

**Northeastern Illinois University
El Centro Campus
SOC 340: Sociology of Sexualities
Fall 2008**

Instructor: Amanda Stewart

Contact Information:

Mailbox: ELC, Main Desk

Email: astewart@uic.edu (Email is the best way to reach me.)

Course Information: Saturdays 11:20A-2P EC 136

Office Hours: By appointment or before or after class.

Required Texts:

Strombler, Baunauch, Burgess, Donnelly, and Simonds. 2006. *Sex Matters: The Sexuality and Society Reader* (2nd Edition). New York: Allyn and Bacon.

Freud, Sigmund. 2000. *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*. The Definitive Edition Translated and Revised by James Strachey. Basic Books.

Seidman, Steven. 2003. *The Social Construction of Sexuality*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Additional Readings: There will be additional readings not included in the texts. The instructor will provide these readings.

Course Description: Critical discussion and reading of current research and literature on human sexuality; the continuous psycho-sexual development of children, adolescents and adults; heterosexuality, homosexuality and bisexuality; the use of sex by the media; pornography; prostitution; sex and the law; institutional sexuality; population control; marital sex; the effects of class background on sexual practices.

Classroom Policies/Procedures

Final Exam: There will not be a final exam. There WILL be a final project.

Attendance: *Excessive absences and tardiness* can negatively affect your comprehension of course material and participation. Students are expected to attend *all* class sessions *on time*, therefore attendance will be monitored. Students are allowed three unexcused absences. After two unexcused absences your final grade will be affected. Please let me know if you plan on being absent. If necessary arrangements are made prior to an absence, your grade will not be affected.

Writing Lab: Throughout the semester various writing assignments will be due. The Writing Lab is available to help students with the writing process. Using this service is recommended and will be to your advantage.

CLS 2046-3601 W. Bryn Mawr
(2nd floor of the Classroom Building)
For Appointments Call: 773-442-5480
Lab Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 8am - 4pm;
Wednesday and Thursday 8am to 8pm

Make-Up/Late Work: There will be no make-up available quizzes. Late work will be accepted. For every day the work is late, your grade will be lowered 10%.

Disability Services: The Accessibility Center offers a variety of services for individuals requiring learning accommodations. Please contact the Accessibility Center for additional information.

Accessibility Center
Victoria Amey-Flippin, Director
5500 N. St. Louis
Building D, Room 104
(773) 442-5495

Please notify me if you need additional accommodations or support.

Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism: All students are expected to follow the university policies with respect to academic honesty, as stated in the student handbook. Any student engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the course.

Cell Phones and Other Electronics: Please silence cell phones and other disruptive electronic devices (ie. Blackberries) during class. In cases of emergencies, please excuse yourself from the classroom to use your phone. Text messaging and other cell phone functions (internet, email, etc) will not be

allowed during class. You will have a short break where you can check messages and take care of other necessary business. Please see me if you want to use a laptop to take notes during class. On some occasions, laptop use will be appropriate and allowable.

Assignments and Grading

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Reflection/Reaction Papers: 30% (10 total, 3% each)

Each Thursday before 12PM (noon), you will submit a reflection/reaction paper to me via email. This paper should be no less than one page, but no more than two pages (double spaced, 12pt font). In your writing, you should include any thoughts you have on the readings or questions you may have. You should also highlight what you think are the main themes of the readings (ie. What ties each of the works together?). You WILL NOT be required to submit a paper every week. You should submit a total of 10 papers throughout the course of the semester. It is your responsibility to keep track of how many papers you have submitted. Please make sure to submit your papers ON TIME as they will help me to structure the discussion for each class meeting.

Quizzes: 10%

Please make an honest effort to complete the reading for each class. If I feel that students are not doing the reading, I will give short, weekly quizzes. If students are completing the reading and participating in class, this portion of your grade will be easy.

Midterm (Take Home): 20% (Distributed October 11; Due October 18)

Final Project: 25%

The final project will consist of a written portion (8-10 pages) and a short presentation (length to be determined based on number of students in course). The written portion will synthesize the course readings as well as additional sources of your choosing to address a topic of your choice. You will submit a project proposal to me on or before November 1. Once your proposal has been approved, you will use your chosen topic and the readings from the course to construct a clear, concise and thoughtful essay shows your understanding of the topic.

Tentative Class Schedule

August 23: Introductions and Course Overview; Talking about Sex

August 30: Sexuality and Society

Christina, Greta. "Are We Having Sex Now or What?" (SM)

Sanders and Reinisch. "Would You Say You "Had Sex" If...?" (SM)

Rubin, Gayle. "Thinking Sex" (Handout)

September 6: Categorizing Sex

Seidman, Steven. *The Social Construction of Sexuality*. New York: W.W. Norton. (Chapter 4: The Rise of a Heterosexual Identity).

