



Sexuality and Culture

ANTH-263-WB11-2016
Online
Syllabus

with
Dr. Nikki Lane

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Digital Office Hours: Monday
12pm-3pm or by appointment

Course Description and Overview

From course catalogue: An overview of sexuality from an anthropological perspective, looking at aspects of sexuality within our own culture and in cultures around the world. Course topics include the biology and culture of sex, gender, physical attraction, sexual orientation, marriage and mating taboos, fertility control, sexually transmitted diseases, and commercial aspects of sex.

This course is guided by the idea that beliefs about sexuality and sexual practices is one of the most fundamental aspects of cultural experience and knowledge. Anthropologists have always been interested in the body, social identities, and human relationships of which sexuality becomes a profound aspect of understanding the connections between these ideas.

In this course, students will explore the anthropological study of sexuality through a range of cross-cultural case studies and through engagement with foundational theoretical texts about sex, sexuality, and gender. Throughout the course, students will be challenged to problematize "common sense" ideas regarding femininity and masculinity, relations between genders, and gender and sexual binaries rooted in Western notions of the sexed body.

Intended Student Learning Outcomes

1. By the end of this course, students will be able to:
2. Analyze the ideological underpinnings of sexuality in a pop cultural formation within its unique geographic, socio-cultural, historical, and political contexts.
3. Explain how sexuality is connected to other forms of human experience such as race, gender, and class.
4. Put to use an anthropological "toolkit" for studying human sexuality

Course Expectations

1. **Course Format:** Intense, asynchronous, self-guided, online
 2. **Intense:** This course is designed to give you roughly 15 weeks of instruction in only 3 weeks. That makes the course intense. To keep up, you will need to read and check-in to the course daily.
 3. **Asynchronous:** There are no synchronous class meetings in this course which means we will not be meeting together as a class in any online meeting space. Instead, you will have opportunities to work collaboratively with members of a randomly assigned reading group. Two of these collaborations are required.
 4. **Self-Guided:** There are 3 modules in this course, each corresponding to one of the three weeks during which the course runs. For example, during the first week (Jan 4-Jan 10), you will complete Module 1. Each module contains short recorded lectures and a carefully cultivated group of essays, multimedia, and readings from your core text book, Sex Matters that you will be responsible for reviewing. There are also assignments in each module which are due by Sunday at 10pm. During the final Module there is a Final Exam.
 5. **Online:** All course activities will take place online in either MyElms or Google (Drive or Hangouts).
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Academic Integrity

Expectations of Academic Integrity apply to all activities in this course. If you are suspected and/or found to be in violation of the code, the professor will, without hesitation, forward the case to the Dean to seek sanctions.

Please review the Code of Academic Integrity and email me if you have any questions about the academic violations described in the code in general or as they relate to particular requirements for the course: <http://www.shc.umd.edu>

CITATIONS

For all written assignments in this class, you must cite a source if that source is (1) quoted directly, (2) consulted regarding dates, "facts," and figures, or (3) paraphrased (i.e. their idea in your own words).

It is imperative that when paraphrasing and "reworking" material found in sources that you demonstrate your critical thinking and analytic skills by drawing from other people's work to develop your own ideas and to support your own thesis. If you need help determining whether you're doing this properly, please do not hesitate to ask the professor.

Follow the Chicago Manual 16th Style Author-Date format for citations.

Other services that may be helpful for you throughout the semester include:

The Writing Center

Counseling Center

Office Hours and General Support Academic Support Services

If you have any questions about course content, experience trouble with assigned readings, or need help with written assignments, please see me during digital office hours held via Skype and Google Hangout. I am committed to you being successful in this course, and am committed to helping you be successful throughout your collegiate experience. If you require any help, please think of me as a resource and call on me accordingly.

Students who are clients of Disability Support Services have the responsibility of requesting services through DSS at the beginning of each semester. Once documentation is obtained and shared with me, I am committed to ensuring that you have the accommodations you require.

For more information about registering with UMD Disability Support Services

Phone: 301.314.7682

Office: 0106 Shoemaker Building

Email: Dissup@umd.edu

Office Hours: Mon-Fri (8:30am to 4:30pm)

Tentative Course Schedule

For a full list of material you are responsible for reviewing each week, see the corresponding Module's page on MyElms.

