

Sociology of Sexuality – SOC 3798A

CRN: 24567

Spring 2019: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 to 3:15 PM
Cushwa Hall 3218

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Fehlbaum

Office Location: DeBartolo Hall 436

Office Phone: 330-941-2716

E-mail: afehlbaum@ysu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 AM, Wednesdays from 12 to 4 pm, and by appointment

Course Website: <http://ysu.blackboard.com>

Bulletin Description – Select Topics in Sociology

In-depth examination of various sociological topics and issues of both current and long-standing interest. Prerequisite: 3 s.h. in Sociology.

Course Description

In this course, we examine sexuality and how it is perceived, defined, and experienced in the context of society. It is also about how sexuality influences our lives, reflected in the social norms, attitudes and beliefs, through public and private policies and practices, and the social institutions. We will consider how the social construction of sexuality influences our lives both overtly sexual relationships as well as those relationships that are not sexual.

Students should understand this is an upper-division undergraduate course. Course lectures and most of the readings will require students to think abstractly and critically about relevant issues. This is not a “fluff” class on sex, a how-to class, or a sex counseling course.

Course Objectives

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

- Analyze the sexuality through a sociological lens.
- Evaluate controversial issues related to sexuality, carefully considering arguments from multiple perspectives.
- Apply critical thinking skills in analyzing and deconstructing sociological meanings of sexuality.
- Reflect on perspectives on sexuality that may prompt them to have a better understanding of their own and others’ sexuality.

Course Requirements

Required Texts

Readings for this course primarily consist of assigned chapters from the books *Sociology of Sexualities* and *American Hook-Up*.

All readings should be completed by the date assigned on the course calendar.

Fitzgerald, Kathleen J. and Kandice L. Grossman 2018. *Sociology of Sexualities*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 9781506304014

Wade, Lisa. 2017. *American Hookup: The New Culture of Sex on Campus*. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN: 9780393285093

Design of the Course

Readings

Completing the assigned readings for each class is crucial to your success in this course. While you will not be questioned on every reading, the in-class discussions are often based on assigned readings. You are also responsible for knowing the readings for the quizzes. Thus, it is to your advantage to keep up with reading assignments.

Lecture Notes

In this class, I use Power Point. Please take notes, as the Power Points are not otherwise available.

Quizzes

There will be 14 quizzes in this class, given approximately every week, generally on Wednesdays. Quizzes are formatted to include a combination of multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, etc. Quizzes are worth a total of 20 points each. They will generally cover the reading material assigned since the last quiz, as well as questions from the lecture since the last quiz. Information about what will be covered on each quiz is posted on Blackboard under Assignments.

Your lowest two quiz grades are dropped from final grade calculations. **Make-up assignments will not be given for any reason.** Quizzes will only be given during class time – not before or after. The dropping of the lowest two quiz grades is designed to accommodate people who experience unavoidable emergencies or conflicts during the semester (including, but not limited to: work, religious holidays or celebrations, doctor's appointments, extracurricular events, car breaking down, being in jail, etc.). If your schedule requires that you must frequently miss quiz days, it may be in your best interest to drop this course.

If you have a problem with a quiz question, such as how it was worded or if you think the answers are incorrect or vague, you need to make an appointment or see me during my office hours to discuss it. I will not address quiz questions or answers during the quiz, after class, over email, or in public. Quizzes take the place of exams in this course. That is, you will not have a midterm exam or a final exam in the traditional sense. Quiz answers from the previous week are reviewed on the Tuesday

following the quiz; however, your quizzes will not be handed back to you. If you wish to go over your quiz individually, please make an appointment or see me during office hours.

Syllabus Quiz

In addition to the 14 quizzes given during the course, a quiz worth up to ten points will be given. The syllabus quiz grade cannot be dropped. For the quiz, you need to be familiar with the general policies, assignments, and expectations of the course.

Reaction/Reflection Essays and In-Class Assignments

Several times throughout the semester, you will be asked to write a “reaction essay” either during class or as homework. You may also be asked to complete an in-class assignment. These assignments will **not** be announced in advance. In total, these will be worth 50 points.

Final Project

Students are required to create a zine about their field work in an area related to sexuality for 100 points. This experiential approach is designed to be more rewarding than a traditional research paper. The zine should be four 8.5” x 11” (standard) sheets of paper, front and back, folded to create 16 half pages total. Your zine should be a combination of words and graphics. You will need to bring your original copy plus two photocopied versions of your zine to class on the last day. Additional information about this assignment can be found on Blackboard.

