

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES
GSWS 1021F: Introduction to Sexuality Studies
Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. Cornel Grey

Lecture: Wednesdays, 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM

Location:

Office:

Telephone:

Email:

Office Hours:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an interdisciplinary half-year course that will introduce students to the field of sexuality studies. It will examine this field through several different approaches: theoretical, literary, visual, cultural, and historical. The aim will be to explore questions of identity and representation as they relate to sexuality: how are sexual identities formed? Are they essential or constructed? Who controls representations of sexuality? Why do we think of certain sexualities as normal and others as deviant? Within this context, we will analyze how certain expressions of sexuality are socially excluded and devalued in the name of a sexual norm.

ASSESSMENTS

1. Tutorial Participation (10%), ongoing

Students will be graded based on consistent, thoughtful, and active contributions to class discussion. Merely showing up to class will not get you far. You are expected to be punctual, present, and prepared to participate. Your contributions must be meaningful, and you should take care that the labor of conversation does not fall on/ get taken up unevenly by your peers.

2. Annotated Bibliography (15%), October 18

Create an annotated bibliography that will serve as the foundation for your final paper. Your annotated bibliography should include four scholarly sources and one popular piece of writing (e.g., newspaper article). Provide a summary of each source and explain its relevance to your paper.

3. Midterm (25%), October 25

This in-class text will be composed of short answer questions and one long essay-type question based on assigned readings and lectures.

4. Final Paper (20%), November 22

Building on your annotated bibliography, submit a 1500-word essay based on your initial research question. Your paper should be attentive to feedback provided by your tutorial leader in the first assignment. Your essay should also draw on concepts and ideas from lectures, tutorials, and readings.

5. Final Examination (30%), date to be determined

This exam will be scheduled during the exam period by the Office of the Registrar. The exam will consist of short and long answer questions. Further details will be provided in lecture.

DRAFT READINGS

WEEK ONE, SEPTEMBER 13-Introductions

- Mitra, Durba. 2021. 'Sexuality'. In *Keywords for Gender and Sexuality Studies*, edited by The Keywords Feminist Editorial Collective, 202–7. New York University Press.
- Seidman, Steven. 2022. 'Welcome to the New Sexuality Studies'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies: Original Essays*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer, Laurel Westbrook, and Steven Seidman, 4th ed., 3–5. Milton: Routledge.

WEEK TWO, SEPTEMBER 20-Constructing Sexuality (TUTORIAL THIS WEEK)

- Cannon, Martin. 2012. 'The Regulation of First Nations Sexuality'. In *Queerly Canadian: An Introductory Reader in Sexuality Studies*, edited by Scott Rayter and Maureen FitzGerald, 1st Edition, 51–64. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press Inc.
- Ingraham, Chrys. 2002. 'Heterosexuality: It's Just Not Natural!'. In *Handbook of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, edited by Diane Richardson and Steven Seidman, 73–82. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Schilt, Kristen, and Laurel Westbrook. 2020. 'Doing Gender, Doing Heteronormativity: "Gender Normals," Transgender People, and the Social Maintenance of Heterosexuality'. In *Routledge International Handbook of Heterosexualities Studies*, edited by James Joseph Dean and Nancy L. Fischer, 286–302. London: Routledge.

WEEK THREE, SEPTEMBER 27-Sexual Bodies

- Gerschick, Thomas J. 2016. 'The Body, Disability, and Sexuality'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer and Steven Seidman, 3rd Edition, 87–96. London and New York: Routledge.
- Przybylo, Ela. 2022. 'Unthinking Compulsory Sexuality: Introducing Asexuality'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies: Original Essays*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer, Laurel Westbrook, and Steven Seidman, 4th ed., 35–46. Milton: Routledge.

WEEK FOUR, OCTOBER 4- Guest Lecture (TUTORIAL THIS WEEK)

WEEK FIVE, OCTOBER 11-Femininities

- Brown, Adriane. 2022. "'There Is No Such Thing as a Slut': Creating and Destroying the "Good Girl" in Taylor Swift's Musical Persona'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies: Original Essays*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer, Laurel Westbrook, and Steven Seidman, 4th ed. Milton: Routledge.
- Khan, Maryam, and Nick J. Mulé. 2022. 'LBTQ Muslim Women Living in North America'. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee, 8th ed., 613–25. New York: Oxford University Press.

