
Debating Controversial Issues in Sexuality

CLASS DESCRIPTION

This course introduces four theoretical perspectives on sexuality: biological (sexuality is a matter of sexual bodies and chemistry), psychological (sexuality is a matter of mental states and processes), social constructionist (sexuality is a cultural and historical product), and conflict (sexuality is a contested arena in which different groups vie for power). With these perspectives in mind, we explore four broad questions: How should we regulate sexual behavior? What is sexual consent? Who's responsible for the fact that sex makes babies? And, what is good sex?

REQUIRED READING

A Writer's Reference, by Diana Hacker. Available at the Occidental College Bookstore.

They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing, by Gerald Graff & Cathy Birkenstein. Available at the Occidental College Bookstore.

Sexuality Now: Embracing Diversity (4th edition), by Janell L. Carroll. Available at the Occidental College Bookstore.

Course Reader. Available electronically on Moodle.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Assignment	Points	Percent of Grade
Attendance and Participation:	75	7.5 %
Homework:	75	7.5 %
Field Notes:	200	20 %
First Analytical Essay:	125	15 %
Second Analytical Essay:	125	15 %
Third Analytical Essay:	125	15 %
Final Paper:	250	25 %
Final Exam:	25	2.5 %
Total:	1000	100 %

COURSE SCHEDULE

Monday, January 23rd – Welcome and Introductions

Colloquia: Welcome and an Introduction to the Course

Section: Introductions

Wednesday, January 25th – Introduction to the Research Project

Colloquia: Hook Up Culture

Reading

- Heldman & Wade, *Hook Up Culture*
- Wade & Heldman, *Hooking Up and Opting Out*

Section: Discussion of Hook Up Culture

Friday, January 27th – Introduction to the Research Project

Colloquia: On Ethnography

Reading

- Hamilton, *Trading on Heterosexuality*

Section: Field Note Exercises

Homework: • Pay Attention!

Perspectives on Sexuality

Monday, January 30th – Perspectives on Sexuality: A Biological Approach

Colloquia: Sexual Anatomy and Physiology (Wade)

Reading:

- Carroll Ch. 2, pp. 31-32 (start at “Biological Theory,” stop at “Sociological Theories”)
- Carroll Ch. 5, pp. 106-132
- Carroll Ch. 6, pp. 134-153
- Carroll Ch. 10, pp. 236-248 (stop at “Solitary Sexual Behavior”)

Section: Discussion of Ethnographic Observations

Wednesday, February 1st – Perspectives on Sexuality: A Biological Approach

Colloquia: Gender and Sexual Orientation (Wade)

Reading:

- Carroll, Ch. 11, pp. 268-275 (stop at “Developmental Theories”)

Section: Discussion

Due:

- Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)

Friday, February 3rd – All-Frosh Lecture

Colloquia: Dr. Leo Chavez in Thorne

Section: None

Monday, February 6th – Perspectives on Sexuality: A Psychological Approach

Colloquia: Guest Lecture, Dale Chapman

Reading:

- Carroll Ch. 4, pp. 78-100 (stop at “Gender Role Socialization Throughout the Life Span”)
- Laden, *The Natural Basis for Gender Inequality*
- Diamond, *Intersexuality*

Section: Feedback on Field Notes

Wednesday, February 8th – Perspectives on Sexuality: A Psychological Approach

Colloquia: Guest Lecture, Brett Wheeler

Reading:

- Carroll Ch. 2, pp. 26-31 (stop at “Biological Theory”)
- Carroll Ch. 11, pp. 275-277 (start at “Developmental Theories,” stop at “Sociological Theories”)
- Steinem, *Womb Envy, Testyria, and Breast Castration Anxiety*

Section: Discussion

Friday, February 10th – Perspectives on Sexuality: A Social Constructionist Approach

Colloquia: The Social Construction of Sex (Wade)

Reading:

- Carroll Ch. 2, pp. 32-33 (start at “Sociological Theories,” stop at “Feminist Theory”)
- Carroll Ch. 1, pp. 1-19 (stop at “The 20th Century: Sexual Crusaders and Sexologists”)
- Carroll Ch. 7, pp. 167-171 (start at “Adult Love and Intimacy,” stop at “Long-Term Love and Commitment”)
- Carroll Ch. 9, pp. 206-218 (stop at “Same Sex Relationships”)

Section: Writing Workshop, Concision

Due:

- Homework, 1,000-Word Essay
- Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)

Monday, February 13th – Perspectives on Sexuality: A Social Constructionist Approach

