

Course Syllabus for HS 3630F: Sexuality, Gender & Health

Instructor: Dr. Treena Orchard

Synchronous via Zoom: Mondays 12.30-2.30 (Lecture, required) & Wednesdays 12.30-1.30 (Check-In, optional). Links for lectures and check-ins are provided on OWL in the **Zoom tab**.

Email: torchar2@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Course Description

This is an advanced undergraduate course in health sciences that explores how sexuality, gender, and health are experienced through a critical lens. The materials selected provide a sound overview of key concepts and theoretical approaches and the complex dynamics of doing research. More traditional areas of concentration include the body, heterosexuality, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and health in post-colonial settings. More cutting-edge topics include the role of pleasure in gay men's relationships, health provision for transgendered individuals, structural and symbolic violence, and the ethical challenges of conducting fieldwork. By examining classic and modern contributions to these diverse fields of study, students will be equipped with foundational theoretical and methodological skills as well as a critical awareness of how health is impacted by structural factors like sexuality, gender, race, and marginalization.

Course Objectives

The objectives for this course align with university and program level aims regarding the receipt of a Western education. They include the acquisition of new *knowledge* and *literacy skills* regarding the *professional conduct* of scholarly research, *communication* between peers and other class stakeholders and understanding health through an interdisciplinary lens. *Critical* and *creative thinking* as well as writing are additional objectives that shape the design of and evaluation approaches adopted within this class. Learning about the relationship between research and *local or global communities* is another key aim, along with gaining a sense of how different *ethical* issues stream through the research process from inception through to dissemination. Additionally, *resilience* and *life-long learning* are two final objectives that help structure the delivery of the course, including the hourly check-in sessions held each Wednesday.

Class Format

Monday lectures will be delivered synchronously through Zoom and then posted on OWL. Wednesday check-ins will be informal opportunities for students to engage with myself and/or our TA regarding any questions about course materials, assignments, or professional development. The format of these sessions may change over time and they are not mandatory to attend or participate in. Having the class run synchronously provides a sense of class structure and helps us interact with one another as best we can in light of our online realities.

Evaluation

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Sexuality Case Study | 15% |
| Gender Case Study | 15% |
| Research Paper | 35% |
| Final Exam | 35% |

Details

Case Studies (30%)

Students will respond to two case studies developed by the instructor and the TA that showcase situations related to sexuality and gender. There will be two choices for each case study and each student selects one case for each exercise. Students will summarize their reading of the case in 1 double-spaced page (roughly two paragraphs) and respond to the five open-ended questions posed at the end of each case. These responses can be done in written, video OR voice format. There is no incorrect answer and these exercises are designed to provide students with the opportunity to apply their thinking or insights regarding various conditions/issues/tensions related to sexuality and gender. The case studies will be submitted through OWL and a rubric will be provided closer to the due date of the first assignment.

Research Paper (35%)

Each student will select a specific issue and/or population related to sexuality, gender, OR health that is of specific interest and conduct his/her/their own independent research. **RESEARCH TIP: use the terms “qualitative”, “lived experience”, and “ethnographic” as key words in your searches** because they align with the materials we use in class and it is rooted in people’s real lives. The paper must be narrow in focus so that you are not overwhelmed with research and can make interesting, in-depth observations. I recommend mapping out your ideas by starting with a population (e.g. immigrant youth, Black trans women, aging queer men) and a specific issue related to sexuality, gender, OR health (e.g. consensual non-monogamy, #MeToo, reproductive health).

In the Introduction, students provide an overview of the current state of knowledge/debate about the topics and then specific the particular focus of their paper. The bulk of the paper focuses on the two or three key issues related to the population and s/g/h issue selected. In the Conclusion, you **must** discuss how the issues you have researched have shaped how you understand and think about sexuality, gender and/or health (i.e., 1/2page). I will post examples to give you a sense of how this assignment has been approached by other students who have taken our class. It is advisable to run your ideas past myself or the TA before you begin your research, to make sure that you are on the right track.

The assignment should be 10 double-spaced pages, including 12-15 academic references (which can be single-spaced to save paper). When organizing your paper, use the following headings: **Introduction, Statement of objectives; Methodology; Main Themes;** and a **Conclusion**, which reiterates the focus of the paper and includes a discussion of the significance of the subject matter related to your understanding of sexuality/gender/health. Employ standard APA format and PLEASE use “I” or the “active voice.” Examples of previous essays from this class will be provided so that students have a clear sense of the assignment. The essays will be submitted through OWL and a rubric will be provided closer to the due date.

Final Exam (35%)

The final examination is cumulative and will consist of short answers (30%) and your choice of 2/6 essay questions (35% each). The short answers are primarily from the first few lectures and I will select the essay questions from the most popular weekly lectures over the term (via online

vote by the class). The essay questions are very open-ended, which gives you ample room to answer them in your own voice and you are encouraged to use “I.” The exam will be in a take home format, and more details will be provided closer to the end of the term.

