

**SOC3960A: Special Topics
The Sociology of Sexuality
Spring 2013, M 2-4.30PM**

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Office Hours: MW 10:00AM– 12.00PM, or by appointment

Course Description

What is social about sexuality? How do we come to know ourselves as sexual beings? Human sexuality is often thought to be a wholly personal or private matter; however this course examines ways in which sexual wants, behaviors and identities are influenced by our social relationships, and vary with time and space. We will examine sexual attitudes, beliefs, and patterns of sexual expression from a sociological perspective. Emphasis will be given to contemporary sexual expression within the United States, but we will also examine historical and cross-cultural variations.

The course is divided into three segments. We begin with an examination of the major theoretical approaches and research methodologies that social scientists employ to study sexuality. Next, we examine how sexual attitudes, behaviors and identities are developed across the life course, from childhood to adulthood. We conclude with an examination of the ways in which society organizes and controls human sexuality.

Course Objectives

The main goal of this course is to provide an overview of social theories and research on human sexuality and to encourage students to think of sexuality from a sociological perspective. Upon completion of this course, students should have learned to critically examine the social scientific literature of how we view sexuality, developed an understanding of different forms of sexual expression, and be able to examine and possibly challenge some of their own assumptions, attitudes and beliefs about human sexuality.

Important note. This course includes discussion of sexually explicit materials which some persons may find objectionable. Also, the class likely includes persons of different gender, race, age, sexual identities and sexual experiences. It is important for us to conduct discussions in a manner that is respectful of different beliefs and sexual practices. No one is expected to divulge any information about personal sexual experiences, and comments should be grounded in the course materials. I do not advocate any position on any topic, and I expect all students to engage the course material in a thoughtful manner and to offer insightful critiques. You are free to disagree with me or anyone else as long as you do so respectfully. If you do not believe that you can adhere to these basic guidelines, then you should reconsider taking this class.

Textbook and Readings

There is one required textbook for this course. Any additional readings will be available through Desire2Learn (D2L).

Moore, Nelwyn B., J. Kenneth Davidson Sr. and Terri D. Fisher. 2010. *Speaking of Sexuality 3rd Edition*. Oxford University Press.

Course website

The course website is available through D2L. Go to <https://www.eiu.edu/eiionline> and log in using your Panther username and password. You will find the course listed as SOC3960A "Special Topics: Sociology of Sexuality." The website includes the syllabus, news about the course, online readings, and assignments.

Evaluation Criteria

Your course grade comprises five (5) categories: weekly written responses to discussion questions, weekly reading quizzes, a reading presentation, a midterm exam, and the option of a final exam or research paper.

Discussion responses 11 @ 10pts each	110 pts
Reading quizzes/class activities	100 pts
Reading presentation	40 pts
Mid-term exam	50 pts
<u>Final exam/research paper</u>	<u>100 pts</u>
Course total	400 pts

Grading scale: A=100-90 (358-400pts), B=89-80 (318-357pts), C=79-70 (278-317pts), D=69-60 (238-277), F=59-0% (0-237pts).

Discussion responses. I will assign at least one discussion question each week. You are required to write and submit a thorough and thoughtful response to the assigned question. Your responses will be submitted to the discussion board on D2L. You are also required to respond to the written responses of two of your classmates after you submit your own response. No more than two persons should respond to the same classmate. Thus, if a classmate already has two responses to his/her submission, move on to the next classmate with fewer than two responses. These responses must be submitted to the discussion board by 12 midnight on the Sunday before class.

Pretest reading quizzes. You will have a short reading quiz at the start of class each week. Quizzes will be given prior to any lecture or class discussion to test your understanding of the readings. Graded in-class activities will also be added to your quiz score. There will be no make-up for missed reading quizzes.

