

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES**  
**GSWS 1021F: Introduction to Sexuality Studies**  
**Fall 2022**

**THIS SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

**Instructor:** Dr. Cornel Grey  
**Lecture:** Wednesdays, 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM  
**Email:** [cgrey6@uwo.ca](mailto:cgrey6@uwo.ca)  
**Office Hours:** TBD

*Western University is situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples who have longstanding relationships to the region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. Within proximity to Western, there are 3 First Nations communities: the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region of southwestern Ontario, there are 9 First Nations and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western recognizes the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all 11 of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America) to the development of Canada.*

### **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.

### **COURSE OVERVIEW AND IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>Delivery Mode</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>
Lecture	Wednesdays, (Weekly)	1:30-3:30 PM (SH-3345)
Tutorials: in-person	Wednesdays or Thursdays, (Biweekly)	(see times and locations below)

<b>Classes Start</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>	<b>Classes End</b>	<b>Study day(s)</b>	<b>Exam Period</b>
September 8	October 31- November 4	December 8	December 9	Dec 10-22, 2022

\*November 12, 2022: Last day to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define and explain differences between sex, gender, and sexuality as socially constructed categories
- Demonstrate an introductory understanding of sexuality studies as a field
- Examine how heteropatriarchy and cisnormativity frame their everyday lives
- Employ a feminist vocabulary in their analysis of gender and sexuality
- Assess how race, class, (dis)ability, and age intersect with experiences of sexuality and gender
- Articulate a research question
- Navigate scholarly databases relevant to their field of study

## **ASSESSMENTS**

### **1. Tutorial Participation (5%), 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.

Since the tutorials are only every other week, if you skip ONE TUTORIAL without any explanation over the course of the term, your participation grade will be cut in half (2.5% instead of 5%). If you miss more than one tutorial, you will receive a zero for participation.

### **2. Thesis Statement and Annotated Bibliography (15%), October 19**

Select a topic related to sexuality studies that you would like to be the subject of your final paper. Develop a thesis statement that will guide the argument of your essay (150-200 words). Create an annotated bibliography (further details will be provided in lecture and online) based on your topic. 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 26**

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 (25%), November 23**

Building on your thesis statement and 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.

### **Bonus Assignment (2%) (OPTIONAL)**

This optional assignment is an opportunity for students to practice their analytical skills and creativity by applying a feminist lens to a cultural text that many people use on a day-to-day basis. Students are invited to submit a 250 to 300-word reflection on a meme that addresses a topic related to sexuality. Selections will be provided on OWL. Students must consult with the instructor if they are interested in other options. As part of their reflection, students must describe what is happening in the image/text and explain how it is challenging (or making visible) socially constructed assumptions about sex, gender, and/or sexuality. Students are encouraged to draw on course concepts in their reflection. This optional assignment can be submitted up until the last day of class. No extensions will be given.

*All written assignments are to be submitted online by 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified. Assignments will be submitted to Turnitin. After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator. Students should consult with their TA first regarding questions about their grade. To ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days. If a student has concerns about their grade following a meeting with their TA, they are encouraged to reach out to the instructor.*

## **ASSIGNED READINGS**

### **WEEK ONE, SEPTEMBER 14-Introductions**

- Christiansen, Lars D., and Nancy L. Fischer. 2016. 'Working in the (Social) Construction Zone'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer and Steven Seidman, 3rd Edition, 1–11. London and New York: Routledge.
- Fischer, Nancy L., and Steven Seidman, eds. 2016. 'The Social Construction of Sexuality: Interview with Jeffrey Weeks'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*, 3rd Edition, 43–50. London and New York: Routledge.

### **WEEK TWO, SEPTEMBER 21-Constructing Sexuality (TUTORIAL THIS WEEK)**

- Ingraham, Chrys. 2002. 'Heterosexuality: It's Just Not Natural!' In *Handbook of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, 73–82. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Roughgarden, Joan. 2013. 'Sex and Diversity, Sex versus Gender, and Sexed Bodies: Excerpts from Evolution's Rainbow: Diversity, Gender, and Sexuality in Nature and People'. In *The Transgender Studies Reader 2*, edited by Susan Stryker and Aren Z. Aizura, 147–55. New York and London: Routledge.
- Picq, Manuela L., and Josi Tikuna. 2019. 'Indigenous Sexualities: Resisting Conquest and Translation'. In *Sexuality and Translation in World Politics*, edited by Caroline Cottet and Manuela L. Picq, 57–71. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing.

### **WEEK THREE, SEPTEMBER 28-Sexual Bodies**

- Gerschick, Thomas J. 2011. 'The Body, Disability, and Sexuality'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*, 3rd Edition, 87–96. London and New York: Routledge.
- Harding, Kate. 2008. 'How Do You Fuck a Fat Woman?' In *Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape*, edited by Jaclyn Friedman and Jessica Valenti, 67–76. Berkeley, California: Seal Press.

