San José State University Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Science

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program

WOMS 169: Sexualities and the Body

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Tanya Bakhru

Telephone and Email: 408-924-5744, Tanya.Bakhru@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-5pm and by appointment

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/9840963434?pwd=ZEpVanZaTng3Y3ZGeml0R2RjcTY1QT09

Password: 2030

Or iPhone one-tap:
US: +16699006833, 9840963434# or +12532158782, 9840963434#

Or Telephone:
Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 984 096 3434

Class Days/Time: Asynchronous

Course Format

This course will be delivered via Canvas, the university’s Learning Management System (LMS). Therefore you will need regular access to a computer and the Internet. You should also have familiarity with Canvas. It is in Canvas that you will find the central course homepage. Because all communication will take place through Canvas, you should plan on checking your
account regularly. I encourage you to take advantage of the various notification systems offered through Canvas (apps, texting, email-linking, etc.) so that you can receive all important class communication in a timely manner.

Information about how to find your Canvas username, how to log into your account, and how to use Canvas can be found at the sites listed below:

https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1035030
https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1035030/pages/canvas-student-how-to-overview
https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/docs/Canvas-Student-Quick-Guide.pdf

If you encounter problems with Canvas and need help with technical support issues, (i.e. password reset, browser problems, etc.), you will need to contact the Informational Technology (IT) Help Desk https://www.sjsu.edu/it/support/service-desk/index.php

Email Etiquette

When contacting me via email, please remember that email is a formal form of correspondence. Write carefully, identify yourself completely within the email, and be clear about your questions. In the subject line include your name, course information (Jane Doe, WOMS 169), and the subject of your email. Begin emails with appropriate formality: Dear/Hi Dr. Bakhru and conclude your email with a salutation and your name.

Be aware I will not answer questions via email that can be found in the syllabus. I will refer you to the syllabus.

Course Description

This course is designed to interrogate the politics of sexuality and the body from a feminist perspective. Throughout the term we will explore various aspects of sexuality and gendered bodies including identity, community, and social movements. This class will examine the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, culture, and nation. It will provide the participant with a nuanced and in depth understanding of how sexuality is expressed in multiple ways and how gendered bodies are impacted by politics in society.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe how feminists have theorized the social constructions of sexuality (Sexual Theory Pictionary Exercise).
2. Identify various aspects of gender identity and sexuality, which are politicized in society and describe those processes of politicization (Sex Education in Schools Writing Prompt; Analysis of Viagra Commercials Activity; Sex Testing in the Olympics Prompt).
3. Employ critical thinking and writing skills, particularly in dealing with issues of sex, sexuality, and gender (Essay Exam Assignments).

**Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbook**


**Course Requirements and Assignments and Grading Information**

I grade using a point system. My grading system is very straightforward and simple. Your final grade is an accumulation of points you have earned throughout the semester. The grading scale is as follows:

900-939 = A-; 940-969 = A; 970-1000 = A+; 800-839 = B-; 840-869 = B; 870-899 = B+; 700-739 = C-; 740-769 = C; 770-799 = C+; 600-639 = D-; 640-669 = D; 670-699 = D+.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A plus</td>
<td>960 to 1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>930 to 959</td>
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<tr>
<td>A minus</td>
<td>900 to 929</td>
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<tr>
<td>B plus</td>
<td>860 to 899</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>830 to 829</td>
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<td>B minus</td>
<td>800 to 829</td>
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<td>C plus</td>
<td>760 to 799</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C minus</td>
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<td>Grade</td>
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<td>630 to 659</td>
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<td>D minus</td>
<td>600 to 629</td>
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Discussion questions: 15x 20 = 300 points

15 times throughout the course you will be asked post a response to a discussion question based on either the readings for that week, a short film, or current event. You must post an original response and respond to a classmate’s comment. Each response should be about 50 words in length. Guidelines for online discussion as well as the rubric that will be used for grading are posted on Canvas. These online discussions are my way of assessing that you are completing the reading as well as participating in the class.

Essays 3 x 200 = 600 points

Three times in the term I will give you a set of questions to respond to regarding readings assigned for the class. You will be assessed on your ability answer the prompt fully, provide your own stance in relation to the reading response prompt, and draw connections to the assigned reading. Each short write essay should be about 1000 words (3-4 pages). Due dates for these assignments are on Canvas under “Syllabus”

End of Course Reflection 1 x 100 = 100 points

At the end of the course you will be asked to write a short reflection about your experience. The essay should be 500 words (about 2 pages).

