



SYG4060: Sociology of Sexuality

Subject to change. I reserve full right to amend, alter, and otherwise change this syllabus at any time.

General Information

“There is no gender identity behind the expressions of gender... identity is performatively constituted by the very 'expressions' that are said to be its results” --- Judith Butler

“There's really no such thing as the 'voiceless'. There are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard” --- Arundhati Roy

“Maybe the target nowadays is not to discover what we are but to refuse what we are.” - -- Michel Foucault

This exciting course introduces sociological perspectives of sexuality and how issues such as socialization, gender, race/ethnicity, social class, and global inequality intersect with sexuality. We will review and examine a diversity of articles that explore sexuality in a multitude of ways and introduces categories of sex and sexuality in a global perspective. This class explores foundational concepts and debates surrounding sexuality to push the boundaries of how we think of sex and sexuality. Furthermore, this class also goes in-depth into the theory of sexuality, the history of sex and sexuality, real-world experiences, and the institutionalization of gender, sex, and sexuality. We will explore issues such as how categories of sexuality are created; what is sexuality and how notions of sexuality are produced and reinforced; and how culture, religion, race, and class all intersect with sexual identifications. This is a discussion-based class that will explore sociology of sexuality in an exciting and interactive way.

This course will be presented objectively and is not presented to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel any individual to adopt as a belief any of the subjects of the discussion that may be construed as concepts constituting discrimination based on

race, color, sex, or national origin as provided by Florida law. Please note that I do not endorse such concepts but may present them for academic discussion and consideration. The law does not prohibit discussion of such concepts in an objective manner and without endorsement. If you feel uncomfortable with how content in the course is presented or discussed, please contact me for further conversation or, if you feel comfortable doing so, you may say so in class in a manner that aligns with our class expectations (see Class Expectations section of the syllabus).

Course Objectives

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

- Identity the difference between gender, sex, and sexuality
- Discuss the fluidity of sex and sexuality
- Recognize the arguments made by important scholars and publications within Sociology of Sexuality
- Understand how categories of gender, sex, and sexuality are socially created

Technical Requirements and Skills:

One of the greatest barriers to taking a course with online/ components is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "What's Required" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please be certain that you have a dependable internet connection and an updated internet browser. Please take the practice quiz to make sure here are no technical issues. If you should have any trouble, please contact the FIU Online Help Desk. The Help Desk can also be reached by email, chat, and phone at (305) 348-3630.

Tech issues such as a slow, frozen, or unreliable computer/WiFi will not be taken into consideration for an extension or resubmission of the Midterm and/or Final Exam. Should you need a more reliable computer/WiFi please note that FIU has several computer labs and the Library has free laptops you can use.

Please visit our Technical Requirements webpage for additional information.

Required Textbook:

Sociology of Sexualities

Second Edition Sage Publications, Inc

by Kathleen J. Fitzgerald and Kandice L. Grossman

Publication Date - 2020

ISBN: 9781544370675

Required

You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore

1) Roundtable Discussions (10%):

Using the Socratic method of teaching and learning, each student will pick a reading from any of the required readings to create a PowerPoint project where you explore that chapter's materials through your own unique perspective, outside content, and creativity in terms of design and content. You will also pose questions to the class that critically engage with the theories reviewed. You are welcomed to compare and contrast the chapter readings, use current events to review the chapter, challenge the ideas being presented with outside academic resources supporting your points, and/or use different outside resources as you reviewed the chapter and its major theories, scholars, and debates being presented. Your voice, your thoughts, and your ideas are central to the learning experience. Each Roundtable Presentation should have a minimum of 10 slides, with **only** the last slide dedicated to 5 engaging questions you **create and answer** in a minimum of two sentences. The other 9 slides must review the major theories and scholarships of the chapter through a creative and innovation lens. Since this is a fully online course, there will be no presentation, simply a PowerPoint Project.

