

Sociology 228 *The Sociology of Sex*

SOCI 228
Spring 2010
TuTh 4:30-5:45
Bingham 103

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Office Hours: 2:00-3:30, TuTh
Room TA229, Dept. of Bioethics

Women and men make their own sexual and affectional history. But they do not make this history just as they please. They make it under circumstances given by the past and altered by their political activity and organization, and their vision of a valued future. Erotic and gender relationships are always under construction and reconstruction within specific historical settings.

~Johnathan Ned Katz

Course Description

The course analyzes the issues of sex and sexuality through a sociological lens. It is centered on the notion that what we consider to be 'normal' or 'natural' about sex and sexuality is, in reality, socially constructed. Our study of sexuality will be within the context of ever-changing cultural understandings of acceptable and deviant sexual expression, and the range of sexual behavior. One's viewpoint on the issues surrounding sexuality are influenced by the social context in which they live, as opposed to a purely biological viewpoint that presupposes some sense of normalcy or naturalness regarding sexual relations.

A range of topics will be covered, including readings that discuss the variations of sexuality and the notions of sexual "deviance" in order to explore the cultural and societal variation that exists along the lines of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, and disability. Assigned readings will be frank discussions of sex and sexuality that require a critical gaze on subject matter that has been described as perverted, illegal, liberating, and natural depending on the socio-historical context. We will explore how sexual identities are created and maintained by social forces and institutions, such as capitalism, law, schooling, and families. This course is sex-positive, meaning that it presumes sexual knowledge is a source of empowerment. I welcome you to the course and look forward to hearing what all of you have to contribute.

Course Materials

Readings will be posted on Blackboard <http://blackboard.case.edu/>

Course Requirements and Evaluation

60%	Three Exams (20% each)
20%	Final Project
<u>20%</u>	<u>Attendance/Participation</u>
100%	Final Grade

There will be three exams. Exams will cover readings, lectures, films, guest lectures and handouts. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade. There will be a final project that is worth 20% of your final grade. Details regarding the project will be handed out in the coming weeks. In-class participation is worth 20% of your grade. Attendance and participation is given equal weight to the other assignments to encourage a lively discussion. You will also be responsible for coming up with discussion questions for two classes. These questions are to be e-mailed to me on the day preceding class by 6PM.

Grading

100-90 A, 89-80 B, 79-70 C, 69-60 D, 59 and below F

Late Assignments and Make-up Policy

There will be no make-up exams. If a health professional provides a documented excuse for missing an exam, contact the Instructor for arrangements. Late assignments will be reduced 10% per day beyond the due date.

Freedom of Expression

The classroom environment involves discussion and critical thinking. Tolerance and respect of others is an expectation within this classroom environment. Differing and sometimes controversial viewpoints may be represented in the course of class discussion. These differences enhance the learning experience and create an atmosphere where students and instructor alike will be encouraged to think, learn, and grow. On sensitive and volatile topics, students may sometimes disagree not only with each other but also with the instructor. Therefore, it is necessary that all members of class respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions and focus on the subject matter, not the individual(s) expressing particular views.

To successfully complete the goals of this course, we must establish and develop a foundation of respect and trust. In order to benefit from this class it is essential that you come to class prepared each week. This course requires a heavy reading load as well as a substantial mental commitment to the class and class activities. If you are uncomfortable with frank and open discussions of sexual matters you may want to reconsider your enrollment in this course. If you have questions or concerns about this, please speak directly with me.

Classroom Etiquette

Arriving late to class, leaving early, and coming in and out of the room is distracting to others around you. Obviously sometimes this is unavoidable, but please be courteous by keeping these distractions to a minimum. At the beginning of class, please ensure that your cell phone is turned off. No texting in class, as it is simply a rude behavior.

Academic Integrity Policy

All forms of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and obstruction are violations of academic integrity standards. Cheating includes copying from another's work, falsifying problem solutions or laboratory reports, or using unauthorized sources, notes or computer programs. Plagiarism includes the presentation, without proper attribution, of another's words or ideas from printed or electronic sources. It is also plagiarism to submit, without the instructor's consent, an assignment in one class previously submitted in another. Misrepresentation includes forgery of official academic documents, the presentation of altered or falsified documents or testimony to a university office or official, taking an exam for another student, or lying about personal circumstances to postpone tests or assignments. Obstruction occurs when a student engages in unreasonable conduct that interferes with another's ability to conduct scholarly activity. Destroying a student's computer file, stealing a student's notebook, and stealing a book on reserve in the library are examples of obstruction. <http://studentaffairs.case.edu/office/judicial/policies/integrity.html>

Disability Resources

The Disability Resources office is here to assist students with disabilities to fully participate in their chosen programs and activities. Please contact the Coordinator to discuss your personal needs. Students who need accommodations that impact their academic courses need to schedule an appointment sometime during the first few weeks of the new semester. Call the ESS office at 368-5230.

<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/education/disability/>

Changes to the Syllabus

While the best effort will be made to stay on course, occasionally changes may be made to the syllabus. This may include changes to assigned readings and/or due dates for assignments. Changes will be announced in class, and it is your responsibility to adhere to those changes.

Course Schedule: Please read the assignment **PRIOR** to the assigned class period.