Papers

Students are required to write one paper in this course on some aspect of sexuality. Each paper will be a minimum of 5 pages (at least 1500 words – not including reference pages or headers) in length and contain a minimum of five outside sources, three of which must be academic sources.

You have a choice among four paper assignments. You will sign up in advance to do one of the four assignments using a Doodle Poll that is set up for this course. The instructions for each paper assignment are posted under the Papers link on Blackboard. After the Doodle Poll has closed, a file titled “What Paper Did I Sign Up For?” will be posted under the Papers link on Blackboard as well in the event that you forget which assignments you signed up to complete.

Each paper must follow the *Paper Assignment Guidelines* posted under both the Papers link and the Course Basics link in Blackboard. Each paper is worth 100 points. Your paper must be submitted to the proper Safe Assign Folder under Assignments by 11:59 P.M. on the due date.

You do not have to turn in a hard copy of your paper; however, I accept hard copied in addition to – not in lieu of – uploading your assignment to Blackboard. You must upload your paper assignment to Blackboard, regardless of if you turn in a hard copy. I do not accept the hard copy alone.

Although this course is not a writing class, part of the paper grade includes quality of writing and following directions. It is in your best interest to proofread your papers for proper grammar and

spelling as well as follow formatting directions. Neglect to follow formatting directions will also result in deduction of points.

Late papers, accompanied by a reasonable written excuse, will be accepted for up to one week after the due date, but points will be deducted for each day late. Weekends do count as late days!

Submitting Papers to the Safe Assign Folder on Blackboard

The reason you must submit your homework and papers to Safe Assign folders on Blackboard is so that a plagiarism check can be run on your paper. If you turn in your assignment early and see that you had a high plagiarism rating in the originality report, you may have the opportunity to see what you did and correct the assignment before it is due. Plagiarism, regardless of intention, is taken seriously.¹

Please make sure you are submitting to the correct assignment file for the paper. **If you have problems submitting to the assignment file, you need to e-mail me and let me know well *before* the assignment is due (e.g., two days, not two minutes).**

Assignments should be submitted as .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .odt files. Other file types will not be accepted. You are responsible for converting your document, if necessary, into an acceptable format.

Please take care to ensure that your paper properly uploaded to Blackboard.² After you submit your file to the Safe Assign folder, you will see a blue bar stating that your submission was successful.

Extra Credit

One extra credit opportunity, worth up to 5 points, involves attending an event during Women's History Month (March) or other announced eligible events and writing a one-page report about your experience. You may only complete this extra credit assignment once.

Any additional extra credit opportunities, if available, will be announced.

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation

Youngstown State University's attendance policy reads as follows:

A student is responsible for the content of any course in which he or she is officially enrolled.

The establishment of a specific policy concerning class attendance requirements, as well as announced and unannounced examinations, is the responsibility of the individual instructor.

Your attendance in class is expected and encouraged, but aside from the first day of class, I will not take attendance.

Missing more than 60% of classes, only attending class on quiz days, and/or non-submission of coursework may result in a Nonattendance F (NAF).

¹ See section on Academic Integrity

² For troubleshooting SafeAssign submissions, see:

https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Assignments/Submit_Assignments

This course is designed to be interactive. Please come to class prepared to discuss and actively participate. I encourage vibrant and respectful interaction. Discussion should be directed to the entire class. I start instruction promptly and continue to the end of designated class time. If you need to leave early for some reason, please contact me or see me before class begins.

Class Conduct

In this class, we will discuss issues that are highly controversial. We all come from different perspectives on these issues. It is likely that we will disagree with one another. I welcome and encourage lively discussion, as that is necessary for true learning to occur. However, disagreements should not come in the form of personal attack. Mutual respect is required in order to maximize a healthy and fair learning environment. Disagree with each other's ideas and the evidence used in the arguments, but respect each other as people.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that respects the learning environment. Using cellphones (texting) during class is disrespectful of the learning environment and distracting to others.

I show a number of video clips from a variety of sources as part of the course curriculum and to aid your understanding of concepts that are sometimes abstract or hard to understand. If anyone is ever made to feel uncomfortable or feels something is inappropriate, I request that you talk to me about it to see if the issue can be resolved in a way that allows learning to occur on both of our parts.

