

## **Sociology of Sexualities** **SOCI 4999 (02) Fall 2019**

CRN 83120 3.00 Credit Hours 100% face-to-face instruction  
Monday & Wednesday 2:00-3:15pm; Pafford 306

**Professor:** Dr. Elroi J. Windsor

**Email:** [ewindsor@westga.edu](mailto:ewindsor@westga.edu)

**Office:** 205B Pafford

**Phone:** 678-839-6333

**Campus Mailbox:** Pafford Mailroom 218

**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 11:30am-1:45pm, and by appointment

---

*Sex is not a natural act. – Leonore Tiefer*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION & STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

---

This course examines sociological aspects of sexuality. In this course, we will study sexuality as socially constructed with meanings that vary historically and across cultures. We will contemplate how we categorize sex, deconstructing many taken-for-granted assumptions. By reviewing different types of sex research, we will assess ethical and methodological challenges of researching sexuality. We will explore the ways we learn about sex and consider meanings of sexual bodies. We will critique media representations of sexuality and learn about diverse sexual practices. We will debate the commercial selling of sex and understand sociological aspects of procreation and sexual health. We will investigate how sexuality intersects with race, gender, sexual identity, and age as sites of intense social control. The course also takes seriously the problem of sexual violence. Finally, we will conclude the semester by envisioning possibilities to overcome challenges introduced throughout the term. By the end of this course, students will be able to practice sociological research methods and use critical thinking skills to analyze how sexualities are socially constructed and controlled.

### **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

---

#### **TEXTBOOK**

Stompler, Mindy, Dawn M. Baunach, Elisabeth O. Burgess, Wendy Simonds, and Elroi J. Windsor (Eds.). 2018. *Sex Matters: The Sexuality and Society Reader, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 9780393623581

- This book is on reserve in the library for 3-hour checkout periods.

#### **COURSE DEN**

- Additional readings are on CourseDen.

*The instructor reserves the right to adjust the schedule as needed.*

## COURSE EVALUATION & GRADING

---

### Evaluation Criteria

- 10% Reading Responses
- 15% Participation Activities
- 30% Papers
- 45% Exams

### Grading Scale

<b>A</b> = 90-100	
<b>B</b> = 80-89	<b>D</b> = 60-69
<b>C</b> = 70-79	<b>F</b> = 0-59

**NOTE:** Final grades are FINAL. I do not offer extra credit and do not change final course grades because doing so is unfair to other students. Please see me early in the semester if you need assistance.

### Reading Responses – 10%

To encourage responsiveness to the diverse issues addressed in the readings, I require that you turn in 10 one-page reading responses this semester. You can only turn in one response per class, and it must refer to something in the readings assigned for that day. This response should be typed, double-spaced, and include a header with your name and date on a single line. Reflect on something in at least two of the required readings for that day by focusing on a specific concept or interesting point. Do not summarize the articles. Your reading responses will not be graded, but they must include sufficient, thoughtful comments that demonstrate your understanding of the reading in order to receive credit. If I determine that your response should not get credit, I will return it to you with feedback. Usually, uncredited responses are too vague, too short, or refer to readings assigned for a different day. Each credited reading response is worth 1% of your final course grade (maximum of 10%).

### Engaged Participation – 15%

To facilitate your engagement with the course, I will implement numerous in-class activities throughout the term. Engaged participation will be based on activities such as writing reflections, small group work, and class surveys. Participation activities will not be announced in advance, so it is in your best interest to attend class regularly. If you are present and participate in the day's activity fully, you will receive 2 points for satisfactory participation. Being absent will result in 0 points and being present but not participating fully (e.g., insufficient writing, being absent for part of the activity, texting, refusing to talk to group members, etc.) will result in 1 point. Your final participation grade will be your total accrued points divided into the possible total points. Engaged participation is worth a maximum of 15% of your final course grade.