Reading presentation. Each student will select one reading from those assigned to present at the start of the class for which that reading is assigned. The presentation must satisfy three (3) objectives. (1) Provide a brief summary of the main point(s) of the selected reading. (2) Provide a critique of the reading, which means you must assess the strengths and weaknesses of the readings. For example, did the authors achieve what they set out to do? Did they make a strong argument? Was the argument sufficiently supported with the

evidence presented? (3) Propose at least one way to improve the reading or some future research. Your assigned readings are edited excerpts of published scholarly books and journal articles, thus you may find some readings challenging, but not impossible for advanced college students. Most readings are fewer than 10 pages. Thus, saying the readings are long or challenging to read will not be considered a valid critique.

Midterm Exam. The midterm exam will be an in-class exam and will consist of multiple choice, true and false and short answer questions.

Final Exam/Research Project. For your course final, you must choose either a comprehensive in-class exam or a research project. The in-class exam will be consists of short answer and essay questions. The research project will take the form of an empirical research proposal or a research paper on a topic of your choosing. More details about the research project will follow.

Who might want to do the research project? You may opt for the research project if you have topic that you curious about and which to explore in more depth. Also, if you wish to continue on to graduate school, you might use your research project as the starting point of a Master's thesis. Because the research project will take some time to complete, *you must choose between the exam and the paper by the end of the second week of class.*

Late assignments

Assignments turned in after the start of class will be considered late. Late papers will be penalized ten percentage points for the first day late and 2 percentage points for each additional day late (e.g., papers handed in after the start of class will be penalized 10%; papers turned in 24-48 hours late will be penalized 12%). I will not accept late discussion responses unless the reason for missing falls under the missed assignment policy below.

Missed Exam or Assignment Policy

Students will be permitted to make up examinations or assignments missed because of illness, and family emergencies. Please contact the instructor prior to missing an assignment, if possible, or immediately after.

Missed Class

If you must miss a class, you are still responsible for any work assigned during class or due for that class period. You must get assignments, handouts and directions from a classmate or from me during office hours. If you miss an assignment due to an excusable absence, you may submit the assignment on your return to class in conjunction with the university excuse form.

Academic Fraud

Plagiarism and cheating are academic fraud. Academic fraud is a serious matter and is reported to the university administration. For more information refer the "Student Conduct Code" <http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>.

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) if they wish to discuss any necessary academic accommodations.

Discussion Etiquette

I encourage spirited discussions of the readings and related material. You are not required to agree with me or anyone else as I welcome a variety of opinions. However, personal attacks will not be tolerated. We can respectfully disagree without being disagreeable.

Classroom Etiquette

You will be asked to leave if you do not show respect for the instructor or fellow students. Turn off all cell-phones, pagers, or other electronic devices before you enter the classroom.

Course Schedule

Part I. The Historical, Theoretical and Research Perspectives on Sexuality

- Jan. 07 **Introduction to the Sociology of Sexuality**
Video – “Kinsey”
- Jan. 14 **The History of the Study of Sexuality**
Chapter 1. Bullough, Vern. “Alfred Kinsey.” Pp.3
Chapter 2. Bullough, Vern. “Masters and Johnson.” Pp.15
- Jan. 21 MLK DAY – No Class
- Jan. 28 **Theories of Sexuality**
Chapter 3. Laumann et al. “The Social Organization of Sexuality.” Pp. 23
Chapter 5. Buss, David. “Origins of Mating Behavior.”

Part II. Sexuality Across the Lifecourse

- Feb. 04 **Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence: Sexual Development**
Chapter 6. DeLamater, John. “Human Sexual Development.” Pp.63
Chapter 7. Francoeur, Robert. “Current Religious Doctrines of Sexual Development in Childhood.” Pp. 71
Chapter 8. Okami et al. “Early Childhood Exposure to Parental Nudity and Scenes of Parental Sexuality.” Pp.83
- Feb. 11 **Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence: Exposure and Initiation**

Chapter 9. Regnerus, Mark. "Forbidden Fruit: Imitation Sex and the New Middle-Class Morality" Pp.91
Chapter 10. Erickson, Pamela. "Negotiation of First Sexual Intercourse among Latina Adolescent Mothers." Pp.104
Video – Lost Children of Rockdale County

