

SEXUAL SUBJECTS

WS 2273E

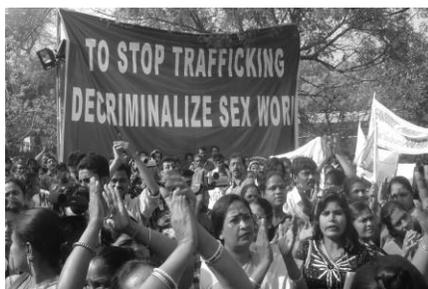
This syllabus is subject to change

Course Information

Lecture time: W 10:30-1:30
Location: UCC 65

Instructor

Prof. Andie Shabbar
Office: TBA; Hours: TBA
Email: ashabba@uwo.ca



TA: TBA

Course Description

This is an interdisciplinary course that focuses on sexuality as a subject of study to consider how sexuality informs individual and social subjectivity. We will explore sexual subjects from a range of theoretical perspectives and historical approaches to examine how sexuality and sexual orientation have come to occupy positions of considerable political importance in contemporary culture. The course will focus on the following questions: How do we understand sexuality? How do we understand ourselves and others as sexual subjects? How have contestations around the nature and meaning of the sexual subject become central to contemporary Western discourses around power, governmentality, culture, and representation? How have understandings of sexuality and the sexual subject changed over time? How do they vary across cultures? What is the effect of globalization on concepts of sexuality and the sexual subject? How are the concepts, practices, bodies, and selves of sexual subjects represented in cultural production?



As a way of responding to these questions, the course is divided into three main areas: the history of sexuality, theories of sexuality, and practices of sexuality. Topics we will consider include medical and psychiatric approaches to sexuality, the de/criminalization of sex and sexuality, the history of 'sex panics,' feminist and queer theories of sexuality, psychoanalytic models, anti-racist and indigenous perspectives; and practices of sexuality such as masturbation, sadomasochism, sex activism, pornography, sex work, and trans sexualities. _No prerequisites. 3 hours, 1.0 course

Course Materials

Course pack available on OWL

Course Objectives

This course will enable students to:

- Gain a perspective on the study of sexuality as a subject by examining historical and contemporary issues related to sex and sexuality;
- Understand how ideas about sexuality vary over time and geography;
- Consider the role of sexuality as a site of social control;
- Identify key concepts and theoretical approaches in the field of sexuality studies;
- Consider contemporary political debates around sexuality and their effects on women, men, and trans and non-binary people;
- Examine the ways in which sexuality and sexual identity are situated in discourses on race, gender, ethnicity, class, dis/ability, and age;
- Develop analytical and critical thinking skills through oral and written communication;
- Identify the differences and similarities between methodological approaches to the study of sexuality



Methods of Assessment

Assignment	Weight	Details	Due date
Participation	10%	5% per term	ongoing
Discussion Leadership	10%		As assigned
Short essay	15%	5-6 pages	Oct. 26
Group project x 2	20%	10% per term	Nov. 16, Feb. 8
Final Essay	20%	8-10 pages	Mar. 22
Final Exam	25%	Cumulative, 3 hrs	TBA, exam period



Assignment details

1. Participation 10%

This is a participation requirement, not an attendance requirement, which means that simply being present in class will not earn you participation grades. Participation grades will be assessed based on the *quality* of your contributions to class discussion. To encourage discussion, you will be put into groups early in the term and throughout the course you will be asked to work together to complete in-class activities and discuss lecture material. Your in-group contributions will count toward your participation grade. *Discussion Etiquette:* Discussing aspects of sexuality can make some people uncomfortable, but engaging with ideas that produce discomfort is an important part of the learning experience. Discussion should be respectful and open; you are welcome to disagree or to espouse a different perspective than others in the class, but you should be willing to listen to other people's perspectives.

2. Discussion Leadership 10%

Each week at the beginning of lecture, a group of two students will provide a brief summary (no more than 10 minutes) on one of the required readings and then pose two related discussion questions to the class. After posing your questions, your fellow classmates will be given time to discuss the questions in groups before reporting back to the class. Groups will be in-charge of fielding questions and providing feedback to answers. Questions must be posted to OWL the night before class no later than midnight. More information including grade assessment and tips on how to facilitate class discussion will be provided in-class.