Grading scheme:

I use the format provided below for grading, which is the university-wide scale that has been approved by the Western University Senate. It should also be noted that **I DO NOT ROUND UP MARKS.**

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|----|----------|--|
| A+ | 90-100 | One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level |
| A | 80-89 | Superior work that is clearly above average |
| B | 70-79 | Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory |
| C | 60-69 | Competent work, meeting requirements |
| D | 50-59 | Fair work, minimally acceptable. |
| F | below 50 | Fail |

It is expected that the grades for this course will fall between 75-79%. In the event that the course average falls outside this range, a constant may be added (or subtracted) from each student’s grade, by the instructor, to bring the class average in line with school policy. It is anticipated that the course averages in years 1 through 4 grades will vary and this is the normative breakdown of average grades/year

- Year 1: 68-72
- Year 2: 70-74 (core) and 72-76 (elective)
- Year 3: 72-76 (core) and 74-78 (elective)
- Year 4: 74-80

Policies:

Prerequisites

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites

Late assignments

This class is evaluated through written assignments which must not be missed unless there is a medical condition, family emergency, or other unforeseen circumstances. A note from your Physician indicating the nature of your condition must be submitted to the School of Health Studies Main Office, and only upon receipt of such a letter will I consider a new due date for an assignment. Late assignments are docked 3% per day and anything beyond 3 days late will not be accepted.

Attendance and Classroom Behaviour (online and/or in-person)

In the School of Health Studies, each course instructor sets specific expectations for attendance and participation that are specific to the course, teaching objectives, and learning outcomes.

Regular attendance is expected and essential for all courses, but particularly those that include participation grades in their evaluation schemes. Participation means not only attendance, but active engagement in the class, including (for example) contribution to small and large group discussions, a demonstrated effort to prepare for class by completing assigned readings before class, and following the instructor's guidelines for use of electronic devices during class time. **Students who miss classes, or parts of classes, are responsible for the material they have missed. Instructors are not obliged to review the contents of missed lectures.**

Use of Recording Devices and Course Content

Course instructors own and retain the intellectual property rights of their teaching materials. These rights extend to materials used in online settings and digital learning management systems like Owl, Zoom and TopHat. Students do not have our permission to make audio or video recordings of lectures, take pictures of lecture material, or distribute any course content for nefarious purposes (E.g. for sale or to cheat on exams). It is the decision of the instructor as to how and when teaching materials can be shared or used. **Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of pre-recorded lectures or other course materials. Nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.**

Lecture presentations for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals under special circumstances. Please contact me if you have any concerns related to session recordings. Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

Use of Plagiarism Checking Software

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Student Code of Conduct

Code of Student Conduct defines the standard of conduct expected of students registered at The University of Western Ontario, provides examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this conduct, provides examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and sets out the disciplinary procedures that the University follows. See http://studentexperience.uwo.ca/student_experience/studentconduct.html.

Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances, including short-term illness or injury. Reasonable academic consideration is a cooperative process between the University, the student,

and academic staff. All participants in the process must act in good faith, and fulfil their respective obligations, if it is to succeed.

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements, may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- (ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- (iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration, in order to be eligible for academic consideration.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions, based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (e.g., upset stomach) or upsets (e.g., argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- **Must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence;
- **Are advised that all necessary documentation, forms are to be submitted to academic counselling within two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30pm;
- c. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48- hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;

- d. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- e. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations (i.e., “bellringers”);
- f. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;
- g. Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed

Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>
2. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar’s Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombudsmen Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

Health and Wellness

The undergraduate experience is rewarding and challenging socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Finding ways to balance scholarly life with our personal lives can be tough, but it’s important to learn how to manage stress. Western provides several health and wellness-related services to students, which may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. You can also check out the Campus Recreation Centre or the McIntosh Gallery (<http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>), for alternative spaces to reconnect with your bodies and restore your spirit. You may also want to access local resources that are closer to where you are living during the school year. Recalibrating ourselves emotionally begins with slowing down, reminding ourselves that we are ok, and taking a few deep, slow breaths. This remarkably effective strategy brings the body from stress mode into a more relaxed state.

If you are in emotional or mental distress please see Mental Health@Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>) for a list of options about how to obtain help. Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module: https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/education/module.html. It’s also advisable to have a wellness safety plan if you don’t want to reach out to formal services. Having the numbers of a few trusted individuals is another strategy.

Communicating with myself and our teaching assistant

I work hard and protect my ‘me’ time and would like our communications to occur from Monday- Friday (i.e., 8 am- 5pm). This is not to restrict your access to me; I’m just letting you know what my preferred boundaries are. These timings also extend to our TA.

NAVIGATING OUR OWL SITE

RESOURCES- ALL ARTICLES AND SOME SUPPLEMENTARY FILES OF INTEREST

LECTURE SLIDES- ALL SLIDES POSTED IN WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS- I MAKE THEM OFTEN, SO PLEASE CHECK REGULARLY

LECTURES

September 9, 2020: Introduction & Class Overview

September 14, 2020: Overview and Key concepts

Lupton, Deborah (1994). *Medicine as Culture*. London: SAGE Publications Ltd., Pp.5-19. ISBN (Pbk): 07619-4030-8.