- Colloquia: The Social Construction of Gender and Sexual Orientation (Heldman)
- Reading: • Carroll Ch. 4, pp. 100-104 (start at “Gender Role Socialization Throughout the Life Span”)
 • Carroll Ch. 11, pp. 277-282 (start at “Sociological Theories,” stop at “Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals Throughout the Life Cycle”)
 • Fausto-Sterling, *Dueling Dualisms*
- Section: Writing Workshop, Academic Sources
- Reading: • Graff & Birkenstein Introduction
 • Graff & Birkenstein Ch. 1
- Due: • Homework, 500-Word Essay

Wednesday, February 15th – Perspectives on Sexuality: A Conflict Approach

- Colloquia: Sexism and Homophobia (Heldman)
- Reading: • Carroll Ch. 2, pp. 32-34 (start at “Feminist Theory,” stop at “Sexuality Research”)
 • Carroll Ch. 11, pp. 288-294 (start at “Homophobia and Heterosexism”)
 • Carroll Ch. 1, pp. 19-24 (start at “The 20th Century: Sexual Crusaders and Sexologists”)
 • Marcus, *Fighting Bodies, Fighting Words*
 • Heldman & Cahill, *The Beast of Beauty Culture*
 • Moore, *Sperm, the Lovable Character in Facts of Life Books*
- Section: Film, *Miss Representation*
- Due: • Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)

Friday, February 17th – In-Class Writing Exercise

- Colloquia: In-Class Writing Exercise
- Section: None

Monday, February 20th – NO CLASS (President’s Day)

Wednesday, February 22nd – Perspectives on Sexuality: A Conflict Approach

- Colloquia: Sexuality, “Normality,” and “Deviance” (Heldman)
- Reading: • Carroll Ch. 16, pp. 434-447 (stop at “Pedophilia”)
 • Carroll Ch. 16, pp. 449-456 (start at “Other Paraphilias,” stop at “Sexual Variations”)
 • Tiefer, *Medicine, Morality, and the Public Management of Sexual Matters*

Section: Writing Workshop, Using Sources
Reading: • Graff & Birkenstein Ch. 2
 • Graff & Birkenstein Ch. 3
Due: • Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)

Friday, February 24th

Colloquia: Library Workshop (Location: oMac and Brown labs)
Section: None.

Monday February 27th – All-Frosh Lecture

Colloquia: Dr. Martha Dina Arguello in Thorne Hall
Section: None

Guiding Question: How Should We Regulate Sexual Behavior?

Wednesday, February 29th

Colloquia: Sexual Control and Freedom in American History (Wade)
Section: Discussion of Field Note Taking
Reading: • On Passive Voice
Due: • Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)

Friday, March 2nd

Colloquia: Thoughts on Legal Interventions in Sexuality (Wade)
Section: Writing Workshop, Editing
Reading: • Graff & Birkenstein Ch. 4
 • Graff & Birkenstein Ch. 5
 • Graff & Birkenstein Ch. 9
 • Graff & Birkenstein Ch. 10
Due: • Plagiarism Quiz

Monday, March 5th

Colloquia: Guest Lecturer, Norma Jean Almodovar
Reading: • Almodovar, *Rescued for Their Own Good*
Section: Discussion

Wednesday, March 7th

Colloquia: Guest Lecture, Liza Veale, *Against Prostitution*

- Reading:
- Carroll Ch. 18, pp. 508-518 (start at “Sex Work: Trading Sex for Monday”)
 - Giobbe, *Confronting the Liberal Lies About Prostitution*
 - Pateman, *What’s Wrong With Prostitution?*

Section: Discussion

- Due:
- Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)

Friday, March 9th

Colloquia: On Religious Control of Sexual Behavior (Heldman)

Section: Discussion

<p>SPRING BREAK</p>

Guiding Question: What is Sexual Consent?

Monday, March 19th

Colloquia: Guest Lecture: Stefanie Davis, *What Should be the Age of Consent?*

- Reading:
- Carroll Ch. 8, pp. 178-196 (stop at “What Children Need to Know”)
 - Carroll Ch. 16, pp. 447-449 (start at “Pedophilia,” stop at “Other Paraphilias”)
 - Carroll Ch. 17, pp. 479-484 (start at “Sexual Abuse of Children,” stop at “Intimate Partner Violence”)
 - Riegel, *The Real Evil Among Us*
 - Millett with Blasius, *Sexual Revolution and the Liberation of Children*

Section: Peer Editing

- Due:
- Thesis Statement and Two Copies of a Draft of Position Paper #1

Wednesday, March 21st

Colloquia: Guest Lecture, Dale Chapman

- Reading:
- Carroll Ch. 17, pp. 460-479 (stop at “Sexual Abuse of Children”)
 - Carroll Ch. 17, pp. 486-488 (start at “Sexual Harassment”)

Section: *The Line*

- Due:
- Position Paper #1
 - Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)
-