Rubric: Each Roundtable Presentation should have a minimum of 10 slides, with only the last slide dedicated to 5 engaging questions you create and answer in a minimum of two sentences. The other 9 slides must review the major theories and scholarships of the chapter

Roundtable Discussions Rubric

Category of Grading	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5
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Content	Minimal references to Textbook, skipped most of the major theories/scholars of assigned chapter, no critical analysis beyond Textbook material	Some references to Textbook, covered some of the major theories/scholars of assigned chapter, little critical analysis	Referenced both the Textbook and some outside resources, demonstrated average critical thinking, went over most of the major theories/scholars of assigned chapter	Not only did the group references all the major theories/scholars of assigned chapter but also utilized outside sources to supplement understanding and synthesis of knowledge	Review major theories assigned critical and syn course through resource sociolo perspec demon globali and lea
Presentation	Lacked flow, organization, no creativity, basic structure	Some flow, simply organization, little creativity	Organized with flow to structure, somewhat creative	Highly organized, kept audience engaged, clearly had creative elements	Highly highly and we and bey present though

2) Exams (Exam 1: 25%, Exam 2: 25%, Exam 3: 25%):

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact FIU Online Support Services. **Tech issues such as a slow, frozen, or unreliable computer/WiFi will not be taken into consideration for an extension or resubmission of the Final Exam.**

This course's Final Exam will be based on required Textbook and not on the PowerPoint lectures, as the PowerPoint lectures are meant to supplement your readings and not replace your readings.

The Exams will cover the following:

- **Exam # 1 (Chapters 1- 4)**
- **Exam # 2 (Chapters 5- 9)**
- **Exam # 3 (Chapters 10- 13)**

3) Semester Paper (15%):

This is the moment where you will show your ability to critically engage with the course's topics. You will pick a current event or global issue then critically analyze it using a minimum of 8 theories from any of the readings in the course. Each paper should be 1000-1500 words in length. I do not want a summary of the issue or Global Event nor do I want your opinion on the topic as it is not an opinion paper. Instead, you are expected to analyze your chosen topic through a Sociological lens using the class material. All copies of your final paper will be submitted by 11:55 pm on the due date to Turnitin. Review the Final Paper Guidelines and Rubric Below.

Paper Guidelines:

Length: Each paper should be 1000-1500 words in length NOT including cover page, footnotes/endnotes, Titles, or Bibliography.

Formatting: Times New Roman Size, 12 sized, Double Spaced. There must be an introduction where you will present your argument and a conclusion. Please write on the left side corner on top of the page the following: Name, 8 theories used, your Current Event or Global Issue, word count.

Citations: You are free to use whichever format you like (MLA, APA, Harvard, etc.) However, every outside resource such as statistics must be cited with Author's Last Name, Year Published, & Page Number.

No Use of Quotes: Quotes are not allowed.

Original Content: Using a paper or material from a previously submitted paper from another course is not allowed. All content must be original.

Grammar: Grammar is part of your grade, so I expect proper grammar and sentence structure.

Submission: Your final paper will be submitted to the instructor electronically, by 11:55 PM on the due date to the Turnitin component on Canvas. No extensions will be given. Review the [How to submit a Turnitin Assignment](#).

Assignment Paper Rubric

Rubric:

Criteria	Points
8 Theories from any of the readings in such a way that shows that you understand the theories	50
Convincingly and critically analyze the 8 class topics through your chosen topic successfully	30

Proper use of citation, grammar, clear organization, and proper length (1000-1500 words)	20
Total	100

Course Overview Breakdown

- Roundtable Discussion: 10%
- Exam 1: 25%
- Exam 2: 25%
- Exam 3: 25%
- Paper: 15%

Course Policies

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

- **Deadlines:** You are given the due dates beforehand; this means you are responsible for making appropriate accommodations. The Exams due dates and assignments will not be extended for any reason as all assignments as they are due on the last day of the course on Friday, December 9. Late submissions are not allowed, the only exception is if you have a DRC Accommodation or an emergency that requires an Incomplete in the course. **There will be no resubmission accepted, ever, regardless of excuses.** Since this is a fully online course and many of you work full-time and have many other responsibilities in addition to everything that is going on because of COVID-19 and global crises where flexibility is the key to success; all assignments are due on the last day of the course. However, since every student is a different type of learner and some of you might be more comfortable with due dates, the Modules have listed exactly which assignment should be completed at what time in order to help pace you. Also, since **there will be no resubmission accepted, ever, regardless of excuses**, you are more than welcome to send me drafts of your assignments for review. However, I will stop accepting assignment drafts by Monday, December 5th.
- **Readings/Assignments:** Success in this course requires familiarity with the readings. The professor will not cover all material in the text, because the student is responsible for reading the text and posing questions.

