that may arise; however, students are responsible for any changes whether or not they are present in class. As changes are posted on Canvas, it is your responsibility to check in.

Week	TOPIC
1 3/29	Introduction and Course Objectives; What is Sex? Categorizing Sex and Sexuality (Chapter 1 (readings 1-6)); <i>Journal 1 due 4/3.</i>
2 4/3 & 4/5	Investigating Sexuality: Historical, Theoretical and Research Perspectives (Chapter 2 (readings 7-11)); <i>Journal 2 due 4/10.</i>
3 4/10 & 4/12	Representing Sex (Chapter 3 (readings 12-17)); <i>Journal 3 due 4/17</i>
4 4/17 & 4/19	Learning about Sex: Adolescence, Childhood, and Adulthood; (Chapter 4 (readings 18-23)); <i>Journal 4 due 4/24. Topics for Paper due April 21.</i>
5 4/24 & 4/26	Sexual Bodies: The Life Cycle of Sexuality (Chapter 5 (readings 24-30)); <i>Journal 5 due 5/1. Midterm take-home exam due May 1</i>
6 5/1 & 5/3	Sexual Practices: Relationships, Young Adulthood and Sexual Orientations; (Chapter 6 (readings 31-38)); <i>Journal 6 due 5/8;</i>
7 5/8 & 5/10	Sexual Disease and Sexual Health (Chapter 7 (readings 39-42)); <i>Journal 7 due 5/15. Outline for Paper Topics due May 19.</i>
8 5/15 & 5/17	Social Control of Sexuality: Sexuality and Public Policy; (Chapter 8 (readings 43-50)); <i>Journal 8 due 5/22; No class on Wednesday, May 17 - SOURCE</i>
9 5/22 & 5/24	Sexual Violence and Sexual Victimization; (Chapter 9 (readings 51-56)); <i>Journal 9 due 5/29. Papers and Extra Credit due Friday, June 2;</i>
10 5/29 & 5/31	No class on Monday, May 29 – Happy Memorial Day! Commercial Sex; Future Visions for a Sex-Positive Society; (Chapter 10 (readings 57-60 and Conclusion)); Presentations on Monday, June 5; <i>Journal 10 due no later than 6/9.</i>
Finals Week	Final Exam – Friday, June 9 (before 11:59 p.m.)

