

Case Western Reserve University
Soci 208: Sexuality - Dating, Marriage, and Family
Summer Semester 2008

Professor: Dr. Sandra L. Barnes
Class: TWTh 9:00 - 11:20 a.m. Location: Clark Hall 308
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Instructor: Rebecca Siders
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COURSE CONTENT:

Text: *Sexuality and Gender in Society* by J.L. Carroll and P.R. Wolpe, Harper Collins: NY (1996).

Students are also expected to read a set of five short articles. The textbook and all articles are required reading.

Articles:

“Sex in the Snoring ‘90s” (Adler), “Teen Sex Wars” (Bernstein), “The Courtship Game” (McCormick & Jesser), “Can Gays Convert?” (Leland & Miller), and “Interracial Relations: A Convergence of Desire & Opportunity” (Staples)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course will focus on the history of ideas, approaches, and paradigms that have shaped and defined our understanding of sexuality broadly defined. Special emphasis will be placed on the examination of issues such as dating, marriage, and family. The course will provide a sociological perspective for understanding and analyzing these and related topics. Students will be introduced to historical and socio-cultural circumstances that have affected the varied manifestations of sexuality as well as past and current stereotypes, symbols, and images that have influenced the sexual attitudes and behavior in the larger society. Finally, this course is designed to encourage and stimulate critical thinking beyond “common sense” interpretations of sexuality, in general, by analyzing the “social construction of sexuality” and its related themes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class regularly, on time, and prepared to participate in class assignments. Students will be expected to participate regularly in discussions and any group assignments. Attendance will be taken each class session. Three or more unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the course grade by one letter grade. If you are absent, be sure to get the notes from a classmate. Students with special academic needs should notify the professor during the first week of classes such

that arrangements can be made to facilitate their participation in the course. Frequent tardiness will also be considered absences.

Examinations and Assignments:

Course grades will be based on the following:

Exam # 1	30%
Exam # 2	30% (mandatory)
Reflection Paper	30% (mandatory)
Attendance/Class Participation	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

Examinations will include a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Exams must be taken as scheduled. In case of an emergency, make-up exams may be offered based upon the discretion of the professor. All make-up exams will be essay format. Each student is also expected to complete a 4-5 paged reflection paper that addresses a topic about sexuality not directly presented in class. Further information regarding the paper is provided below. Extra credit assignments during the semester may be provided periodically.

Grading: Assignments will be graded as follows:

90 - 100	= A
80 - 89	= B
70 - 79	= C
60 - 69	= D
Below 60	= F

Grades will not be posted or verbally reported over the telephone. Assignments will be devalued one grade per day if submitted late.

Cheating/Plagiarism:

Ethical conduct is expected. Violation of the cheating /plagiarism policy will result in a grade of “F” for the course. Refer to the university catalog for additional information regarding this topic.

Course Environment:

Certain topics often elicit a variety of comments and opinions. Your input is important and encouraged. Students will be expected to provide meaningful, positive input and maintain respectful interaction with the professor and fellow classmates. Each student is expected to help create a learning environment that is free from discrimination, intimidation, and harassment. Disruptive students will be removed from the course.

Overall Course Grade:

To determine overall course grades, no special extra credit assignments will be given, late assignments cannot be turned in at the end of the semester, and final grades will not be curved.

REQUIRED READING:

(The outline below is subject to change as dictated by class needs and at the professor's discretion. In each section, chapters and articles should be read *prior* to the first day assigned.)

Week 1

June 3 Course Introductions
The Structure vs. Agency Discourse
Chapter 1: Sex in Other Times and Places

June 4, 5 Article, "Sex in the Snoring '90s" (Adler)
Chapter 2: Theory and Research

Week 2

June 10-12 Chapter 4: Childhood and Adolescent Sexuality
Chapter 8: Adult Sexual Relationships
Article, "Teen Sex Wars" (Bernstein)
Movie: "Lost Children of Rockdale County"

Week 3

June 17 Chapter 8 continued
Review for Exam 1
Submit Reflection Paper Outline

June 18 **Exam 1**

June 19 Chapter 5: Gender Roles

Week 4

June 24-26 Chapters 6: Love, Intimacy, and Communication
Article, "The Courtship Game" (McCormick & Jesser)
Movie: "Let's Get Married"
Review of Exam 1 (June 24)

Week 5

July 1-3 Chapter 7: Sexual Orientation
Article, "Can Gays Convert?" (Leland & Miller)
Article, "Interracial Relations: A Convergence of Desire &
Opportunity" (Staples)
Review for Exam 2 (July 2)

July 3 **Exam 2**
Reflection Paper Due

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Reflection Paper

Each student is required to write a critical review on a topic related to dating, marriage, and family. The paper should be based on an article from an academic journal (examples, Gender & Society, Social Problems, Journal of African American Studies, Social Forces, Sociological Focus, and Journal of Marriage and Family). The selected article must be attached to your paper. You should begin with a review and discussion of the article and expand by linking the article to classroom material and critiquing the article using information presented in class. You will be expected to submit a summary outline of your paper topic and bibliography for acceptance prior to writing your paper.

A well-written paper will include the following:

- a. Summary of the selected academic article
- b. Summary of the Structure vs. Agency discourse *and* a thorough analysis of the academic paper based on this debate
- c. *At least* 4 references/linkages to course readings within the paper
- d. Critique of the academic article
- e. Reference page with complete citations of all articles/books noted in the paper

Papers are to be no longer than 4-5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced in ASA format. This length limitation will require you to write concisely about your chosen topic. Be sure to use 1-inch margins on all sides, use a reasonable font size, and check your paper for spelling and grammatical mistakes. The best papers will be organized and thorough, yet concise.

Example of acceptable paper topics:

1. Single Males Who Are Raising their Children
2. Serial Monogamy on College Campuses
3. Grandparents Who Are Raising Their Grandchildren
4. Interracial Marriage Trends Between Blacks and Non-Whites in the US
5. How the AIDS Pandemic Has Impacted Dating
6. Regional Differences in Family Formation Patterns
7. Upper Class Families and the Child Socialization Process

5/20/08