Use of cellphones or laptops in class requires my prior permission. You may not record my lectures without prior permission. You may not take photos of my slides.

If you draw a dinosaur on the bottom of your syllabus quiz, you will receive two bonus points.

Communication Issues

Office Hours

My office hours are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 AM, Wednesdays from 1 to 4 PM, and by appointment. Students are encouraged to see me during my office hours if they have any questions concerning the reading material, in-class assignments, quizzes, papers, study strategies, etc. If you are unable to meet me during my office hours, but need to be seen, you can e-mail me to make an appointment. My office is located in DeBartolo Hall 436.

Email

I can best be reached by e-mail, but my response may not be immediate. I do not check work-related email after 9:00 p.m. or on weekends. Students are expected to check their e-mail for University announcements or information from instructors, though announcements will typically be posted on Blackboard. It is to your benefit to check your e-mail so that you have the most up-to-date information pertaining to this class. If you use an e-mail address other than your YSU account (in other words, it does not end in "@ysu.edu"), I cannot guarantee that I will receive your e-mail.

Emails that address the professor as Miss, Ms., Mrs., or by first name will not receive a response after an initial warning. Please address me as Dr. Fehlbaum, Professor Fehlbaum, or Prof. Fehlbaum.

Please indicate which course you are in when emailing me for the first time. You also need to always sign your emails at the end (write your name).

Phone

I have a phone in my office; however, I cannot always be relied upon to answer it. The number is x2716. The department phone (x3442) is always answered between 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays and I will be notified if you leave a message for me.

University-Related Policies

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Youngstown State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, disability, age, religion, or veteran/military status in its programs or activities. Please visit www.ysu.edu/ada-accessibility for contact information for persons designated to handle questions about this policy.

Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence, discrimination, and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: Title IX Coordinator (Cynthia A. Kravitz – cakravitz@ysu.edu), Counseling Services (330-941-3737), YSU Police (330-941-3527), and Rape Crisis & Counseling Center (24-hour crisis line: 330-782-3936)

Academic Integrity

As outlined in *The Student Code of Conduct*, all forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Youngstown State University. This includes plagiarism, the unauthorized use of tools or notes in taking tests or completing assignments, fabrication of data or information used for an assignment, working with others without permission from the instructor, and more. A student who is believed to have violated the academic integrity policy will meet with the instructor to discuss the allegations. The student may accept responsibility for the violation and any sanctions selected by the instructor, or they have the right to ask for a hearing before a hearing panel. The full Academic Integrity policy can be found in Article III. 1. of *The Student Code of Conduct*, while further information on University procedures for alleged academic integrity violations can be found in Article V.

Students with Disabilities

Youngstown State University prohibits discrimination against people based on disability. If you have a disability, please let me know how I can help to guarantee your equal participation in this course.

In accordance with University procedures, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You must be registered with the Center for Student Progress Disability Services,

located 36 West Wood Street, and provide a letter of accommodation to coordinate reasonable accommodations. You can reach CSP Disability Services at 330-941-1372.

Honors Contract Option

Honors students may contract this course for honors credit. Notify me of your interest to discuss options and complete required paperwork. You must submit the project to me by the semester deadline.

Learning Support Programs

YSU is committed to your academic success. As a student, you have access to these learning support programs at no charge:

Center for Student Progress

What: Academic Coaching, Supplemental Instruction, and Tutoring in a variety of courses
When: By appointment. Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, and Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Where: Kilcawley Center West (near Dunkin Donut entrance)

Writing Center

What: Writing consultations for any discipline, Linguistics tutoring, Basic computer literacy
When: Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Friday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, and Sunday 4:00 – 7:00 pm (appointments or walk-ins)
Where: Maag Library, Lower Level, room 171

University Schedule of Operations

Last Day to Add or Change a Grade Option:	Tuesday, January 22, 2019
Last Day for 100% Refund:	Sunday, January 27, 2019
Last Day for Completing with an “I” Grade for Fall 2018:	Friday, March 1, 2019
Last Day for Withdrawing with a Grade of “W”:	Wednesday, March 27, 2019
Legal Holidays (No Classes Scheduled):	Monday, January 21, 2019
Spring Break:	Monday, March 11 – Sunday, March 17, 2019
Commencement:	Saturday, May 11, 2019

Course Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation

A breakdown of the points available in this course is shown below:

