Course Description

This course examines the ways in which social constructions of gender both influence and are influenced by the cultural organization of and individual expressions of sexuality. The course explores the intersections among sexuality, culture, gender, and the body and examines a variety of sexualities and emphasizes the multifaceted nature of power, privilege, and oppression.

Course Goals

1. To gain an understanding of how a variety of concepts, theories, and methods are used to explain social life in general and gender and sexualities in particular using a sociological approach.
2. To acquire knowledge about a wide variety of topics related to gender and sexualities, with a focus on culture, the family, the economy, and the state.
3. To obtain the information and develop the critical thinking skills needed to form opinions and make informed choices about issues related to gender and sexualities.

Required Readings

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Writing assignments (30% of course grade): You will complete a total of ten short writing assignments in which you reflect on the readings using guiding questions. Each assignment must be 300-500 words (approximately one double spaced page). There are twenty possible assignments; you may choose which ten you completed (see course outline for dates). It is expected that you will complete five assignments by the end of week five. All assignments must be submitted online via D2L 30 minutes before the start of class on the day they are due. Late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments not receiving full credit cannot be revised.

In-class assignments (30% of course grade): We will regularly have in-class assignments. These will consist of small group discussions and individual writing assignments. The dates of assignments will not be announced in advance. If you arrive late to class or leave early and miss part of an assignment, you will receive partial credit. If you arrive late or leave early and miss the entire assignment, you will receive no credit. Assignments cannot be made up. Assignments not receiving full credit cannot be revised. The two lowest assignment grades will be dropped.

Exams (40% of course grade): There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. Each exam will be worth 20% of the course grade. The exams will include the material covered in readings, videos, lectures, and discussions. The final exam is not cumulative. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions only. You will have the option of earning extra credit for the exams by participating in an online review for the exam. You will need a Scantron, form 882-E (sold at both the bookstore and at the university market in the Smith Center) and a #2 pencil for the exams. If you need to take an exam at an alternative time, notify me in advance. If you miss an exam without notifying me in advance, you may make up the exam but will be penalized 5 points (waived only in extreme extenuating circumstances). Midterm exams must be made up within one week; final exams must be made up by the end of finals week.

Extra Credit: You have the option of creating a mini-documentary that tells a “gender story.” The extra credit assignment is worth up to 5 points towards your course grade. The instructor and course TA must receive an email with a working link to the video by Friday November 23 at 5pm. Late assignments will not be accepted.
POLICIES

D2L: The instructor will post the syllabus, lecture slides, and other course materials online. All writing assignments will be submitted via the Dropbox feature of D2L. The instructor will also post grades for all assignments on D2L.

Email: The instructor and TA regularly communicate with the class via PSU email so be sure that you are receiving the emails. If you prefer, you can arrange to have your PSU email forwarded to another email address. It is your responsibility to check your email daily during the school week and respond in a timely manner. In emails to the instructor and TA, please put 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. The instructor and TA will generally respond to email within 24 hours. Emails sent after 5:00pm on Friday will generally be answered by 5:00pm on Monday.

Academic Honesty: You are expected to demonstrate complete academic honesty. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code for more detailed information on PSU policies. Cheating or plagiarizing will result in failing the assignment or the course and will be reported.

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. Visit their site at www.pdx.edu/uasc/drc.

Classroom Conduct: You must demonstrate the highest level of respect for your peers and for the instructor. All points of view will be welcomed and respected; however, statements or behaviors that are disrespectful towards individuals or groups will not be tolerated. Behaviors that are distracting to your peers and to the instructor are not acceptable (e.g. coming in late, packing up or leaving early, using cell phones, and having side conversations). The instructor generally does not allow the use of laptops in class. If you have a compelling reason for needing a laptop, see the instructor to request permission.

Guests in class: The instructor does not allow people under age 18 to attend class. If you would like to bring a guest to class who is over 18, please ask the instructor in advance.

Cancelled Classes: In the case of inclement weather or other emergencies, please refer to the PSU web page: http://www.pdx.edu/. In the event that the instructor has to cancel class, she will email the class as soon as possible. If neither the instructor nor TA have arrived to class 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, consider class cancelled for the day. If class is cancelled for any reason, you are still expected to submit your discussion questions via email.