### Papers – 30%

This semester I will assign 2 papers (~4 pages each). The papers are designed to stimulate your thinking on core course topics, and require you to apply sociological concepts to real life. Issue dates and due dates are noted in the syllabus, and specific instructions will be handed out in class on the issue dates. I will grade papers using the conventional numerical system, averaging these scores toward a maximum of 30% of your final course grade. Please use the University Writing Center to help you communicate your ideas effectively.\*

## **Exams – 45%**

This semester will include 3 sectional exams wherein you will critically think about material from assigned readings and class content. They will include multiple choice questions, and short- and long-answer essays. I will distribute study guides prior to each exam. I will grade exams using the conventional numerical system.\*

\*NOTE: I will drop the lowest grade among the paper and exam scores.  
In addition, I will consider your overall attendance and participation  
in cases of borderline final course grades.

## **POLICIES**

---

Please review the [Common Language for Course Syllabi](#). It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class, including information about accessibility services, academic success, writing support, and the honor code. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

### **Accessibility Services**

Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations/accommodations because of a disability/chronic illness, or if they need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify their instructor in writing and provide a copy of their Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR and no retroactive accommodations will be given. For information, please contact [Accessibility Services](#).

### **CourseDen**

You are required to regularly check our CourseDen page. This site will include announcements, readings, assignments, Turnitin links, and grades.

### **Attendance**

I believe there are various legitimate reasons for missing class. Therefore, I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences unless a student is officially representing the University in sanctioned events. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate and to communicate with me regarding absences. All students are responsible for turning in assignments when they are due.

### **Academic Honesty**

UWG students are expected to adhere to the honor code and maintain academic honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, excessive collaboration, and resubmitting work from another class—can result in an “F” in the course. Honor code violations are reported to the Office of Community Standards. Trust that I treat academic dishonesty as a serious offense.

## Missed and Late Assignments

- *Reading Responses* – Due in class. For credit, students must attend the class in which they turn in a Response. You are allowed one opportunity to turn in a RR that you were unable to submit in class. This RR should be emailed before midnight on the date it is due.
- *Participation Activities* – Make-ups permitted only for University-sanctioned business.
- *Papers* – Turn in a paper hardcopy for me to grade in class on the due dates. If you don't turn in a hardcopy by the due date, you may upload a paper to Turnitin on CourseDen to have it count as turned in at that time, then turn in the hardcopy when you are on campus next. For each day that you turn in any paper *late*, I will deduct 10 points.
- *Exams* – Make-ups permitted for documented emergencies only, permitted at the discretion of the instructor.
- If class meets on a holy day of your faith, please inform me by August 28 so that we can arrange for missed assignments.

## Classroom Environment

- **Graphic Content:** In this class, we will openly discuss controversial topics related to sex and sexuality. Some of the readings, films, and discussions in this course deal with sensitive and graphic material including, but not limited to, profanity, nude and sexual imagery, and explicit narratives of sexual behaviors, practices, and violence. Some of the issues we will address in class and through assignments may challenge or transcend your comfort zone, values, beliefs, and/or personal tastes. Such material may offend some students or cause discomfort. While we will consider all material sociologically and maturely, some students may have difficulty with course content. If you think your discomfort might impede your engagement with class, please come see me – this class may not be appropriate for you.
- **Respectful Discussion** Please keep in mind that the student body is diverse and refrain from making assumptions about who is or is not around you. I trust that you will remain respectful in class. We all have opinions, and it is okay to *respectfully disagree* with other people's comments. It is also okay to engage in passionate discussion using claims based on evidence. It is not okay to engage in actions that are hostile or derogatory. Please monitor the amount of talking you do during class. I encourage participation from all students. For the frequent talkers, try waiting for 3 students to talk before you contribute to discussion again. For quieter folks, take advantage of silences to offer your thoughts. Please raise your hand to contribute to class, as calling out can be silencing to others who are less comfortable doing so. Audio and video recordings of class are not allowed without written permission from the instructor. Electronic devices are allowed for class purposes only. Using devices for other reasons may result in lowered participation grades.
- Note that UWG professors are **mandatory reporters** and are obliged to report incidents of sexual harassment and assault to the university's Title IX office. Please keep this in my when sharing personal experiences.