	Introduction
Tuesday 01/12	Introduction to the class and each other
Thursday 01/14	Diamond, "The Animal with the Weirdest Sex Life" Streitmatter, "No Sex, Please, We're American" Gallagher, "No Sex Research, Please, We're American"
	Studying Sex and Gender
Tuesday 01/19	Shwartz. Chapter 1 Plante, Chapter 2
Thursday 01/21	Kimmel and Plante, "The Gender of Desire: The Sexual Fantasies of College Women and Men," from <i>Advances in Gender Research</i> Davis et al., "Characteristics of Vibrator Use among Women," from <i>Journal of Sex Research</i> Humphreys, "Tearoom Trade"
	Classic Writings on Sex
Tuesday 01/26	Foucault, <i>The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1</i>
Thursday 01/28	Ellis, Chapter 2 "Sexual Education" Studies in the Psychology of Sex, Volume 6, pp. 27-57 Freud, "Femininity" from New Introductory Lectures on Psycho Analysis (3)-10 Film: <i>Kinsey</i>
	Beyond the Binary
Tuesday 02/02	Anne Fausto-Sterling, "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female are Not Enough," from <i>The Sciences</i> (38)-44
Thursday 02/04	Nanda, "Hijra and Sadhin Neither Man nor Woman in India" pg. 192-201 Haugen, "A Transsexual Struggles for a True Identity" pg. 67 - 74 Film: <i>Middle Sexes—Redefining He and She</i>
	Learning About 'It'
Tuesday 02/09	Plante, Chapter 4, pg. 99-131
Thursday 02/11	Herd, "Sambian Sexual Culture" pg. 249-268 BB Exam One
	Sexual Identities
Tuesday 02/16	Katz, "'Homosexual' and 'Heterosexual': Questioning the Terms," from <i>The Socialist Review</i> Herd, "Cultural History of Homosexuality" pg. 38-61 Rochlin, "The Heterosexual Questionnaire"
Thursday 02/18	Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" Rust, "Two Many and Not Enough: The Meanings of Bisexual Identities," from <i>Journal of Bisexuality</i>
	Like A Virgin – Sex in Music and Film
Tuesday 02/23	Streitmatter, Chapter 11 pg. 126-139 & Chapter 4 pg. 43-56 Discussion of Final Project
Thursday 02/25	Streitmatter, Chapter 9, pg. 103-114; Chapter 8, pg 90-102 Streitmatter, Chapter 5, pg 57-66; Chapter 10, pg 115-125 Film: <i>Indie Sex</i>

Tuesday 03/02	<p>The Medicalization of Sexual Dysfunction/Sexual Violence Tiefer, "The Medicalization of Women's Sexuality" Tiefer, "The Medicalization of Impotence: Normalizing Phallocentrism" Hartley and Tiefer, "The Push for a "Female Viagra" and the Medicalization of Women's Sexual Problems," from <i>Women's Study Quarterly</i></p>
Thursday 03/04	<p>Pelka, "Raped: A Male Survivor Breaks His Silence," from <i>On the Issues Quarterly</i> Beneke, "Men on Rape," from <i>Men's Lives</i> Anonymous, "Confessions of a Date Rapist," from <i>Men's Lives</i></p>
Tuesday 03/16	<p>Intersections of Sexuality—Biography and Social Structure Ransom, "Navigating Sex, Sexuality, and Christian Values," from <i>Sexuality and Culture</i> Nagel, "Ethnicity and Sexuality" from <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i></p>
Thursday 03/18	<p>Plante, "The Down Low," from <i>Sexualities in Context</i> Almaguer, "Chicano Men: A Cartography of Homosexual Identity and Behavior," from <i>Men's Lives, 3rd edition</i></p>
Tuesday 03/23	<p>Sex Panics Levine, "Manhunt: The Pedophile Panic," pp. 20-44 in <i>Harmful to Minors: the Perils of Protecting Children from Sex</i></p>
Thursday 03/25	<p>Altmann, "Squaring the Circle: The Battle for "Traditional Morality," in <i>Global Sex</i> Exam Two</p>
Tuesday 03/30	<p>Porn in the USA Art or obscenity? Guest Lecturer: Nicole Ledinek, Curator of Education, Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland</p>
Thursday 04/01	<p>Abbot, "Motivations for Pursuing an Acting Career in Pornography" Thomas, "Gay Male Pornography: Past, Present and Future," in <i>Sex for Sale</i> Barron and Kimmel, "Sexual violence in Three Pornographic Media: Towards a Sociological Explanation," from <i>Journal of Sex Research</i></p>
Tuesday 04/06	<p>Politics of Sexuality Laumann et al., "A Political History of the National Sex Survey of Adults"</p>
Thursday 04/08	<p>Female Circumcision in Sudan: Future Prospects and Strategies for Eradication" "Pain Control: Pain during Circumcision" "More Men Report Sexual Harassment at Work" "Ohio Bill requires HPV shots for Girls" BB Government Is in Peril as Scandal Rocks Ulster" Streitmatter, "Semen on the Front Page" pg. 168-181</p>
Tuesday 04/13	<p>Sex and a Global Commodity "The New Commercialization of Sex: From Forced Prostitution to Cybersex," in <i>Global</i> Nanette, "From Victims to Survivors: Working with Recovering Street Prostitutes," from <i>Sex for Sale</i></p>
Thursday 04/15	<p>Chapkis, "Power and Control in the Commercial Sex Trade," from <i>Sex for Sale</i> O'Connell Davidson and Sanchez Taylor, "Fantasy Islands: Exploring the Demand for Sex Tourism," from <i>Sun, Sex and Gold: Tourism and Sex Work in the Caribbean</i> <i>Sex</i></p>
Tuesday 04/20	<p>Final Project Presentations</p>
Thursday 04/22	<p>Final Project Presentations</p>
Friday 04/30	<p>Final Exam 12:30-3:30 PM</p>