Syllabus Quiz	10
Quizzes (14 total, 2 dropped, 20 points each)	240
Reflective Assignments (5 total, 10 points each)	50
Paper	100
Zine	<u>100</u>
	500 points total

Grading Scale

Syllabus Quiz, Reflective Assns	Paper, Zine	Quizzes	Total Raw Points	Letter Grade
9 - 10	90 – 100	18-20	450 - 500	A
8	80 – 89	16-17	400 - 449	B
7	70 – 79	14-15	350 - 399	C
6	60 – 69	12-13	300 - 349	D
0 - 5	0 – 59	0-11	0 - 299	F

Final Grades

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- A: 450 - 500
- B: 400 - 449
- C: 350 - 399
- D: 300 - 349
- F: 0 - 299

Final grades will be based on points, not percentage. **Final grades are non-negotiable.**

Helpful Hints for Course Success

To aid your success in this course, you can find Study Tips and Helpful Hints for Writing Papers on Blackboard under Study Aids. I realize this is not an English or Writing course; however, good writing is integral to your success in college and I will count off for poor writing, spelling, and grammar. There is a writing center on campus if you struggle in this area. It is also important that you follow directions in regard to margins, spacing, and formatting of your papers.

You may submit a rough draft via email or hard copy one week before a paper assignment is due. I will give you feedback and tell you if you are headed in the right direction.

Course Schedule

The schedule is tentative and may change at the instructor's discretion.

SoS = Sociology of Sexualities

B = Blackboard

For maximum benefit in this course, complete the readings by the assigned date.

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – Introduction to Course

Thursday, January 17, 2019 – Sex, Gender, Sexuality – What's the difference?

B: "Learning to Think Critically about Human Sexuality," an excerpt from *Sexual Lives*

B: "Beyond the Binaries: Depolarizing the Categories of Sex, Sexuality, and Gender," Judith Lorber

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 – Categorizing Sexuality

B: "Heterosexuality: From Behavior to Identity"

B: "Gay by Choice? The Science of Sexual Identity,"

Thursday, January 24, 2019 – Doing Sex

B: "Are We Having Sex Now, or What?"

B: "Diversity in Conceptualizing Having 'Had Sex'"

Quiz 1

Paper Assignment Sign-Up Doodle Poll Closes at 11:59 PM

Tuesday, January 29, 2019 – Social Science Approach to Sex

SoS: Chapter 1 – The Social Construction of Sexuality

Syllabus Quiz

Thursday, January 31, 2019 – Investigating Sexuality

SoS: Chapter 2 – The Science of Sexuality

Quiz 2

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 – Sex Education

SoS: Chapter 7 – Sexuality in Schools and in the Workplace

Thursday, February 7, 2019 – Learning About Sex

B: "The Death of the Stork: Sex Education Books for Children"

B: "What Do I Say to My Children?"

B: "Put Me In, Coach: Sex Education for Adults"

Quiz 3

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 – Gender and Sexuality

SoS: Chapter 3 – Gender and Sexuality

Thursday, February 14, 2019 – Sexuality, Inequality, and Privilege

SoS: Chapter 4 – Sexuality, Inequality, and Privilege

Quiz 4

Paper 1 – Social Construction of Sexuality Due

Tuesday, February 19, 2019 – Sexual Orientations and Relationships

B: The Revolt Against Sexual Identity

Thursday, February 21, 2019 – Sexual Orientations and Relationships

B: “There’s More to Life Than Sex? Difference and Commonality Within the Asexual Community”

B: “‘How Could You Do This To Me?’ How Lesbian, Bisexual, and Queer Latinas Negotiate Sexual Identity with Their Families”

Quiz 5

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 – Sexuality and Intersectionality

B: “Deconstructing ‘Down Low’ Discourse: The Politics of Sexuality, Gender, Race, AIDS, and Anxiety

B: “Visibility as Privilege and Danger: Heterosexual and Same-Sex Interracial Intimacy”

Thursday, February 28, 2019 – Reproduction and Sexual Health

SoS: Chapter 9 – Sexuality and Reproduction

SoS: Chapter 10 – Sexual Health

Quiz 6

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 – Sexuality and the Body

B: “In Search of (Better) Sexual Pleasure: Female Genital ‘Cosmetic’ Surgery”

B: “A Sexual Culture for Disabled People”