Haas, Kate. "Who Will Make Room for the Intersexed?" (SM)

Green, Jamison. "Sex and the Trans Man" (SM)

Ward, Jane. "STR8 Dude Seeks Same: Mapping the Relationship between Sexual Identities, Practices, and Cultures" (SM)

Dahir, Mubarak. "Why Are We Gay?" (SM)

September 13: Researching Sexuality-The Science of Sex

Seidman, Steven. *The Social Construction of Sexuality*. New York: W.W. Norton. (Chapter 1: The Science of Sex: Sexology and Psychoanalysis)

Bullough, Vern. "Alfred Kinsey and the Kinsey Report." (SM)

Laumann, Gagnon, Michael, and Michaels. "Survey of Sexual Behavior of Americans." (SM)

Donnelly, Burgess, Simonds. "Sexuality and Social Theorizing." (SM)

September 20: Freud and Theories of Sexuality

Seidman, Steven. *The Social Construction of Sexuality*. New York: W.W. Norton. (Chapter 2: Social Theories of Sexuality: Marxism and Feminism; Chapter 3: Social Constructionism: Sociology, History, and Philosophy)

Freud, Sigmund. *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*. The Definitive Edition Translated and Revised by James Strachey. Basic Books. (Essays 1 and 2)

September 27: Popular Culture and Commercial Sex

“Popular culture constructs sexuality.” An Interview with Joshua Gamson. (Handout)

Pappas, Chris. “Sex sells, but what else does it do?: The American porn industry.” (Handout)

Emerson, Rana. “‘Where My Girls At?’ Negotiating Black Womanhood in Music Videos.” (SM)

Leuchtag, Alice. “Human Rights, Sex Trafficking, and Prostitution.” (SM)

Friend, Tad. “Naked Profits.” (SM)

October 4: Teaching Sex

Sternheimer, Karen. “Fear of Sex: Do the Media Make Them Do It?” (SM)

Fields, Jessica. “Knowing Girls: Gender and Learning in School-Based Sexuality Education.” (Handout)

Herdt, Russel, Sweat and Marzullo. “Sexual Inequality, Youth Empowerment and the GSA.” (Handout)

Amico, Michael. “Whorified Virgins: Gay Youth and Sex.” (SM)

October 11: The Sexual Body

Summers-Effler, Erika. “Little Girls in Women’s Bodies: Social Interaction and the Strategizing on Early Breast Development.” (SM)

Loe, Meika. “Fixing the Broken Male Machine.” (SM)

Blank, Hanne. "Myth Information vs. the Fat Facts." (SM)

Wesely, Jennifer K. "Exotic Dancing and the Negotiation of Identity: The Multiple Uses of Body Technologies." (SM)

October 18: Sexual Practices

Elmer-DeWitt. "Now For the Truth About American and Sex." (SM)

Gonzalez-Lopez, Gloria. "Confesiones de Mujer: The Catholic Church and Sacred Morality in the Sex Lives of Mexican Immigrant Women." (Handout)

Mills, Melinda. "Tainted Love? Exploring the Contours of Interracial Romance and Resistance to Interracial Intimacy." (SM)

Sanders, Joshunda. "A Down Low Dirty Shame." (SM)

Bhugra, Dinesh. "Kink Without Borders" Sexual "Deviance" Across Cultures." (SM)

October 25: Final Project Workday (Class will not meet, but remember your project proposal is DUE next week.)

November 1: Sexual Politics and Societal Control of Sexuality

Seidman, Steven. *The Social Construction of Sexuality*. New York: W.W. Norton. (Chapters 5 and 6: Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Politics in the United States and Comparative Perspectives on Gay and Lesbian Politics)

Kaplan, Laura. "Beyond Safe and Legal: The Lessons of Jane." (Handout)

Joyce, Kathryn. "The Quiverfull Conviction: Christian Mothers Breed 'Arrows for the War'." (Handout)

Mullis and Baunach. "The Social Control of Adult-Child Sex." (SM)

Altman, Dennis. "Sexuality and Globalization." (SM)

November 8: Sexuality as Power; Sexual Shame

Seidman, Steven. *The Social Construction of Sexuality*. New York: W.W. Norton. (Chapters 7-9: Pornography; Sodomasochism; Sex Work.)

Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality*. Excerpts. (Handout)

Hidalgo, Danielle Antoinette. "Sex workers' rights movements." (Handout)

Warner, Michael. *The Trouble with Normal*. Excerpts. (Handout)

Tannebaum, Leora. "Slut! Insult of Insults." (SM)

November 15: Procreative Sex and Marriage

Roberts, Dorothy E. "Punishing Drug Addicts Who Have Babies: Women of Color, Equality, and the Right of Privacy." (SM)

Luce, Jacquelyn. "Imaging Bodies, Imagining Relations: Narratives of Queer Women and 'Assisted Conception.'" (SM)

Seidman, Steven. (Chapter 10: Gay Marriage)

Ingraham, Chrys. "One is not born a bride: How weddings regulate heterosexuality." (Handout)

Kelly, Reese. "Gay marriage. Why now? Why at all?" (Handout)

November 22: Sexual Violence and Disease

Chua, Peter. "Condoms in the global economy." (Handout)

Gunsallus, Jennifer. "The politics of AIDS: Sexual pleasure and danger." (Handout)

Nack, Adam. "Damaged Goods: Women Managing the Stigma of STDs." (SM)

Gavey, Nicola. "I Wasn't Raped, But..." Revisiting Definitional Problems of Sexual Victimization." (SM)

Pelka, Fred. "Raped: A Male Survivor Breaks His Silence." (SM)

November 29: No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)

December 6: Final Project Presentations