- **Be respectful.** The topic of this class is inherently personal. Thus, there will be diversity of opinions within the discussion boards and emails, this does not mean that you have to agree with everything being said or read. In fact, I highly encourage you to challenge, question, and explore the course through multiple perspectives. You must, however, be respectful and courteous of each other's opinions and in your emails to the professor. This should be a safe space to learn and grow as academics.
- **Submit original work.** Plagiarism is a serious offense. If you use the work of other authors without giving them credit you will receive a '0' and be reported to Academic Affairs.
- **Review** and follow the course calendar.
- **Expect emails from the professor** regarding assignments and/or schedule changes. (The professor reserves the right to modify the syllabus.).
- **Assignments & Exams:** There will be **no make-ups or extension of deadline** given in this course.
- **Recordings: I do not allow the use of any (audio nor visual) recording devices in my classroom at any time unless as permitted by the law.** Voice, video, and picture recording of the lectures are prohibited. The only exception to this is if the student requires academic accommodation as stated by the Disability Resource Center. In this case, the student is allowed and encouraged to record the lecture, however, the recorded information is for personal use and "will not be shared, duplicated or disseminated to others" as stated by the disability center.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations must contact the Disability Resource Center. The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please come see me as soon as possible regarding this matter. Please visit our ADA Compliance webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course. Please visit Canvas's Commitment Accessibility webpage for more information. For additional assistance please contact FIU's Disability Resource Center.

Recordings: I do not allow the use of any (audio nor visual) recording devices in my classroom or as permitted by the law. Voice, video, picture recording and or copying/distributing of the lectures either in person or on Zoom are prohibited. The only exception to this is if the student requires academic accommodation as stated by the Disability Resource Center. In this case, the student is allowed and encouraged to record the lecture, however, the recorded information is for personal use and "will not be shared, duplicated or disseminated to others" as stated by the disability center.

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Grading: A 95 or above B 83 - 86 C 70 - 76 A- 90 - 94 B- 80 - 82 D 60 - 69 B+ 87 - 89
C+ 77 - 79 F 59 or less



Notes:

- The schedule may be altered by the instructor once the semester has started.
- Readings and assignments are provided within the modules.
- All assignments are due on Sunday, 11:59 PM of the respective week.

Course Calendar:

Week 1:

- Review the Academic Honesty Policy
- Read the Course Syllabus
- Chapter 1 – Introduction

Week 2, Week 3, and Week 4:

- Chapter 2 – Bodies and Gender: Discussion of key points to understand biological sex as a continuum, not a dichotomy of male and female.
- Chapter 3 – Socialization and the Social Construction of Gender: Discussion of key points about “learning gender”, “doing gender”, and gendered social institutions.
- Chapter 4 – Sexualities: Discussion of key points about sexualities and how they intersect with gender, race, ethnicity, nation, etc.
- **Assignments Suggested Due Date**
 - Exam 1

Week 5 and Week 6:

- Chapter 5 – Education: Discussion of key points of understanding education as a gendered institution.
- Chapter 6 – Work: Discussion of key points about gendered work, including unpaid work, labor markets, job hierarchies, and institutional systems of labor exploitation.

Week 7, Week 8 , and Week 9:

- Chapter 7 – Families: Discussion of key points about gendered families, including marriages, balancing paid work and family life, parenting and caregiving, and divorce.
- Chapter 8 – Violence: Discussion of key points of gendered violence and how it is a feature in our lives.
- Chapter 9 – Health and Illness: Discussion of key points about gendered health and health care.
- **Assignments Suggested Due Date**
 - Exam 2
 - Roundtable Discussion

Week 10 , Week 11, and Week 12

- Chapter 10 – Politics, Prison, and the Military: Discussion of key points about gendered politics, including electoral politics, military, and prison.
- Chapter 11 – Media: Discussions of key points regarding media and the ways they reflect, create, challenge, or maintain the status quo in regard to gender.
- Chapter 12- Sports: Sports is another social institution that is heavily entwined with other media and a sign of gender, closely associating athletics and athleticism with masculinities while frequently excluding women.
- **Assignments Suggested Due Date:**
 - Semester Paper

Week 13:

- Chapter 13- Religion: Religion takes many forms in the world, but gender plays a central role in the rituals, images, and organization of every form.

Week 14: Thanksgiving Break

Week 15: Study Week

Week 16:

- Chapter 14- Globalization, Organizing, and Making the World a Better Place: Gender is a central part of the global forces shaping the contemporary world, and sensitivity to the issue of gender may offer solutions to many of our pressing social problems.
- **Assignments Suggested Due Date**
 - Exam 3
 - Weekly Reading Journal
 - **All assignments and Final Exam due on last day of course on December 9th.**

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Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range %	Letter	Range %	Letter	Range %
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range %	Letter	Range %	Letter	Range %
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less