

HUMAN SEXUALITY

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Office Hours: TR 1030-1130, 1330-1430 or by appointment
Class Time/Location: Section 3: TR 0900-1015, CL 204
Section 4: TR 1200-1315, CL 310

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

You can find course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, lecture outlines, study guides and grade on **Canvas**, the new learning management system at SJSU. I will communicate with you about assignments and updates through your e-mail addresses there and on My SJSU, so please make certain the “systems” have a working e-mail address for you.

Course Description

This course examines human sexuality from an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective. We will view sexuality as a biological capacity fundamentally embedded in, shaped by, and experienced in cultural, social and historical contexts. Sexuality links to systems of equality and inequality. Class exposure to cross-cultural, anthropological perspectives and materials will provide a framework for more detailed examination of contemporary American sexuality and sexuality-related issues.

“It is University policy that courses to meet Area R, S, and V of SJSU Studies must be taken from three different departments or distinct academic units. This policy has been suspended beginning fall 2012 until further notice and students are permitted to take two or three R, S, or V courses from the same department. However, we encourage you to continue taking R, S, and V courses from different departments in order to broaden your education.”

Prerequisites

Human Sexuality fulfills area S (Self, Society and Equality in the U.S.) requirements for Upper Division General Education. Completion of, or co-registration in, a 100W course is required for enrollment in all SJSU Studies courses. You must also have completed the Core GE requirements, passed the Writing Skills Test, and have upper division standing (junior or senior). The policy regarding taking Areas R, S, and V courses from three separate SJSU departments has been suspended. [[See University Catalog](#)].

Learning Objectives and Activities for this Course

After successfully completing the course, students shall be able to:

- LO #1: describe how identities (i.e. religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age) are shaped by cultural and societal influences within contexts of equality and inequality (Class discussions, movies, portfolio topics: The New Virginité Movement, Friends with Benefits, Sex on the Down Low, Gay Marriage, Sex and Religion, Gender Double Standard, Construction of American Masculinity, Intersexed Individuals, Creepshots,

- LO #2: describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S. (Class discussions, movies, portfolio topics: Marriage and Sex, Gender Assignment, Abortion from a Male's Perspective, Gender Double-Standard, Construction of American Masculinity, Denial of Access or Religious Freedom?, and the Sex and Social Action Assignment.)
- LO #3: describe social actions which have led to greater equality and social justice in the U.S. (i.e. religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age) (Class discussions, movies, portfolio assignment Sex and Social Action, Gay Marriage, Gender Double-Standard)
- LO #4: recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S. (In-class group work: Sex & Culture; LGBT class visit; movie responses: *Milk*, *Genderf*kation*, class exercise on grid of sexual high/low anxiety and restrictions/permissiveness)

Topics and Course Learning Objectives include:

After successfully completing this course, students will understand:

- **Basic Concepts.** Social, cultural, and historical contexts of the scientific study of sexuality; the regulation of sexuality as a form of social control; the biological bases of sexual response and reproductive capacity, and cultural variation in the understanding of sexuality and reproduction.
- **Methodological Tools.** Alternative methodological approaches to the study of sexuality; survey of cultural variation in sexual beliefs and behaviors at San Jose State University.
- **Applications.** Contemporary social movements in the U.S. for sexual-social justice and equality; commercialization of sexuality; sexual coercion; sexually transmitted diseases; sexuality in the future.
- **Self-awareness.** Feel more comfortable with the subject of human sexuality, including communicating with others more directly about sexual matters and acting responsibly in sexual matters.

Goals of the Anthropology Department:

Knowledge

- Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
- Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
- Knowledge of the significant findings of cultural anthropology.
- Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomena shaping global society.

Skills

- Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
- Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
- Knowledge of the research methods of cultural anthropology.
- Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

Professional Values

- Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

Required Texts/Readings

Crooks, R. and K. Baur, *Our Sexuality*, 11th Edition. A special, reduced-price version of the text plus Coursemate (learning enhancement package) is available at Spartan Bookstore and Roberts Bookstore. Another option would be <http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/0495811793?cid=D2S>, with various options for rental and buying an e-book version of the text.

