

San José State University
Anthropology/Biology/Health Science 140 - Spring 2009

HUMAN SEXUALITY

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Cate
Section 2: MW 1200-1315,
WSQ 004

Office Hours: T 1330-1530, W 1330-1530
or by appointment
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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.

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.

PREREQUISITES: 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].

Area S Student Learning Objectives

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

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;
2. describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S.;
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).; and
4. recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S.

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 archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
- Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history
- Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon 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 the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and the ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
- 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

READING REQUIREMENTS:

Crooks, R. and Baur, K., *Our Sexuality*, 10th Edition

Readings in Human Sexuality: Articles available on course website.

COURSE WEBSITE

Many of the course materials – readings, lecture outlines, video guides, exam study guides, citation and reference guide, extra credit list, and the class grading policy -- are available on my Faculty Web Page (from SJSU Home Page → Quick Links → Faculty Web Pages)

http://stage.sjsu.edu/faculty_and_staff/faculty_detail.jsp?id=1010

EXAMINATIONS

There will be 2 midterms and a final exam. Exams will cover lectures, readings, films, speakers and class discussions. Review sheets can be used as a guide to required text readings as well as a study sheet for the exams.

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 short papers, totalling 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 and sign the statement on Academic Integrity (Page 5) 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	<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 possible 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.

BE HERE NOW: 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 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.

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 review sheets to guide your reading and studying for exams
- Use textbook chapter headings, outlines, summaries and online materials (see p. 24 in CB)
- 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 study guides.
- 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. 26

LEARNING ABOUT SEX: FOLK VIEWS, EDUCATION & SCIENCE

Jan. 28, CB: Chapters 1-2

Feb. 2, 4 WS: Talbot-"Red Sex, Blue Sex"

Video and Discussion: *The Education of Shelby Knox*

MALE & FEMALE ANATOMY

Feb. 9, 11, 16 CB: Chapters 4-5
WS: Karpf Charts
Video and Discussion: *Breasts*

CULTURE AND SEXUALITY IN THE UNITED STATES

Feb. 18 Ethics, Religion & Sexuality
CB: Chapters 12-13

Feb. 23 Competing paradigms of sexuality in the U.S.

Feb. 25 CB: Chapters 7-8
Video & Discussion: *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*

CROSS-CULTURAL VIEWS OF SEXUALITY

Mar. 2 WS: Weiner-“Youth and Sexuality”, Messenger-“Sex and Repression in an Irish Folk Community”
Video: *Cricket: The Trobriand Way* (excerpt)

Mar. 4 **MIDTERM EXAM #1**

PHYSIOLOGY OF SEXUAL AROUSAL & RESPONSE

Mar. 9 CB: Chapter 6 [Recommended Chapters 14, 16]

SEX & GENDER IN THE UNITED STATES

Mar. 11, 16 CB: Chapters 3, 9
WS: Lorber-“Believing is Seeing: Biology as Ideology”, Rosin-“A Boy’s Life”
Video: *The Times of Harvey Milk*

Mar. 18 Video: *You Don’t Know Dick*

MARCH 23-27, SPRING BREAK!!!

CROSS-CULTURAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF SEX & GENDER

Apr. 1, 6 WS: Meigs-“Blood Kin and Food Kin,” Small-“A Woman’s Curse?”, Nanda-“The Hijras in Cross-Cultural Perspective”
Video: *Sunflowers*

WRITING PORTFOLIO, INSTALLMENT #1 DUE APRIL 1

BODY MODIFICATION, RITE-OF-PASSAGE RITUALS

Apr. 8, 13 WS: Schweder-“What About Female Genital Mutilation?”
Slides: Body Modification
Video and Discussion: *Four Maasai Women Have Their Say*

Apr. 15 **MIDTERM EXAM #2**

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS [stds/stis]

Apr. 20 CB: Chapter 15

REPRODUCTION: A NATURAL PROCESS?

Apr. 22 CB: Chapter 10
WS: Martin-“The Egg and the Sperm...”
Video: *Life’s Greatest Miracle*

THE POLITICS OF REPRODUCTION

Apr. 27, 29 CB: Chapter 11
WS: Hitt-“Pro-Life Nation”
Video: *Abortion Stories: North and South*

SEX, COERCION & VIOLENCE

May 4 CB: Chapter 17
WRITING PORTFOLIO INSTALLMENT #2 DUE – MAY 4

COMMERCIALIZATION OF SEX

May 6, 11 CB: Chapter 18
WS: Dalby-“Geisha and Anthropology”
Video: *Live Nude Girls Unite!*

May 13 **Course Wrap up**

FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, May 19th, 0945-1200

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY – for Anth 140, Spring 2009

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university’s reputation and the value of the degrees it offers.

We all share the obligation to maintain an environment that practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from SJSU.

CHEATING

At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to: Copying in part or in whole, from another’s test or other evaluation instrument; Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy. Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both course instructors or by departmental policy. Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

I have read the above statement and pledge to submit work according to these academic standards.

Name

Date