Feb. 18 **Sexuality in Young Adulthood: Sex on College Campuses I**

Chapter 11. Davidson et al. "Sexual Attitudes and Behavior at Four Universities: Do Region, Race, and/or Religion Matter?" Pp.119
Chapter 12. Bogle, Kathleen. "Hooking Up." Pp.132

Feb. 25 **Sexuality in Young Adulthood: Sex on College Campuses II**

Chapter 13. Carpenter, Laura. "Virginity Lost: A Natural Step." Pp. 150
Chapter 14. Moore and Davidson. "Communicating with New Sex Partners: College Women and Questions that Make a Difference." Pp. 171
Chapter 15. Hughes and Anderson. "What Turns Women On? Black and White Women's Sexual Arousal." Pp. 180

Mar. 04 **Sexuality in Middle and Later Life: Cohabitation and Marriage**

Chapter 16. Teachman, Jay. "Premarital Sex, Premarital Cohabitation, and the Risk of Subsequent Marital Dissolution Among Women." Pp.195
Chapter 17. Schnarch, David. "Passionate Marriage." Pp.204
Chapter 20. Marshall, Barbara. "The New Virility: Viagra, Male Aging and Sexual Function." Pp. 238

Mar. 11 **SPRING BREAK -- NO CLASS**

Part III. Social Control of Human Sexuality

Mar. 18 **Gender and Sexuality**

Chapter 21. Mahay et al. "Race, Gender and Class in Sexual Scripts." Pp.253
Chapter 22. Schwartz and Rutter. "Sexual Desire and Gender." Pp.272
Chapter 24. Alexander and Fisher. "Truth and Consequences." Pp. 299

Mar. 25 **Sexual Orientation: Nurture vs. Nature**

Chapter 29. Pillard and Bailey. "Human Sexual Orientation Has a Heritable Component" Pp.379
Chapter 30. Byne, William. "Why We Cannot Conclude that Sexual Orientation is Primarily a Biological Phenomenon." Pp.390

Apr. 01 **Sexual Orientation: Sexual Identity**

Chapter 31. Golombok and Tasker "Do Parents Influence the Sexual Orientation of their Children." Pp. 396
Chapter 32. Abes and Kasch. "Using Queer Theory to Explore Lesbian College Student's Multiple Dimensions of Identity." Pp.407

Chapter 33. Diamond, Lisa M. "Female Bisexuality From Adolescence to Adulthood: Results from a 10-year Longitudinal Study." Pp. 424

Apr. 08 **Sexual Health**

Chapter 37. Marsiglia et al. "HIV/AIDS Protective Factors among Urban American Indian Youths."

Chapter 38. Nack, Adina. "Damaged Goods: Mixing Morality and Medicine."

Chapter 39. Dobkin et al. "Depression and Sexual Functioning in Minority Women: Current Status and Future Directions." Pp. 503

Apr. 15 **Sexual Victimization**

Chapter 41. Peterson and Muehlenhard. "Conceptualizing the 'Wantedness' of Women's Consensual and Nonconsensual Sexual Experiences." Pp. 41

Chapter 42. Struckman-Johnson et al. "Tactics of Sexual Coercion: When Men and Women Won't Take No for an Answer." Pp. 541

Chapter 43. Gonzalez-Lopez. "Heterosexual Fronteras: Immigrant Mexicanos, Sexual Vulnerabilities and Survival." Pp. 554

Apr. 22 **Sexual Politics**

Chapter 45. Rich, Frank. "Naked Capitalist." Pp. 587

Chapter 46. Elizabeth Bernstein. "Temporarily Yours: Desire, Demand, and the Commerce of Sex." Pp. 601

Chapter 48. Mebane et al. "Sex Education and the News." Pp. 632

Apr. 29 Final Exam Week

FINAL EXAM is Thursday May 2nd 10.15am-12.15pm