Readings in Human Sexuality:

Articles available on Canvas. If you use an Apple computer and can open only the first page of a PDF, visit this website: <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT2506>. Be sure you have the latest version of Adobe Reader. For other problems, visit the IT Help Desk, ground floor, Clark. I can't help you via e-mail.

Workload – Credit Hours

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (for this 3-unit course, 9 hours per week including class time) for preparation, reading course assignments, studying, writing and instruction.

Writing Activities

Students will engage in a variety of writing activities to demonstrate their mastery of content and which also assess basic analytic skills. You will summarize and analyze what you have viewed and read, compare and contrast different cultures within and outside the United States, relate what you have learned to issues of equality in American culture, explore your own responses to the ideas and information you encounter in and out of this class, and reflect upon issues of sexuality in your own life. Two essays will be responses (NOT summaries) to two movies (600 words each); the remainder of the writing requirement consists of **four** 3-page papers. The Sex and Social Action assignment will require library research. All assignments will receive feedback regarding correctness, clarity, and conciseness as well as content. Comments will help you improve subsequent assignments. The first installment is due midway through the semester; the second a few weeks later. **All assigned writing must be completed in order to pass the course.**

Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when you use the words of another author – a phrase, sentence, or paragraph -- without giving credit to that author with quotation marks and a citation. This practice misrepresents your writing. SJSU policy forbids plagiarism. It will be punished. If found plagiarizing, you WILL receive a zero for your assignment and I WILL report you. Please read the [Statement on Academic Integrity](#) and consult me if you have questions on this issue.

Classroom Recording

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's oral permission to make audio recordings in this class, which will be valid for the semester. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

Grading

Class participation	30	A+= 294-300	C+ = 234-239
Midterm #1	50	A = 279-293	C = 219-233
Midterm #2	50	A- = 270-278	C- = 210-218
Final Exam	50	B+ = 264-269	D+ = 204-209
Movie responses (2 x 10)	20	B = 249-263	D = 180-203

Essay Portfolio (4 x 25 points)

100
300 total points

B- = 240-248

D- = 180-189

[Participation points based on attendance, class discussion, participation in group work]

Disability Accommodations

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Classroom Protocol

I understand that multi-tasking is essential to getting through life. BUT NOT THROUGH THIS CLASS. You need to be FULLY PRESENT to be successful. Therefore, please do not text, do not surf the web, do not go on Facebook, e-mail or anything else besides taking notes during class. If you are distracting me or others, you will have to put your computer away. No computer note-taking during films, of which there are many. If you must arrive late or leave early, please do not slam the door.

Helpful Hints

There is a LOT of material covered in this course. Don't get overwhelmed. You will not be expected to master all the readings. A major goal is to expose you to the range of topics and alternative perspectives on human sexuality.

- Use exam review sheets to guide your reading and studying for exams.
- Use textbook chapter headings, outlines and summaries. Pay attention to definitions in page margins.
- To digest articles in the course reader, look for key points and themes, and how they illustrate major class themes, rather than focusing on detail. Take brief summary notes on these articles for future reference.
- Attend class, be on time, keep up with assigned readings and assigned writing.
- If you have questions on readings, ask in class – probably others have similar or the same questions
- Take notes in class, review notes regularly. Use video guides (class website)
- Find at least one study partner.
- DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS AND REQUEST HELP!!! I am available after class, in office hours, by e-mail....