***Please note that by maintaining your enrollment in this class, you are bound by the terms set forth in the course syllabus.***

## COURSE CALENDAR

---

All readings in *Sex Matters* text unless preceded by "C" for those on CourseDen

### August 14 (W)

#### Introductions

### August 19 (M)

#### Categorizing Sex

"Preface" xiii-xviii

"Are We Having Sex Now or What?" 5-8

"How Do Heterosexual Undergraduate Students Define Having Sex" 9-13

### August 21 (W)

"I Am Gay—But I Wasn't Born This Way" 32-37

"Sexual Orientation versus Behavior—Different for Men and Women?" 60-63

"Bisexuality and Bi Identity" 49-51

"Queer: Identity and Praxis" 37-40

### August 26 (M)

#### Investigating Sexuality

**Paper 1 Issued**

"Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study" 87-98

"Alfred Kinsey and the Kinsey Report" 68-74

"Funding Sex Research" 107-110

### August 28 (W)

"Doing It Differently: Women's and Men's Estimates of Their Number of Lifetime Sexual Partners" 85-86

"Large Scale Sex: Methods, Challenges, and Findings of Nationally Representative Sex Research" 75-85

"Sexing Up the Subject: Methodological Nuances in Researching the Female Sex Industry" 99-106

### September 4 (W)

#### Learning about Sex

"The Death of the Stork: Sex Education Resources for Children and Parents" 173-190

"The Case for Starting Sex Education in Kindergarten" 218-222

"Sex-Positive Parenting, or We Don't Touch Our Vulvas at the Table" 190-192

"Talking to Teens about Sex: Parent-Adolescent Communication about Sex and Sexuality" 193-203

"Let's Talk about Sex: How Parents of Color Communicate with Teens" 203-206

"Conflicted Identification in the Sex Education Classroom" 207-218

"LGBTQ Youth Need Inclusive Sex Education" 223-229

"Sex, Love, and Autonomy in the Teenage Sleepover" 234-239

"'Put Me In, Coach, I'm Ready to Play': Sex Education for Adults at *Good Vibrations*" 240-251

### September 9 (M)

**Exam 1**

**September 11 (W) Sexual Bodies**

- “‘Basically, It’s Sorcery for Your Vagina’: Unpacking Western Representations of Vaginal Steaming” 307-318
- “The G-Spot and Other Mysteries” 257-261
- “‘When There’s No Underbrush the Tree Looks Taller’: A Discourse Analysis of Men’s Online Groin Shaving Talk” 295-306
- “The Politics of Acculturation: Female Genital Cutting” 277-294
- “Female Genital Mutilation and Male Circumcision: Toward an Autonomy-Based Ethical Framework” 262-276

**September 16 (M)**

- “‘Bringing Intersexy Back’? Intersexuals and Sexual Satisfaction” 14-24
- “The Perils and Pleasures of Sex for Trans People” 25-31

**September 18 (W) Representing Sex**

**Paper 1 Due**

- “What Teenagers Are Learning from Online Porn” 128-139
- “Race and Masculinity in Gay Porn” 143-152
- “Human Nature: On Fat Sexual Identity and Agency” 319-325
- “Virtual Reality Gets Naughty” 139-142
- “Sexy Like a Girl and Horny Like a Boy: Contemporary Gay ‘Western’ Narratives about Gay ‘Asian’ Men” 115-127

**September 23 (M) Sexual Practices**

- “The Pursuit of Sexual Pleasure” 331-342
- “Teen Sex in the United States” 342-345

**September 25 (W)**

- “God’s Case for Sex” 346-351
- C “Walking the Walk of Shame: Emotional Scripts, Women’s Sexuality, and Ambivalence across Space and Time” 155-182
- “Unequal Pleasures” 542-547
- “Adventures with the ‘Plastic Man’: Sex Toys, Compulsory Heterosexuality, and the Politics of Women’s Sexual Pleasure” 363-378

**September 30 (M)**

**Paper 2 Issued**

- “Bud-Sex: Constructing Normative Masculinity among Rural Straight Men that Have Sex with Men” 41-49
- “‘Straight Girls Kissing’? Understanding Same-Gender Sexuality Beyond the Elite College Campus” 52-60

