

Sociology 344U-001

**GENDER AND SEXUALITIES**

Winter 2023

Online Format

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Office Hours: By appointment (please email me to set up a Zoom meeting)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a survey of sociological perspectives on gender and sexualities as they pertain to identity, work, culture, and so on. Using an intersectional lens, we will analyze how social constructions of gender and sexuality merge with other identities, such as race and class, in order to create unique social conditions for different groups. Gaining insight into sociological viewpoints on these topics will help students form arguments that challenge the oppression of marginalized identities. Students will also have the opportunity to be reflexive in their own sets of identities.

This course is being conducted in an online, asynchronous format. Therefore, students should be prepared to be self-starters who can work independently.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

*Reading Responses* (5 points each, 8 total): You will have weekly readings to complete and/or videos to view. All materials are available for free and can be accessed through the corresponding weekly modules on our Canvas page. Starting with week three, you will begin composing reading reflections based on this content. Reflections will be due via Canvas dropbox by 11:59 pm on Friday, so you have the full work week to complete them.

Original responses should be at least 300 words and replies should be at least 100. Use this space to digest the readings in a way that is effective for your learning style. You may synthesize the authors' arguments, discuss how you would explain the information with a friend or family member, or analyze the themes through the lens of your own identities. For those who prefer more guided responses, feel free to use the suggested prompts provided in each module.

*'Pose' Reflection* (10 points): For week two, you will complete a reflection on season 1, episode 1 of FX series *Pose*. This show demonstrates the intersection of a wide variety of identities related to gender and sexuality. The episode is available on Hulu, but if you do not have access to this service, it is available for purchase on YouTube and Amazon Prime Video for \$1.99 (since there are no book costs for this class, I hope this is not a burden, but if you are unable to access the video, please let me know).

Your ~400 word reflection should include your initial reactions, observations, and ideas you would like to know more about. It will be due via an assignment Dropbox on Canvas by Friday, January 20th at 11:59 pm. There will be a chance to look back on your reflection at the end of the term to evaluate what you have learned. Note: Avoid summary.

**To recap:** You will submit your *Pose* response by the end of week two. You will submit your first reading response by the end of week three, and subsequent reading responses will be due through week 10.

*Midterm Presentation* (20 points): Your midterm will consist of a PowerPoint presentation on a topic related to gender and sexualities that interest you. You will consider the history of this topic, its connections to sociological theory, and the stories of those who are affected. A full list of topics are provided on Canvas, as well as more specific directions. Due to our large class size, there are bound to be some repeat topics, but all work is expected to be your own. You will post your presentation on a designated discussion board (worth 16 points) and respond to two of your classmates' presentations (4 points - ~100 words each). This assignment is due by the end of week five (Friday, February 10th by 11:59 pm).

*Final Paper* (30 points): Your final paper will consist of a five-page media analysis. You may select a film, documentary, or three episodes of a TV show to analyze using course concepts. Ideally, you will analyze the characters' gender and sexual identities in relation to their other identities, and how these factors affect the dynamics of their lives. You may refer to course readings, lectures, and/or outside literature of your choosing. The goal of this assignment is to help develop your sociological imagination when it comes to understanding gender and sexuality in our culture. A proposal (due by the end of week seven) where you submit your choice of media and research probes will be worth five of the total 30 points for the assignment. More specific guidelines are provided on Canvas. Here are some good media examples:

- *Pose (show)\** - gender identity, sexualities, race, class
- *Sex & the City (show)* - sexual practices, gender, class
- *The Sopranos (show)* - masculinities, ethnicity, family
- *Moonlight (film)* - masculinities, sexualities, race
- *But I'm a Cheerleader (film)* - sexualities, gender roles, homophobia
- *The Danish Girl (film)* - gender identity, gender confirmation, representation
- *Revolutionary Road (film)* - gender roles, relationships, reproductive rights

\*If you select Pose, the pilot episode we viewed for week two does not count as an episode -- you must select three new episodes to view for your analysis.

## **GRADING BREAKDOWN**

Reading responses: 40%

*Pose* reflection: 10%

Midterm presentation: 20%

Final paper: 30% (5% will come from paper proposal)

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1: Theorizing Gender & Sexualities**

Getting acclimated with the course (directions in Canvas announcements)

### **Week 2: Feminisms & Intersectionality**

*Pose* reflection due

### **Week 3: Sexual Identity**

Reading response due

### **Week 4: Bigotry & Language**

Reading response due

### **Week 5: Masculinities**

Reading response due

Midterm due Friday, February 4th by 11:59 pm

### **Week 6: Sex & Relationships**

Reading response due

### **Week 7: Bodily Autonomy**

Reading response due

Paper proposal due by Friday, May 13 by 11:59 pm

## **Week 8: Gender & Sexualities in the Workplace**

Reading response due

## **Week 9: Transnational Perspectives**

Reading response due

## **Week 10: Gender & Sexualities in the Media**

Reading response due

Final paper due by Friday, March 24th by 11:59 pm.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

*Note on course content:* Readings and discussions for this course will cover controversial topics related to bodies, pornography, sex work, sexual assault, gender minority (e.g. transgender and non-binary) and sexual minority (e.g. gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer) identities and experiences, intersections with racial inequalities, and other topics related to gender and sexualities that some students may be uncomfortable reading and discussing. If you have concerns about the course content generally or any specific topics we may cover, please reach out to me.

*Climate:* No hate speech or intimidation will be tolerated.

*Assignment submissions:* Submit all assignments via corresponding discussion boards or assignment Dropboxes on Canvas. Please avoid emailing these materials to me unless there is an extenuating circumstance.

*Late work:* If you anticipate having an issue completing a course requirement by the due date, please email me so we can discuss an extension. A firm deadline will be held for the final paper due to university grading deadlines.

*Communications:* I will regularly communicate with the class via Canvas announcements. In emails to me, place the title of the course in the subject line and sign your emails using your first and last name. Use the email addresses on the first page of the syllabus. I will generally respond to emails within 48 hours.

*Plagiarism:* If you use a direct quote (i.e. someone else's words), you must include it in quotation marks and cite the source, including author(s) name(s), the date of publication, and the page number. If you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source, including author(s) name(s) and the date of publication. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment.

*Students with disabilities:* Students with disabilities who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the PSU Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) and the instructor at the beginning of the term to arrange accommodations. The DRC is located in 435 Smith and can be contacted at 725-4150 or by email at [drc@pdx.edu](mailto:drc@pdx.edu). Visit their website at <http://www.pdx.edu/drc>.

*Title IX reporting:* As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. As a member of the university community, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals at <http://www.pdx.edu/sexualassault/get-help> or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module Creating a Safe Campus in your D2L.

Advocates are located in the following locations:

- [Women's Resource Center](#) (serving all genders)
  - Smith Memorial Student Union 1825 SW Broadway, Suite 439
- Mena: [Queer Resource Center](#)
  - Smith Memorial Student Union 1825 SW Broadway, Suite 458
- Michelle Lee: [Diversity & Multicultural Services](#)
  - Smith Memorial Student Union 1825 SW Broadway, Suite 425
- Yoko Honda: [International Student Services](#) (serving international students)
  - Karl Miller Building Suite 660M, 615 SW Harrison St
- Yolonda Salguiero: [Native American Student and Community Center](#)
  - 710 SW Jackson St.