3. Group Project 20% (2 x 10%)

In groups of 3-4, students will select a group project topic that will be provided in class and on OWL to research and prepare a 15-minute presentation for the class on their findings. Although not required, you may find it useful to include a PowerPoint, visuals, handouts, or other supporting materials.

4. Short Essay (15%)

You will write a short 5-6 page essay (12-point font, times new roman, double-spaced) on one of the essay topics provided in class. You must use at least two academic sources to support your argument, one of which must come from the course syllabus. Hard copy is due on Oct. 26 at the beginning of class, essays must be submitted to OWL before class.

5. Final Essay (20%)

You will write an 8-10 page (12-point font, times new roman, double-spaced) argumentative essay on a topic of your choosing as it relates to the course. Your essay must have at least four academic research sources, one of which must come from the syllabus. This source must be different than the one you used in the first essay assignment. You may reference Wikipedia, newspapers, films, and other non-academic sources but they will NOT count as research. Hard copy due Mar. 22 at the beginning of class, essay must be submitted to OWL before class.

6. Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will be a combination of True and false, fill in the blank, key terms, and an essay question.

Course Policies

Email

Email is *not* my preferred method of communication. **Email should only be used as a tool to schedule one-on-one meetings with me if my office hours conflict with your schedule.** Always use your UWO email account and include in the subject line the course number: WS 2273. Questions about assignments should be asked in lecture or posted to OWL on the “assignment questions” discussion board and will be answered within 48 hours excluding weekends. If you have a question about an assignment it would be wise to check the discussion board first before coming to see me. For more in-depth discussions, such as guidance on assignments, please plan to meet with me in person. In-person conversations help to foster a more collegial learning environment and will give us a chance to get to know each other better!

Late assignments

Assignments handed in late will be deducted 5% per day. A hard copy of your assignment must be dropped off to the Women’s Studies Dropbox outside Rm. 3260 in Lawson Hall **and** uploaded to OWL/turnitin. Assignments will not be accepted by email. Extensions will be considered on a case by case basis. I do not offer essay re-writes or makeup exams (unless you have academic accommodations).

Grade concerns

Please review the Women’s Studies grading criteria posted on OWL to assess your grade *before* requesting to meet with me. If you still have questions about your grade and would like to discuss your mark further, please wait 24-hours before emailing me to schedule a meeting.

Statement on electronic devices

Laptops are *not* permitted during group activities and presentations. Use of mobile phones are not permitted during lecture at any time.

Attendance

Attendance is not graded but is mandatory. Low attendance will result in low participation grades. If you are absent for three consecutive lectures without receiving academic accommodations you will forfeit your participation grade entirely.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION: SEXUAL SUBJECTS

Sept. 7 Introduction: Sex, Sexuality, and Subjectivity

HISTORY OF SEXUALITY

Sept. 14 Sexual Panic and War

Sept. 21 The Invention of Homosexuality and Heterosexuality

Sept. 28 Sexology

Oct. 5 Eugenics, Birth Control, Race and Class

READING WEEK

Oct. 19 The Sexual Revolution

Oct. 26 From Sex Wars to Porn Chic

Short essay due

Nov. 2 From Stonewall to Marriage Equality

Nov. 9 Group Presentations

Group Presentations

THEORIES OF SEXUALITY

Nov. 16 Feminist Theories of Sexuality
Nov. 23 Queer Theory
Nov. 30 Transgender Studies
Dec. 7 Psychoanalytic Theories of Sexuality

WINTER BREAK

Jan. 11 Anti-racist Theories of Sexuality
Jan. 18 Transnational Sexualities
Jan. 25 Indigenizing Sexual Subjects
Feb. 1 Group Presentations

Group presentations

PRACTICES OF SEXUALITY

Feb. 8 Masturbation

READING WEEK

Fe. 22 Kink
Mar. 1 Trans/sexualities
Mar. 8 'Crip' Sexuality
Mar. 15 Cybersex
Mar. 22 Sexual Violence
Mar. 29 Sex Tourism and Mail Order Brides
April. 5 *Course-wrap up & exam review*

Final Essay Due

Exam period

Final Exam

LET'S HAVE A GREAT YEAR!