Course Schedule

Readings: CB=Crooks & Baur Textbook; WS= Readings Posted on Class Website

COURSE INTRODUCTION: ANTHROPOLOGY AND SEXUALITY

Jan. 24 CB: Chapter 1 (Perspectives on Sexuality)

LEARNING ABOUT SEX: FOLK VIEWS, EDUCATION & SCIENCE

Jan. 29 Family and Folklore

Jan. 31 Ethics, Religion & Sexuality
Video: *Marital Sex* (38 min)

Feb. 5 Sex Education in School

Video and Discussion: *The Education of Shelby Knox*
Reading: Abraham-“Teaching Good Sex”

Feb. 7 Sexology
CB: Chapter 2 (Sex Research: Methods and Problems)

MALE & FEMALE ANATOMY

Feb. 12 CB: Chapter 3 (Female Sexual Anatomy and Physiology), pp. 49-54, 57-59
Chapter 4 (Male Sexual Anatomy and Physiology), pp. 88-109

Feb. 14 Anatomy, cont.
Video and Discussion: *Breasts* (excerpts), *Private Dicks* (excerpts)

PHYSIOLOGY OF SEXUAL AROUSAL & RESPONSE

Feb. 19 CB: Chapter 6 (Sexual Arousal and Response)

CULTURE AND SEXUALITY

Feb. 21 The U.S. sex-gender system: competing models
Reading: WS: Talbot-“Red Sex, Blue Sex”

Feb. 26 **MIDTERM EXAM #1**

Feb. 28 Video & Discussion: *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes* (61 min.)

Mar. 5 Cross-cultural attitudes towards sex
WS: Weiner-“Youth and Sexuality”, Messenger-“Sex and Repression in an Irish Folk Community”
(for an updated view of Irish sexuality, see <http://www2.hu-berlin.de/sexology/IES/ireland.html>)
Video: *Cricket: The Trobriand Way* (excerpt)

Mar. 7 Video: *Guardians of the Flute*

SEX & GENDER

Mar. 12 CB: Chapter 5 (Gender Issues)
WS: Lorber-“Believing is Seeing: Biology as Ideology”, Padawer, “What Wrong With a Boy Who Wears a Dress?”

Mar. 14 Video: *The Times of Harvey Milk*

Mar. 19 CB: Chapter 9 (Sexual Orientations)
Guest speakers: SJSU LGBT Resource Center
DUE: First Movie Response

Mar. 21 Video: *Genderf*kation*

March 25-29: SPRING BREAK!!!

CROSS-CULTURAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF SEX & GENDER

Apr. 2 WS: Nanda, “The Hijras in Cross Cultural Perspective”
DUE: TWO ESSAYS, topics of your choice (see list under Assignments)

Apr. 4 Video: *Tales of the Waria*

Apr. 9 **MIDTERM EXAM #2**

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

- Apr. 11** Relationships: Sex and Love
CB: Chapter 7 (Love and Communication in Intimate Relationships),
WS: Debate: “Should Society Support Cohabitation Before Marriage?”
DUE: Second Movie Response
- Apr. 16** Sex, Coercion, and Violence
CB: Chapter 17 (Sexual Coercion)
- Apr. 18** Commercialization of Sex: Sex Work
CB: Chapter 18 (Sex for Sale)
WS: Brennan-“Love Work in Sex Work (and After): Performing at Love”
Video: *Live Nude Girls Unite!*

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS [STDs/STIs]

- Apr. 23** CB: Chapter 15 (Sexually Transmitted Infections)

REPRODUCTION: A NATURAL PROCESS?

- Apr. 25** CB: Chapter 4 (Female Sexual Anatomy and Physiology), pp. 59-77, Chapter 11 (Conceiving Children)
WS: Martin-“The Egg and the Sperm...”
Video: *Life’s Greatest Miracle*
- Apr. 30** Sexual Differentiation and Being Intersexed
WS: Weil, “What If It’s (Sort of) a Boy and (Sort of) a Girl?”

CROSS-CULTURAL POLITICS OF REPRODUCTION

- May 2** CB: Chapter 10 (Contraception)
TWO ESSAYS DUE (one of your choice, Sex and Social Action)
- May 7** CB: Chapter 11 (Conceiving Children: Process and Choice)
WS: Hitt, “Pro-Life Nation”; News Article: Tavernise, “Broaching Birth Control with Afghan Mullahs”
Video: *Not Yet Rain*

FINAL EXAMINATIONS:

- Section 3 (9am): Wednesday, May 15, 0800-0930, Clark 204**
Section 4 (noon): Thursday, May 16, 0945-1200, Clark 310