Module 1 – Defining the Terms (Available Jan 3)

1. Why is sexuality so complicated?
2. What's the difference between sex and gender?
3. How do we "do gender"?
4. What is sexual identity?
5. How do researchers study sexuality and culture?

Module 2 – Representing Sex (Available Jan 10)

6. How is sexuality related to other modes of social difference?
7. How are race, gender, and sexuality related?
8. Wait... people with disabilities have sex too?
9. How do we teach people about sex?
10. Is it just me... or is everyone watching porn?

Module 3 – "Normal" Sex? (Available Jan 17)

11. What is consent and why does it matter?
12. What are ways that we regulate sex in the U.S.?
13. What is "sex work"?
14. What happens to our sexuality as we age?

Work Load

Each week, you are to review the content of each module thoroughly ensuring that you have a strong grasp of the main ideas and arguments of each reading and are familiar with the significance of any media assigned. Each module is broken down into 4-5 units. You can expect 2-3 key readings per unit along with key multimedia to review. The readings are typically very short (5-10 pages), the lectures and multimedia I ask you to review are also short.

In total, you should expect to need about 12-15 hours a week to complete the course materials. You can break this down however you want (i.e. 5 days, 2-3 hours a day; 3 days, 4-5 hours per day), but the most important thing to remember is that you need A PLAN.

About Module Progression

1. You must complete each unit (and mark it done in MyElms) in order to move on to the next unit.
2. You must complete all the assignments and activities in each each module in order to move on to the next.
3. You cannot "skip ahead." This means when you're finished with a module, you'll need to wait until the next one becomes available before moving forward. This is to ensure that everyone remains on "the same page."

What you Need

Purchase or rent a digital copy of the text book:

Sex Matters: The Sexuality and Society Reader - 4th Edition

All other materials are provided on MyElms.umd.edu.

All lectures, texts, and multimedia are "fair game" for the Final Exam and should be drawn upon and engaged (i.e. referenced) in your assignments.

Assessment Assignments and Point Value

Course Assignments/ Requirements

1. Writing Assignments (2) - 25%
2. Reading Group Assignments (2) - 25%
Includes Peer Assessment scores for Reading Group
3. Participation - 10%
All activities marked "Required"
4. Final Exam - 40%

Grading Scale

100 | A+
95 and less than 100 | A
90 and less than 95 | A-
85 and less than 90 | B+
83 and less than 85 | B
80 and less than 83 | B-
75 and less than 80 | C+
70 and less than 75 | C
65 and less than 70 | C-
60 and less than 65 | D
less than 60 | F

Late assignments will incur a 50% reduction in final score.

Please check your schedules for travel, work, and other courses. If there are conflicts or potential conflicts, please bring this to the attention of the professor immediately so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Assignments

All assignments have a full, detailed assignment sheet and rubric associated with them and will be published on the course website. Please review and follow the directions given in the assignment sheets and use the associated rubrics to guide your preparation of your assignments.

All assignments will be returned within 7 days of receipt, unless noted otherwise.

Writing Assignments

There are **two short writing assignments (between 1-2pgs)** in this course.

Reading Group Assignments

You have been randomly assigned to a reading group through MyElms. To learn who is in your group and to collaborate with them through MyElms, log in, navigate to People > Groups > Visit Group Page. Your group will complete two short assignments, each housed within the "Discussions" area in Elms. The first is due at the end of Week 1. The second at the end of Week 2. You will also fill out a Confidential Self and Peer Assessment due at the end of Week 2.

Participation

Throughout the course there are required activities. For example, you are required to complete the Academic Integrity module and complete an Orientation Quiz at the end of the Orientation module. These are activities that will count toward your grade based on a "Pass/Fail" (100/0) scale.

Final Exam

The Final Exam for this course is due by Friday 10pm on January 22nd. You will have 2.5 hours to take it. It includes 10 short answer questions (5-7 sentences) and one "Oral Essay" question. The Oral Essay question requires that you respond to a prompt by recording yourself giving a roughly 3-5 minute response. You will turn in both the 3-5 minute response and the notes you prepare for answering the question.

The End.

Designed by Nikki Lane

