Sociology 344U
GENDER AND SEXUALITIES
Spring 2012
MWF 11:30 to 12:35
Engineering Building 102

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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 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 (see course outline for dates). Each exam will be worth 20% of the course grade. The exams will include the material covered in readings, videos, lectures, and discussions. 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 completing up to three extra credit assignments throughout the quarter (see course outline for dates). For each of these assignments, you will watch a documentary outside of class and then write a response paper in which you reflect on the documentary. Each extra credit assignment should be 800-1000 words (approximately two to three double spaced pages). Each extra credit assignment is worth up to 3 points towards your course grade. All assignments must be submitted online by the due date by 5pm. Late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments not receiving full credit cannot be revised.
POLICIES

D2L: I will post the syllabus, guidelines for assignments, lecture notes, and other course material to D2L. I will also post grades for all assignments using the gradebook feature. Grades will generally be posted within one week. You will use D2L to submit writing assignments and optional extra credit assignments, participate in online discussions, and check your grades.

Email: I regularly communicate with the class via PSU email so be sure you are receiving my emails. It is your responsibility to check your PSU email daily during the school week and respond in a timely manner. In emails to me or the course TA, use the email addresses listed on the first page of the syllabus, put the title of the course in the subject line, and sign your emails using your first and last name. The TA and I 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: I expect 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: I insist that you demonstrate the highest level of respect for your peers and for me. 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 me are not acceptable (e.g. coming in late, packing up or leaving early, using cell phones, using laptops for anything other than taking notes, and having side conversations). I will allow the use of laptops for note-taking only. If you choose to use a laptop, please sit in the back of the classroom. If the use of laptops becomes a problem, I will revise this policy.

Guests in Class: I do 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 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 I have to cancel class I will email the class as soon as possible. If I don’t arrive to class 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, consider class cancelled for the day.

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 me before or after class or during office hours.
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (April 2, 4, 6)

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 (April 9, 11, 13)

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

Week 3 (April 16, 18, 20)

Due Wednesday (assignment #5)
- Hetero-Romantic Love and Heterosexiness in Children's G-Rated Films, Karin A. Martin and Emily Kazyak Pp. 153

Due Friday (assignment #6)
- Girls and Boys Together...But Mostly Apart: Gender Arrangements in Elementary Schools, Barrie Thorne Pp. 167
Week 4 (April 23, 25, 27)

Due Monday
• The first optional extra credit assignment is due Monday by 5pm

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 (April 30, May 2, 4)

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

Note: by the end of week five you should have completed five writing assignments
Week 6 (May 7, 9, 11)

Due Monday
- The mid-term exam is Monday May 7

Due Wednesday (assignment #11)
- Sex Segregation in the U.S. Labor Force, Christine E. Bose and Rachel Bridges Whaley Pp. 197

Due Friday (assignment #12)
- 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 http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2010/09/20/why-we-need-to-reimagine-masculinity.html

Week 7 (May 14, 16, 18)

Due Wednesday (assignment #13)

Due Friday (assignment #14)
- Loose Lips Sink Ships, Simone Weil Davis Pp. 349

Week 8 (May 21, 23, 25)

Due Monday
- The second optional extra credit assignment is due Monday by 5pm

Due Wednesday (assignment #15)
- Cosmetic Surgery: Paying for Your Beauty, Debra Gimlin Pp. 128

Due Friday (assignment #16)
- Hair Still Matters, Ingrid Banks Pp. 142
Week 9 (May 30, June 1)

Note: No class Monday May 28

Due Wednesday (assignment #17)
- Feminist Consumerism and Fat Activists: Grassroots Activism and the Dove ‘Real Beauty’ Campaign, Judy Taylor Pp. 115

Due Friday (assignment #18)
- Eating Disorders in Straight and Gay Men

Week 10 (June 4, 6, 8)

Due Wednesday (assignment #19)
- Beyond Pro-Choice versus Pro-Life: Women of Color and Reproductive Justice, Andrea Smith Pp. 372
- An Abortion Battle, Fought to the Death, David Barstow

Due Friday (assignment #20)
- Violence Against Girls Provokes Girls' Violence: From Private Injury to Public Harm, Laurie Schaffner Pp. 386
- U.S. Imprisons One in 100 Adults, Report Finds, Adam Liptak
- Justices, 5-4, Tell California to Cut Prisoner Population, Adam Liptak
- Last optional credit assignment due Friday by 5pm

Final exam: Thursday June 14 12:30-2:20
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GUIDELINES FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

TASK

Write a response to the readings using the guiding questions I pose. Guiding questions can be found for each assignment on D2L. 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).

SOURCES

For writing assignments, the only required sources are the reading(s) referenced in the guiding question. Give the author’s last name in the text once to indicate which reading you are discussing. Provide page numbers for quotes. You may draw on course readings or outside sources; however, drawing on outside sources is strongly discouraged. You should only incorporate outside sources if it enhances your response. Any sources that you consult should be cited. Any time you take a direct quote, as well as when you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported. You must include a references section at the end of the paper only if you use sources other than the course readings.

COMPONENTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

For each assignment, I will pose one or more guiding questions. Thoroughly answer all the questions posed. Use examples and quotes to support your answer (in this short paper, limit your use of quotes and use only short quotes). Note that your personal experiences or reactions are not appropriate for a sociological analysis. Assignments should show clear and concise writing and appropriate proofreading; assignments will not receive full credit if they show significant problems with grammar, spelling, word use, typos, and/or awkward sentences.

See the sample student papers online for further guidance on completing the assignment.