Friday, March 23rd

Colloquia: Guest Lecturer, Mistress Cyan

- Reading:
- squaddie John, *Irrevocable SM Slave Contracts*
 - Card, *Consensual Sadomasochism*

Section: Discussion

Monday, March 26th

Colloquia: Sexual Coercion (Heldman)

- Reading:
- Roiphe, *Date Rape's Other Victim*
 - Pollitt, *Not Just Bad Sex* (a reply to Roiphe)
 - MacKinnon, *Pleasure Under Patriarchy*
 - Herman, *Demands from the Women of Antioch*

Section: Discussion

Wednesday, March 28th

Colloquia: Guest Lecture: Andrea Kippur, *Sexual Assault at Occidental College*

- Reading:
- Occidental College Sexual Assault Policy

Section: Discussion

- Due:
- Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)
-

Guiding Question: Who's Responsible for the Fact that Sex Makes Babies?

Friday, March 30th

Colloquia: The Problem of Pregnancy (Wade)

- Reading:
- Carroll Ch. 13, pp. 332-365 (stop at "Abortion")

Section: Peer Editing

- Due:
- Thesis Statement and Two Copies of a Draft of Position Paper #2

Monday, April 2nd

Colloquia: Abortion: Select Films and Film Clips (Heldman)
Reading: • Carroll Ch. 13, pp. 365-372 (start at “Abortion”)

Section: Writing Workshop, Professors’ Pet Peeves
Readings: • Graff & Birkenstein Ch. 6
• Graff & Birkenstein Ch. 7
• Graff & Birkenstein Ch. 8
Due: • Position Paper #2

Wednesday, April 4th

Colloquia: The Contemporary Abortion Debate (Wade)
Reading: • Luker, *Motherhood and Morality in America*

Section: Discussion
Due: • Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)

Friday, April 6th

Colloquia: Guest Lecture: Lily Orcutt, *What Rights Should Fathers Have?*
Reading: Glenn & Thompson, *PA Case Raises Question of Choice for Fathers*

Section: Discussion

Monday, April 9th – All-Frosh Lecture

Colloquia: Dr. John Slaughter in Thorne Hall

Section: None

Wednesday, April 11th

Colloquia: Social Influences on Fertility (Wade)
Reading: • Brown & Ferree, *Close Your Eyes and Think of England*
• Collins, *Will the ‘Real’ Mother Please Stand Up?*
• Clarke, *Subtle Forms of Sterilization Abuse*

Section: Writing Workshop, Grammar Challenge
Due: • Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)

Guiding Question: What is Good Sex?

Friday, April 13th

Colloquia: Guest Lecture, Kristi Upson-Saia

- Reading:
- Rawson, *The Family in Ancient Rome*
 - Williams, *Roman Homosexuality*
 - Pauls' *First Letter to the Corinthian Community*

Section: Peer Editing

- Due:
- Thesis Statement and Two Copies of a Draft of Position Paper #3

Monday, April 16th

Colloquia: Sexual Pleasure (Wade)

- Reading:
- Carroll Ch. 10, pp. 248-261 (start at “Solitary Sexual Behavior,” stop at “Sexual Behavior Later in Life”)
 - Carroll Ch. 14, pp. 376-400
 - Koedt, *The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm*
 - Hines & Whipple, *Is The G-Spot A Myth?*

Section: Discussion

- Due:
- Position Paper #3

Wednesday, April 18th

Colloquia: Guest Lecture: Charlotte Strauss Swanson, *Does Porn Improve Your Sex Life?*

- Reading:
- Carroll Ch. 18, pp. 492-508 (stop at “Sex Work: Trading Sex for Money”)
 - Bader & Dent, *Is Pornography Really Harmful?*

Section: Discussion

- Due:
- Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)

Friday, April 20th

Guest Speaker, Adina Nack

- Reading:
- Carroll Ch. 10, pp. 263-265 (start at “Safer Sex Behaviors”)
 - Carroll Ch. 15, pp. 404-430
 - Nack, *Identity and Stigma of Women with STDs*

Section: Discussion

Monday, April 23rd

Colloquia: Film, *Still Doing It*

Reading: • Carroll Ch. 10, pp. 261-263 (start at “Sexual Behavior Later in Life,” stop at “Safer Sex Behaviors”)

Section: Discussion

Critical Thinking About Sexuality

Wednesday, April 25th

Colloquia: Navigating Your Sexual Landscape (Heldman)

Reading: • Jensen, *Pornography [what is sexuality for?]*

Section: Peer Editing

Due: • Thesis Statement and Two Copies of a Draft of Position Paper #4
• Field Notes (emailed to both Profs. before the beginning of Section)

