

HUMAN SEXUALITY

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Cate
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Office Hours: TR 1030-1130, 1500-1600, or by appointment
Class Time/Location: Section 3: TR 0900-1015, CL 204
Section 4: TR 1200-1315, WSQ 004
Section 7: TR 1630-1745, CL 310

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

You can find course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and study guides on **Sandra Cate's web page** at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/sandra.cate>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU. I use it a lot, so please be sure MySJSU has your correct e-mail address.

Course Description

This course examines human sexuality from an interdisciplinary 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.

Prerequisites

Human Sexuality fulfills area S (Self, Society and Equality in the U.S.) requirements for Upper Division General Education. For students beginning continuous enrollment in Fall 2005 or later, completion of, or co-registration in, a 100W course is required for enrollment in all SJSU Studies courses. Courses used to satisfy Areas R, S, and V must be taken from three separate SJSU departments or other distinct academic units. In order to enroll, you must have completed the Core GE requirements, passed the Writing Skills Test, and have upper division standing (junior or senior). [[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 Virginity Movement, Friends with Benefits, Sex on the Downlow, Gay Marriage, Sex and Religion, Gender Double Standard, Construction of American Masculinity,
- LO #2: describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S. (Class discussions, movies, portfolio topics: Female Masturbation, Marriage and Sex, Gender Assignment, Abortion from a Male's Perspective, Gender Double-Standard, Construction of American Masculinity, Library 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*, *You Don't Know Dick*, *Guardians of the Flute*)

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.

Readings in Human Sexuality: Articles available on [course website](#), password is “safesex.” If you use a Apple computer and can open only the first page of a PDF, visit this website: <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT2506>. For other problems, visit the IT Help Desk, ground floor, Clark.

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 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. Some essays will be in-class (approximately 600 words); the remainder of the writing requirement consists of a portfolio of **four** short papers, totaling at least 2400 words. One 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; and ENTIRE portfolio is 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.

Grading

Class participation/in-class essays	50	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
Essay Portfolio (4 x 25 points)	<u>100</u>	B = 249-263	D = 180-203
	300 total points	B- = 240-248	D- = 180-189

[Participation points based on attendance, class discussion, participations in group work, and in-class writing.]

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

January 26 CB: Chapter 1 (Perspectives on Sexuality)

LEARNING ABOUT SEX: FOLK VIEWS, EDUCATION & SCIENCE

January 31 Family and Folklore

February 2 Ethics, Religion & Sexuality
Video: *Marital Sex* (38 min)
CB: Chapter 12 (Sexuality During Childhood and Adolescence)

February 7 Sex Education in School
Video and Discussion: *The Education of Shelby Knox*
WS: Talbot-“Red Sex, Blue Sex”

February 9 Sexology
CB: Chapter 2 (Sex Research: Methods and Problems)

MALE & FEMALE ANATOMY

February 14 CB: Chapter 3 (Female Sexual Anatomy and Physiology), pp. 49-54, 57-59
Chapter 4 (Male Sexual Anatomy and Physiology), pp. 88-109

February 16 Anatomy, cont.
Video and Discussion: *Breasts* (excerpts), *Private Dicks* (excerpts)

PHYSIOLOGY OF SEXUAL AROUSAL & RESPONSE

February 21 CB: Chapter 6 (Sexual Arousal and Response)

CULTURE AND SEXUALITY

February 23 The U.S. sex-gender system: competing models
CB: Chapter 13 (Sexuality and the Adult Years)

February 28 CB: Chapter 8 (Sexual Behaviors)
Video & Discussion: *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes* (61 min.)

March 1 **MIDTERM EXAM #1**

March 6 Cross-cultural attitudes towards sex
WS: Weiner-“Youth and Sexuality”, Messenger-“Sex and Repression in an Irish Folk Community”
Video: *Cricket: The Trobriand Way* (excerpt)

March 8 Video: *Guardians of the Flute*

SEX & GENDER

March 13 CB: Chapter 5 (Gender Issues)
WS: Lorber-“Believing is Seeing: Biology as Ideology”, Rosin-“A Boy’s Life”

March 15 Video: *The Times of Harvey Milk*

March 20 CB: Chapter 9 (Sexual Orientations)
Guest speakers: SJSU LGBT Resource Center

March 22 Video: *You Don’t Know Dick*

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 26-30

CROSS-CULTURAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF SEX & GENDER

April 3 WS: Nanda, “The Hijras in Cross Cultural Perspective”
DUE: WRITING PORTFOLIO, INSTALLMENT #1 (2 topics)

April 5 Video: *Tales of the Waria*

BODY MODIFICATION, RITE-OF-PASSAGE RITUALS

April 10 CB: “Female Genital Cutting: Torture or Tradition?”
WS: Shweder, “What about Genital Mutilation?”
Slides: Body Modification
Video and Discussion: *Three Maasai Women Have Their Say*

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS [STDs/STIs]

April 12 CB: Chapter 15 (Sexually Transmitted Infections)

April 17 **MIDTERM EXAM #2**

REPRODUCTION: A NATURAL PROCESS?

April 19 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*

April 24 Discussion: Intersexed Individuals
WS: Weil, “What If It’s (Sort of) a Boy and (Sort of) a Girl?”

CROSS-CULTURAL POLITICS OF REPRODUCTION

April 26 CB: Chapter 10 (Contraception)

May 1 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*

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

May 3 Relationships: Sex and Love
CB: Chapter 7 (Love and Communication in Intimate Relationships),
WS: Debate: “Should Society Support Cohabitation Before Marriage?”
Video: *No Strings Attached* (excerpt)

- May 8** Sex, Coercion, and Violence
CB: Chapter 17 (Sexual Coercion)
- May 10** Commercialization of Sex: Sex Work
CB: Chapter 18 (Sex for Sale)
WS: Brennan-“Love Work in Sex Work (and After): Performing at Love”
WRITING PORTFOLIO INSTALLMENT #2 DUE (1 topic, Library Assignment)
- May 15** Video: *Live Nude Girls Unite!*

FINAL EXAMINATIONS:

- Section 3: Friday, May 20, 0715-0930**
Section 4: Monday, May 23, 0945-1200
Section 7: Monday, May 23, 1445-1700