FORMATTING

- Times New Roman, size 12 font
- One inch margins all around, paragraphs indented half an inch
- All double spaced with no extra blank lines
- Heading in upper right corner (name, date, assignment name)
- Page number in bottom right corner
- Minimum of 300 words, maximum of 500 words
GRADING

Your assignment will be graded on the following criteria: (1) Fully answer the question(s) posed; (2) Use the required number of examples and/or references to the readings; (3) Use appropriate proofreading and editing; (4) Write a minimum of 300 words and a maximum of 500 words. You will receive very brief written comments on writing assignments; however, you may meet individually with the course TA any time during the quarter to discuss the assignments.

DUE DATES AND SUBMITTING THE ASSIGNMENTS

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. If you are having technical difficulties submitting your assignment online, you may email your assignment to the course TA. It must be received by the due date and time to receive credit.

Note: All assignments should be typed in a word processing document. When submitting your assignments, attach your document and copy and paste your assignment into the submission field.
GUIDELINES FOR EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS

TASK

For each extra credit assignment, choose one of the documentaries listed below. Write an 800-1000 words paper (approximately two to three double spaced pages) in which you provide a critical analysis of the film. Each successfully completed assignment will raise your course grade by three points. Note that you may complete up to three extra credit assignments throughout the quarter.

SOURCES

For extra credit assignments, the source is the documentary you choose to view. Give the title of the film in the text once to indicate which film you are discussing. Use quotation marks if you use quotes (in this short paper, limit your use of quotes and use only short quotes). You may draw on course readings or outside sources; however, drawing on outside sources is strongly discouraged. You should only incorporate outside sources if it enhances your analysis. Any sources that you consult should be cited. Any time you take a direct quote, as well as when you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported. You must include a references section at the end of the paper only if you use sources other than the documentary and course readings.

Documentaries:
- Transgeneration Episodes 1-6
- This Film Is Not Yet Rated
- The Celluloid Closet
- Paris Is Burning
- Beauty in a Jar
- Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community
- After Stonewall
- 8: The Mormon Proposition
- Tying the Knot
- Pleasure for Sale
- MiddleSexes: Redefining He and She warning: graphic!
- Live Nude Girls Unite! warning: graphic!
- The Business of Being Born warning: graphic!
- Southern Comfort (PSU Library HQ1075 .S5948 2003 DVD)
- Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity (PSU library BF692.5 .T68 2002 DVD)
- Maid in America (PSU Library HD6072.2.U52 L676 2004 DVD)
Documentaries (continued):

- **Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making us Sick?** Part 1 (PSU Library RA448.4 .U63 2008 DVD)
- **Still Doing It: The Intimate Lives of Women over 65** (PSU library HQ29 .S75 2004 DVD)
- **Frontline: “The Age of AIDS”** (Part 2) (online: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/view/)
- **Frontline: “American Porn”** warning: graphic! (online: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/view/)
- **“Excluded: Immigration Struggles of a Gay, Bi-National Couple”** (online: www.ExcludedTheMovie.com)

**COMPONENTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

State the title of the film in the text of your assignment. Then provide a short summary of the film in which you briefly state the main issues addressed or the main argument of the film. The summary of the film should be not more than two sentences. The remainder of the paper should consist of analysis of the film.

I suggest you choose a few of the following questions to explore:

- What were the strongest points or arguments made? What made them persuasive? What evidence was used? (Be sure you are not simply summarizing points from the film.)
- What were the weakest points or arguments made? Why were they not persuasive? What was lacking from the evidence provided? What kind of evidence might have been more useful?
- How did this film relate to material we have covered in this course?
- What are the policy implications of this film? What might activists learn from this film and how might that shape their political strategies?
- To what degree does the documentary reflect the political views of the filmmaker? Were multiple or opposing viewpoints presented in the film? Does the filmmaker adequately address these viewpoints?
- Was this a “feminist” film? Why or why not? Be clear about how you are defining feminism.

The purpose of the extra credit assignment is to provide an original and critical analysis rather than a summary of documentary. Assignments that include only summary of the film will not receive full credit. Use examples and quotes to support the points of your analysis. In this two to three page paper, keep quotes short. Note that your personal experiences or reactions are not appropriate for a sociological analysis. Assignments should provide in-depth analysis and fully explain all ideas. It is best to choose just a few points to make rather than make superficial comments on many topics. Assignments should show clear and concise writing and appropriate proofreading; assignments will not receive full credit if they show significant problems with grammar, spelling, word use, typos, and/or awkward sentences.

See sample student papers online for further guidance on completing the assignment.
FORMATTING

- Times New Roman, size 12 font
- One inch margins all around
- Paragraphs indented half an inch
- All double spaced with no extra blank lines
- Heading in upper right corner (name, date, assignment name)
- Page number in bottom right corner
- Minimum of 800 words, maximum of 1000 words

GRADING

Your assignment will be graded on the following criteria: (1) Choose a few points to address and fully discuss those points. Note: you may choose to discuss a few of the guiding questions above or address other topics; (2) Write a critical analysis rather than a summary of the film. *Note: the most common reason students do not get full credit is that the response is primarily summary rather than analysis*; (3) Use specific examples and references to the film; (4) Use appropriate proofreading and editing; (5) Write a minimum of 800 words and a maximum of 1000 words. You will receive very brief written comments on writing assignments; however, you may meet individually with the course TA any time during the quarter to discuss the assignments.

DUE DATES AND SUBMITTING THE ASSIGNMENTS

See course outline for due dates. All assignments must be submitted online by the due date by 5pm. Late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments not receiving full credit cannot be revised. If you are having technical difficulties submitting your assignment online, you may email your assignment to the course TA. It must be received by the due date and time to receive credit.