**October 2 (W)**

- “A Sexual Culture for Disabled People” 383-392
- “Disability and Sexuality Myth-Busting: Non-normative Sex Liberates Us All” 230-233
- “Out of Line: the Sexy Femmegimp Politics of Flaunting It!” 153-158
- “Grandma Does *WHAT!?*: Perceptions about Older Adults and Sex” 379-382

**October 7 (M)**

"Sick Sex" 505-514

"Becoming a Practitioner: The Biopolitics of BDSM" 393-401

**October 9 (W)**

"The Privilege of Perversities: Race, Class and Education among Polyamorists and Kinksters" 402-417

"A Qualitative Exploration of the 'Coming Out' Process for Asexual Individuals" 352-362  
C "What It's Like to Date When You're Asexual"

**October 14 (M)****Commercial Sex**

"Performing without a Net? Safer Sex in Porn" 693-702

"Overcome: The Money Shot in Pornography and Prostitution" 674-684

"Strip Clubs and Their Regulars" 671-673

**October 16 (W)**

"What Male-for-Male Internet Escorts Say about What They Do" 657-664

"Can We 'Cure' the Men Who Pay for Sex?" 665-670

"Autonomy and Consent in Sex Work" 685-692

**October 21 (M)****Exam 2****October 23 (W)****Procreative Issues**

"Birthright: A History of Planned Parenthood" 515-521

"From Contraception to Abortion: A Moral Continuum" 521-524

"Choice or Coercion?: Abortion and Black Women" 524-528

**October 28 (M)****Sexual Health**

"STDs at Record High" 427-429

"Venereal Disease: Sin versus Science" 430-439

"Damaged Goods: Women Managing the Stigma of STDs" 441-450

"Secondary Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections: Treating the Couple and Community" 423-427

"HPV and Vaccines" 450-454

**October 30 (W)**

R1 "'Proper Sex without Annoying Things': Anti-Condom Discourse and the 'Nature' of (Hetero)sex" 455-463

R2 "HIV among People Aged 50 and Over" 439-440

R3 "Prep for HIV Prevention: Community Controversy and Generational Sexualities" 464-476

R4 "America's Hidden HIV Epidemic" 477-485

**November 4 (M) Social Control**

- “No Brokeback for Black Men: Pathologizing Black Male (Homo)sexuality through Down Low Discourse” 529-541
- “‘How Could You Do This to Me?’: How Lesbian, Bisexual, and Queer Latinas Negotiate Sexual Identity with Their Families” 577-584
- C “In and Out of Love with Hip-hop: Saliency of Sexual Scripts for Young Adult African American Women in Hip-hop and Black-oriented Television”

**November 6 (W)**

- “‘How You Bully a Girl’: Sexual Drama and the Negotiation of Gendered Sexuality in High School” 548-563
- “The New Pariahs: Sex, Crime, and Punishment in America” 491-500
- “Too Young to Consent?” 500-504

**November 11 (M)**

- “LGBTQ Politics in America: An Abbreviated History” 573-576
- “Out in the Country” 564-573

**November 13 (W) Sexual Violence**

- “‘I Wasn’t Raped, But...’: Revisiting Definitional Problems in Sexual Victimization” 590-600
- “Rampant or Rare? The Conundrum of Quantifying Rape and Sexual Assault on College Campuses and Beyond” 601-612
- “Constructing Victims: The Erasure of Women’s Resistance to Sexual Assault” 159-167
- “The Rape-Prone Culture of Academic Contexts: Fraternities and Athletics” 614-619
- “Sexual Coercion among Athletes” 619-621

**November 18 (M)**

- “The Sexual Victimization of Men in America: New Data Challenge Old Assumptions” 622-635
- “I Was Raped by a Woman” 612-613
- “Everything You Need to Know about Consent That You Never Learned in Sex Ed” 636-639
- “Sex Workers Don’t Deserve to Be Raped” 639-642

**November 20 (W) Graduate Student Presentations**

**December 2 (M)**

**Exam 3**

**December 4 (W) Possibilities**

- “Sex Matters: Future Visions for a Sex-Positive Society” 703-712
- C “Is It Sex Positive – Or Inappropriate?”

**December 9 (M)**

**Paper 2 Due by 3pm**