Absences: In the event you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to ask a classmate for notes, announcements, and any other missed material. If you have any questions after you have checked with a classmate, please see the instructor or TA before or after class or during office hours.
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (September 24, 26, 28)

Due Wednesday (assignment #1)
- “Night to His Day”: The Social Construction of Gender, Judith Lorber Pp. 33
- The Medical Construction of Gender, Suzanne Kessler Pp. 49

Due Friday (assignment #2)
- “My Strength Is Not for Hurting”: Men's Anti-Rape Websites and Their Construction of Masculinity and Male Sexuality, N. Tatiana Masters Pp. 398

Week 2 (October 1, 3, 5)

Due Wednesday (assignment #3)
- White Privilege and Male Privilege, Peggy McIntosh Pp. 11

Due Friday (assignment #4)
- Transgender Feminism: Queering the Woman Question, Susan Stryker Pp. 63
- Theorizing Difference from Multiracial Feminism, Maxine Baca Zinn and Bonnie Thornton Dill Pp. 70
- Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Feminism but Were Afraid to Ask, Rachel Fudge [http://bitchmagazine.org/article/everything-about-feminism](http://bitchmagazine.org/article/everything-about-feminism)

Week 3 (October 8, 10, 12)

Due Wednesday (assignment #5)

Due Friday (assignment #6)
- Girls and Boys Together...But Mostly Apart: Gender Arrangements in Elementary Schools, Barrie Thorne Pp. 167
Week 4 (October 15, 17, 19)

Due Wednesday (assignment #7)
• “We Don't Sleep Around Like White Girls Do”: Family, Culture, and Gender in Filipina American Lives, Yen Le Espiritu Pp. 178
• Is Hooking Up Bad for Young Women?, Elizabeth A. Armstrong, Laura Hamilton, and Paula England Pp. 301
• Straight Girls Kissing, Leila J. Rupp and Verta Taylor Pp. 305

Due Friday (assignment #8)
• Shopping for Love: Online Dating and the Making of a Cyber Culture of Romance, Sophia DeMasi Pp. 295
• Only you. And You. And You., Jessica Bennett

Week 5 (October 22, 24, 26)

Due Wednesday (assignment #9)
• What if Marriage is Bad for Us? Laurie Essig and Lynn Owens Pp. 258

Due Friday (assignment #10)
• The Implications of a Turning Tide, Mary Bernstein
  http://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/2012/03/19/the-implications-of-a-turning-tide/#more-2001
• What’s Good for the Kids, Lisa Belkin
• Adoptions by Gay Couples Rise, Despite Barriers, Sabrina Tavernise

Note: by the end of week five you should have completed five writing assignments
Week 6 (October 29, 31, November 2)

Due Monday
- The mid-term exam is Monday October 29

Due Wednesday (assignment #11)
- Loose Lips Sink Ships, Simone Weil Davis Pp. 349
- Benefits of Circumcision Are Said to Outweigh Risks, Roni Caryn Rabin

Due Friday (assignment #12)

Week 7 (November 5, 7, 9)

Due Wednesday (assignment #13)
- Hair Still Matters, Ingrid Banks Pp. 142
- Do Women Like Men That Cleanshaven?, Catherine Saint Louise

Due Friday (assignment #14)
- Cosmetic Surgery: Paying for Your Beauty, Debra Gimlin Pp. 128

Week 8 (November 14, 16)

Note: No class Monday November 12

Due Wednesday (assignment #15)
- An Abortion Battle, Fought to the Death, David Barstow

Due Friday (assignment #16)
- Beyond Pro-Choice versus Pro-Life: Women of Color and Reproductive Justice, Andrea Smith Pp. 372
Week 9 (November 19, 21, 23)

Due Wednesday (assignment #17)
- Sex Segregation in the U.S. Labor Force, Christine E. Bose and Rachel Bridges Whaley Pp. 197

Due Friday (assignment #18)
- The Managed Hand: The Commercialization of Bodies and Emotions in Korean Immigrant-Owned Nail Salons, Miliann Kang Pp. 207
- Why We Need to Reimagine Masculinity, Andrew Romano and Tony Dokoupil

Note: Extra credit assignments due Friday November 23 by 5pm

Week 10 (November 26, 28, 30)

Due Wednesday (assignment #19)
- Poverty in America: Why Can’t We End It?, Peter Edelman

Due Friday (assignment #20)
- U.S. Imprisons One in 100 Adults, Report Finds, Adam Liptak
- Justices, 5-4, Tell California to Cut Prisoner Population, Adam Liptak

Final exam: Monday December 3 12:30-2:20