WEEK SIX, OCTOBER 18-Masculinities (TUTORIAL THIS WEEK)

- Pascoe, C. J. 2007. 'Dude, You're a Fag: Adolescent Male Homophobia'. In *Dude, You're a Fag: Masculinity and Sexuality in High School*, 52–83. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Mora, Richard, and Mary Christianakis. 2018. 'College Men, Hypermasculinity, and Sexual Violence'. In *Unmasking Masculinities: Men and Society*, edited by Edward Morris and Freeden Oeur, 1st ed., 445–55. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

WEEK SEVEN, OCTOBER 25-Midterm

NOVEMBER 1 (READING WEEK, NO CLASS)

WEEK EIGHT, NOVEMBER 8- Sex and Desire (TUTORIAL THIS WEEK)

- Andrejek, Nicole, and Melanie Heath. 2022. 'How "Regular Sex" Contributes to the Gender Gap in Orgasms'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer, Laurel Westbrook, and Steven Seidman, 4th Edition. London: Routledge.
- Han, C. Winter. 2022. 'Gay Racism: The Institutional and Interactional Patterns of Racism in Gay Communities'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies: Original Essays*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer and Laurel Westbrook, 4th ed. London and New York: Routledge.
- Tompkins, Avery. 2022. 'Trans Sexualities: Identities, Relationships, and Desires'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer, Laurel Westbrook, and Steven Seidman, 4th ed. London: Routledge.

WEEK NINE, NOVEMBER 15-Reproduction

- Clarke, Adele E. 2000. 'Maverick Reproductive Scientists and the Production of Contraceptives, 1915-2000+'. In *Bodies of Technology: Women's Involvement with Reproductive Medicine*, edited by Ann Rudinow Saetnan, Nelly Oudshoorn, and Marta Stefania Maria Kirejczyk, 37–89. Women and Health. Columbus: Ohio State University Press.
- Whiting, Glynis. 1996. *The Sterilization of Leilani Muir*. National Film Board of Canada. **[FILM]**

WEEK TEN, NOVEMBER 22-The Family (TUTORIAL THIS WEEK)

- Acosta, Katie. 2017. "'How Could You Do This to Me?': How Lesbian, Bisexual, and Queer Latinas Negotiate Sexual Identity With Their Families'. In *Gendered Lives, Sexual Beings: A Feminist Anthology*, edited by Joya Misra, Mahala Dyer Stewart, and Marni Alyson Brown, 1st ed. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.
- Karlberg, Kristen. 2007. 'Shaping Babies: No, Not THAT Kind! Can I Try Again?'. In *Gendered Bodies: Feminist Perspectives*, edited by Judith Lorber and Lisa Jean Moore, 32–38. Los Angeles, California: Roxbury Publishing Company.
- TallBear, Kim. 2022. 'Making Love and Relations beyond Settler Sex and Family'. In *Queerly Canadian: An Introductory Reader in Sexuality Studies*, edited by Scott Rayter and Laine Halpern Zisman, 2nd Edition, 18–28. Toronto: Canadian Scholars.

WEEK ELEVEN, NOVEMBER 29-Sex Education

- Fields, Jessica, and Jen Gilbert. 2022. 'Sex Education and Its Failures: From Social Inequalities to Intimate Possibilities'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer, Laurel Westbrook, and Steven Seidman, 4th Edition. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon; New York, New York: Routledge.
- Spencer, Chelsea, Allen Mallory, Michelle Toews, Sandra Stith, and Leila Wood. 2020. 'Why Sexual Assault Survivors Do Not Report to Universities'. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee, 7th Edition, 559–70. New York: Oxford University Press.

WEEK TWELVE, DECEMBER 6-Transnational Sexualities and Exam Prep

- Entremont, Paul Émile d'. 2014. *Last Chance*. <https://www.nfb.ca/film/last-chance/>.
[FILM]
- Murray, David A. B. 2016. 'Becoming an "Authentic" SOGI Refugee'. In *Real Queer?: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Refugees in the Canadian Refugee Apparatus*, 39–59. London and New York: Rowman & Littlefield International.