### **WEEK FOUR, OCTOBER 5- Guest Lecture (TUTORIAL THIS WEEK)**

- Denise E. Horoky (Associate Librarian, Teaching and Learning)
- Paul Schmidt (Associate Director, Writing Support Centre)

### **WEEK FIVE, OCTOBER 12-Femininities**

- Batacharya, Sheila. 2010. 'Hootchies and Ladies: Race, Gender, Sexuality and "Girl Violence" in a Colonial White Settler Society'. In *Reena Virk: Critical Perspectives on a Canadian Murder*, edited by Mythili Rajiva and Sheila Batacharya, 35–81. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press Inc.
- Brown, Adriane. 2016. "'She Isn't Whoring Herself out like a Lot of Other Girls We See': Heteronormative Propriety and "Authentic" American Girlhood on Taylor Swift Fan Forums'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer and Steven Seidman, 3rd Edition, 400–411. Routledge.

### **WEEK SIX, OCTOBER 19-Masculinities (Assignment Due) (TUTORIAL THIS WEEK)**

- hooks, bell. 2004. 'The Search for Men Who Love'. In *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee, 2nd Edition, 175–80. Boston: McGraw-Hill.
- Pascoe, C. J. 2022. "'Guys Are Just Homophobic": Rethinking Adolescent Homophobia and Heterosexuality'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer, Laurel Westbrook, and Steven Seidman, 4th Edition. London: Routledge.

### **WEEK SEVEN, OCTOBER 26-Midterm**

### **NOVEMBER 2 (READING WEEK, NO CLASS)**

### **WEEK EIGHT, NOVEMBER 9- 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.
- Springer, Kimberly. 2008. 'Queering Black Female Sexuality'. In *Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape*, edited by Jaclyn Friedman and Jessica Valenti, 77–91. Berkeley, California: Seal Press.
- 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 Edition. London: Routledge.

### **WEEK NINE, NOVEMBER 16-Reproduction**

- Whiting, Glynis. 1996. *The Sterilization of Leilani Muir*. National Film Board of Canada. (IN-CLASS SCREENING)
- Dyck, Erika. 2013. 'Appendectomy to Queen's Court Settlement: Leilani Muir'. In *Facing Eugenics: Reproduction, Sterilization, and the Politics of Choice*, 169–97. Toronto; Buffalo; London: University of Toronto Press.

### **WEEK TEN, NOVEMBER 23-The Family (Assignment Due) (TUTORIAL THIS WEEK)**

- Kane, Emily W. 2020. "'Your Father Wouldn't like It': The Social Construction of Heterosexuality in Early Childhood'. In *Routledge International Handbook of Heterosexualities Studies*, edited by James Joseph Dean and Nancy L. Fischer, 113–21. London: Routledge.
- 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.
- Taylor, Yvette. 2016. 'Lesbian and Gay Parents: Situated Subjects'. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*, edited by Nancy L. Fischer and Steven Seidman, 3rd Edition, 507–14. London: Routledge.

### **WEEK ELEVEN, NOVEMBER 30-Sex Education**

- Dhoot, Sonny. 2022. 'Homonationalism and Failure to Interpellate: The "Queer Muslim Woman" in Ontario's "Sex-Ed Debates"'. In *Queerly Canadian: An Introductory Reader in Sexuality Studies*, edited by Scott Rayter and Laine Halpern Zisman, 2nd Edition. Toronto and Vancouver: Women's Press.
- Kulwicki, Cara. 2008. 'Real Sex Education'. In *Yes Means Yes!: Visions of Female Sexual Power & A World Without Rape*, edited by Jaclyn Friedman and Jessica Valenti, 305–12. Berkeley, California: Seal Press.

### **WEEK TWELVE, DECEMBER 7-Transnational Sexualities (TUTORIAL THIS WEEK)**

- Entremont, Paul Émile d'. 2014. *Last Chance*. <https://www.nfb.ca/film/last-chance/>. (IN-CLASS SCREENING)
- Bain, Beverly. 2017. 'Fire, Passion, and Politics: The Creation of Blockorama as Black Queer Diasporic Space in the Toronto Pride Festivities'. In *We Still Demand!: Redefining Resistance in Sex and Gender Struggles*, edited by Patrizia Gentile, Gary Kinsman, and L. Pauline Rankin, 81–97. Vancouver and Toronto: University of British Columbia Press.
- Murray, David A.B. 2014. 'Real Queer: "Authentic" LGBT Refugee Claimants and Homonationalism in the Canadian Refugee System'. *Anthropologica* 56 (1): 21–32.