Friday, April 27th

Colloquia: Writing Workshop, How to Write a Final Paper (Heldman)

Due: • Position Paper #4

Section: Cancelled for Extra Office Hours

Monday, April 30th

Colloquia: TBA

Section: Cancelled for Extra Office Hours

Wednesday, May 2nd

Colloquia: TBA

Section: Peer Editing

Due: • Thesis Statement and Two Copies of a Draft of your Final Paper

TBA – FINAL EXAM

Due: • Final Paper

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance and Participation

Your attendance and participation score is dependent on how consistently you attend both colloquia and section, how frequently you participate in class discussions, and the quality of your contribution. It includes, also:

Peer Review: You will be required to be a peer reviewer for the work of your peers. For each analytic essay and the final paper, you will give feedback on the theses and first drafts of up to four peers. Peer reviews are graded as no pass/pass/high pass (attendance is mandatory to get any credit for this work). Grades will be based on the reviewees evaluations of your review and modified at the instructors' discretion.

Pop Quizzes: Pop quizzes will occur in Colloquia. They will be graded pass/no pass.

Plagiarism Quiz: You will receive a take home quiz that will be graded pass/no pass.

Drafts of Thesis and Paper: For each analytic essay you write, and for the final paper, you are required to bring to Section a thesis and two copies of your first draft (in addition to the final draft submitted to the professor later). These will be graded pass/no pass.

Concision Exercise: For the concision exercise, you will write a 1,000-or-more word piece of writing that you will then cut down to 5,00-words-or-fewer. The writing and editing will occur outside of the classroom. It will be graded pass/no pass.

Field Notes

Each Wednesday you will submit by email a word document containing field notes for the week. Your field notes will consist of your observations of hook up culture. Grading for this assignment is high pass, pass, or fail. Notes that are awarded a high pass will be ones that reveal an unusually high degree of thoughtfulness, reflection, and attention to detail.

Evidence-Based Analytic Essays (you must write 3 of the 4)

Prompts: How do the issues brought up by one or more of the topics we have discussed in this section inform the question:

1. How should we control sexual behavior?
2. What is sexual consent?
3. Who is responsible for the fact that sex makes babies?
4. What is good sex?

Learning Goal:	To demonstrate the ability to articulate a thesis and support it with academic evidence.
Requirements:	Each essay must <i>no more than</i> five pages long, with your bibliography on the 6 th page.
Formatting:	See “Formatting and Content for the Analytic Essays and Final Paper” below
Grading:	See “Grading” below

Final Paper

Prompt:	Expand and improve one of your previous evidence-based analytic essays.
Requirements:	Each essay must <i>no more than</i> ten pages long, with your bibliography on the 11 th page.
Formatting:	See “Formatting and Content for the Analytic Essays and Final Paper” below
Grading:	See “Grading” below

FORMATTEING AND ESSAY CONTENT

Formattting and Content for the Analytic Essays and Final Paper

- **A clear thesis** presented in the first paragraph and argued throughout. Include “In this essay I will argue that...” or something similar.
- **A blueprint** near the beginning of your essay that clearly tells the reader how you will be arguing your thesis.
- **Evidence to support your thesis** in the form of “facts,” ideas from existing research, and thoughtful, balanced analysis.
- Use at least 5 academic authors in your analytic essays (at least three sources must be from “outside” the course) and at least 10 academic authors in the final paper (at least six must be from “outside” the course).
- **A bibliography** with a complete list of your sources.
- **Clear writing** with few grammatical errors.
- 12-point font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced, left justified, no playing with the character spaces!
- Make sure to include an **interesting title**.
- **Number** each page of your paper.

Grading

- Three grades will be earned for this assignment based on content, structure, and mechanics.
 1. Content refers to the information presented in the essay and the quality of the evidence and arguments presented.
 2. The structure grade will reflect how well the essay is organized.

3. Mechanics refers to the quality of sentence structure, paragraph structure, use of quotes, typos, and a myriad of other grammar issues.
- An average of these three grades will constitute the overall grade for the assignment.

Syllabus Acknowledgement Contract

For: Debating Controversial Issues in Sexuality

- I have read and understand the requirements for completion of this course.
- I know the test and assignment dates specified in the syllabus and understand that a documented medical emergency or prior consent of the instructor are the only reasons I may be allowed to make up for a missed test.
 - I know that this course includes a final exam during the final exam period. I understand that the fact that a final exam schedule has not been posted as of the beginning of this course in no way excuses any travel plans that conflict with my presence at the final exam on the to-be-scheduled date.
- I have read and understand the course policies.
 - I promise not to engage in academic misconduct of any sort.
 - I have read and understand the Plagiarism Primer.
- I know that I should contact the instructor for all course-related concerns.

Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____