NOTE: that University policy F69-24 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf), at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Class Protocol

To be successful in this online class, you will need to do the following things:
**Learn how to access and use Canvas. Given that this class is web-based, I am assuming that each student enrolled is fairly confident utilizing technology (or at least willing to learn!). You are responsible for becoming familiar with the online systems used in the course and for resolving any computer issues and/or problems that you might have accessing and/or using any of the course materials.**

**Understand that a web-based course such as this requires a fair amount of self-direction and independence. You are responsible for accessing and understanding the course materials and completing the assignments. This course is not less work than a traditional course; in fact, due to the limited in-class contact that we will have, success in this course requires perhaps a higher commitment to following through with readings and assignments than does a traditional course.**

**Complete assignments in a thoughtful and timely manner. The activities and assignments for this course are designed to help you better learn and understand the course material. Having computer problems is NOT a valid excuse for not completing your work. Thus, make sure that you do not wait until the last minute to access materials, complete online assignments, etc. in case you encounter any technological issues.**

**Keep in touch with me if you are struggling or having problems. The best way to reach me is via Canvas, as I check my email account there every weekday. Due to my workload I am unable to respond to every email that students send me. Thus, I do not respond to emails that request information easily found on the syllabus and/or the Canvas site (such as: When is the exam? What are we doing next class? When are your office hours?) If you have a legitimate question or concern than I will try my best to respond to your email within 24 hours (excluding weekends).**

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**Guidelines for Civil Discourse**

“Democracy is a means of living together despite our differences. Democratic deliberation is an alternative to physical violence. It is predicated on the assumption that it’s possible to disagree agreeably, that it’s better to laugh than cry, that one can vigorously contest the positions of one’s adversary without questioning his or her personal integrity or motivation, and that parties to a debate are entitled to the presumption that their views are legitimate if not correct.”

—Thomas Mann

A climate of mutual respect requires free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. All of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment or personal attack. This means opening ourselves to the lived experiences of others, which may not be our own, and treating those experiences as valid. No one is entitled to harass, discriminate, or belittle another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. On the other hand, we cannot permit ourselves to be silenced because we feel awkward discussing politically sensitive issues.

Participating as a good listener while your peers are speaking is also critical. This is your role as members of the audience. Good listening requires effort and energy; “audience member” is not a passive role. Good listening entails offering attentive, supportive nonverbal feedback, and asking questions or offering comments.
When you are involved in a class discussion reflect on the following:

Do you lead? Do you follow? Do you dominate the conversation? Are you hesitant to speak up? Are you aware of other people's desire to join in the conversation? Do you make sure everyone has a chance to contribute? When you have an emotional reaction to something someone says, how do you handle it?

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page (http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/"

WOMS 169: Sexualities and the Body

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
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<td>2-</td>
<td>Theories and Perspectives</td>
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<td>3-</td>
<td>Sexual Bodies and Behaviors</td>
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<td>Nos. 7, 8, and 9</td>
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<td>Sexual Bodies and Behaviors</td>
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<td>Nos. 10, 11, and 12</td>
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<td>Film: Still Doing It</td>
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<td>5-</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality</td>
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<td>Nos. 14, 15, 16, and 17</td>
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<td>Film: Mosquita Y Mari</td>
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<td>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</td>
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<td>6-</td>
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<td><strong>Intimacies</strong></td>
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<td>Nos. 30, 31, 32, and 33</td>
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<td>10-</td>
<td><strong>Sexuality, Media, and Commerce</strong></td>
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<td>Nos. 48, 49, 50, 52, and 52</td>
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<td>Film: Passion and Power</td>
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<td>12-</td>
<td><strong>Sexual Regulation</strong></td>
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# Course Summary:

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<td><strong>Sexual Regulation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nos. 57, 58, 60, and 61&lt;br&gt;Film: Daddy and Pappa</td>
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## Details

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<tr>
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<td>DQ1. Taking a Women's Studies Class</td>
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<td>DQ3</td>
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<td>Sun Sep 26, 2021</td>
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<td>Sun Dec 12, 2021</td>
<td>Final (<a href="https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1433073/assignments/5793452">https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1433073/assignments/5793452</a>)</td>
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