Davenport, Beverly Ann (2000). Witnessing and the Medical Gaze: How Medical Students Learn to See at a Free Clinic for the Homeless. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 14(3), 310-327.

September 21, 2020: The Body

Corbin, Juliet (2003). The Body in Health and Illness. *Qualitative Health Research*, 13(2), 256-267.

Draper, Jan (2002). "It Was a Really Good Show": The Ultrasound Scan, Fathers, and the Power of Visual Knowledge. *Sociology of Health & Illness*, 24(6), 771-795.

September 28, 2020: 'Other' Sexualities and Genders: Experiences of Gay Men and Transgendered People

Schilder, Arn; Treena Orchard; Christopher Buchner; Mary Lou Miller; Kim Fernandes; Steffanie Strathdee; and Robert Hogg (2008). 'It's like the treasure': Beliefs Associated with Semen Among Young HIV-Positive and HIV-Negative Men Who Have Sex With Men. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 10(7), 667-679.

Bauer, Greta; Rebecca Hammond; Robb Travers; Mathias Kaay; Karin Hohenadel; and Michelle Boyce (2009). "I Don't Think This Is Theoretical; This Is Our Lives: How Erasure Impacts Health Care for Transgender People", *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS CARE*, 20(5), 348-361.

SEXUALITY CASE STUDY DUE, before class

October 5, 2020 Reproductive Health Practices and Moral Dilemmas: Male and Female Circumcision

Bell, Kirsten (2005). Genital Cutting and Western Discourses on Sexuality. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 19(2), 125-148.

Benatar, Michael and David Benatar (2003). Between Prophylaxis and Child Abuse: The Ethics of Neonatal Male Circumcision. *American Journal of Bioethics*, 3(2), 35-48.

October-12, 2020: NO CLASS because of Thanksgiving

October 19, 2020: A Modern Pandemic: HIV/AIDS

Treichler, Paula (1999). The Burdens of History: Gender and Representation in AIDS Discourse, 1981-1988. In *How to Have Theory in an Epidemic: Cultural Chronicles of AIDS*. Pp. 42-98. Durham: Duke University Press. ISBN (Pbk): 0-8223-2318-4.

October 26, 2020: At the Intersection of Sexuality, Gender, & Health: Sex Work

Orchard, T., Murie, A., Elash, H., Middleton, C., Bunch, M., & Benoit, C. (2019). Balance, Capacity, and The Contingencies of Everyday Life: Narrative Etiologies of Health Among Women in Street-Based Sex Work, *Qualitative Health Research*, 30(4): 518-529.

Orchard, T. (2019). First Person Singular(s): Teasing Out Multiple Truths in Sex Worker Autobiographies, in Routledge *International Handbook of Sex Industry Research: New Directions and Perspectives*, S. Dewey, I. Crowhurst, and C. Izugbara, Eds. London: Routledge; 55-67.

GENDER CASE STUDY DUE, before class

NO CLASSES NOVEMBER 2 & 4 BECAUSE OF FALL BREAK

November 9, 2020: Health and Healing in Post-Colonial Settings

O'Neil, John and Patricia Kaufert (1995). *Irniktakpunga!:* Sex Determination and the Inuit Struggle for Birthing Rights in Northern Canada. In *Conceiving the New World Order*, eds. Fay Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp. Pp. 59-73. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN (Pbk): 0-5200-8914-6.

Waldram, James (1993). Aboriginal Spirituality: Symbolic Healing in Canadian Prisons. *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*, 17(3), 345-362.

November 16, 2020: Violence, Everyday and Gender-Based

Bourgeois, Philippe, Bridget Prince, and Andrew Moss (2004). The Everyday Violence of Hepatitis C Among Young Women Who Inject Drugs in San Francisco. *Human Organization*, 63(3), 253-264.

Asencio, Marysol (1999). Machos and Sluts: Gender, Sexuality, and Violence Among a Cohort of Puerto Rican Adolescents. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 13(1), 107-126.

November 23, 2020: Doing Ethnography & the Challenges of Fieldwork

Bolton, Ralph (1995). Tricks, Friends, and Lovers: Erotic Encounters in the Field. In *Taboo: Sex, Identity, and Erotic Subjectivity in Anthropological Fieldwork*, eds. Don Kulick and Margaret Wilson. Pp. 140-167. London: Routledge. ISBN (Pbk): 0-415-08819-4.

Simon, Greg (2006). Anger Management: Working Through Identity and Objectification in Indonesia. In *Dispatches from the Field: Neophyte Ethnographers in a Changing World*, eds. Andrew Gardner and David Hoffman. Pp. 105-118. Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press, Inc. ISBN (Pbk): 1-5776-6451-5.

November 30, 2020: Viewing *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

December 2, 2020: Final Check-In