Thursday, March 7, 2019 – Sexual Practices

B: “The Pursuit of Sexual Pleasure”

B: “Getting, Giving, Faking, Having: Orgasm and the Performance of Pleasure”

B: “The G-Spot and Other Mysteries”

Quiz 7

Paper 2 – Sexual Ideology and Material Culture Due

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 – NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Thursday, March 14, 2019 – NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Tuesday, March 19, 2019– American Hookup

Introduction: The New Culture of Sex

Chapter 1 – Hooking Up: A How-To

Thursday, March 22, 2019 – American Hookup

Chapter 2 – How Sex Became Fun

Chapter 3 – Sex in the Drunkworld

Quiz 8

Tuesday, March 26, 2019 – American Hookup

Chapter 4 – Opting Out

Chapter 5 – Opting In

Thursday, March 28, 2019 – American Hookup

Chapter 6 – Careless and Carefree
Chapter 7 – Unequal Pleasures
Quiz 9

Tuesday, April 2, 2019– American Hookup

Chapter 8 – Waiting to be Wanted
Chapter 9 – Flirting with Danger

Thursday, April 4, 2019 – American Hookup

Chapter 10 – Moving On
Conclusion: Changing the Culture
Quiz 10

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 – Unexpected Sexuality

B: “Bud Sex,” Tony Silva
B: “Gay-for-Pay: Straight Men and the Making of Gay Pornography”

Thursday, April 11, 2019 – Sexuality, Media, and Sport

SoS: Chapter 6 – Sexuality, Media, and Sport
Quiz 11

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 – Commodification of Sexuality

SoS: Chapter 11 – Commodification of Sex

Thursday, April 18, 2019 – Sexuality and Capitalism

B: “Overcome: The Money Shot in Pornography and Prostitution”
B: “Legalized Prostitution”
Quiz 12
Paper 3 – Sexual Ideology, Pop Culture, and Media Due

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 – Sexual Violence

SoS: Chapter 12 – Sexual Violence

Thursday, April 25, 2019 – Coercive Sexuality

B: “‘I Wasn’t Raped But...’: Revisiting Definitional Problems in Sexual Victimization”
B: “Rape Myths”
Quiz 13

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 – Sex and Technology

B: “Sexuality in a Virtual World”
Paper 4 – Lesson Plan Due

Thursday, May 2, 2019 – Re-visioning Sexuality for a Better Future

B: “Future Visions for a Sex-Positive Society”
Quiz 14

University Scheduled Final: Thursday, May 9, from 1 to 3 pm

**Grade Sheet for Student Records
SOC 3798A: Sociology of Sexuality, Spring 2019**

ITEM	DATE	SCORE	ITEM	DATE	SCORE	ITEM	DATE	SCORE
Quiz 1		/20	Quiz 7		/20	Quiz 13		/20
Quiz 2		/20	Quiz 8		/20	Quiz 14		/20
Quiz 3		/20	Quiz 9		/20	Paper		/100
Quiz 4		/20	Quiz 10		/20	Reflect 1		/10
Quiz 5		/20	Quiz 11		/20	Reflect 2		/10
Quiz 6		/20	Quiz 12		/20	Reflect 3		/10
						Reflect 4		/10
						Reflect 5		/10
						Ext Credit		

Two Quiz Scores to be dropped: Quiz # ___ with score of ___ and Quiz # ___ with score of ___

I will try to keep grades posted and updated on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades and to calculate your average. **If you believe there is a recording error on Blackboard, please let me know ASAP in writing (preferably by e-mail).**

When calculating your final grades, do NOT use the raw points totaled on Blackboard and remember to drop your two lowest quiz scores.

Grading Scale

Syllabus Quiz, Reflections	Paper, Zine	Quizzes	Total Raw Points	Letter Grade
9 - 10	90 - 100	18-20	450 - 500	A
8	80 – 89	16-17	400 - 449	B
7	70 – 79	14-15	350 - 399	C
6	60 – 69	12-13	300 - 349	D
0 - 5	0 – 59	0-11	0 - 299	F

If you need a grade check that I must sign for an organization or for personal reasons: please print up your Blackboard grade sheet. You need to determine the average.

Classmate's name	E-mail	Phone

It is a good idea to have the names and contact information of other students in your class. If you experience an unavoidable conflict that causes you to miss class, your classmate can help fill you in on what occurred.