The Sociology of Sexuality
Fall Quarter 2007
Professor: Pepper Schwartz
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Office Hours- Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 Wednesdays 2-3 and by appointment

Teaching Assistants: (office hours to be announced)

Debbie Warnock
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am-12pm
in Suzzallo Espresso

JoAnne Wehner
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm-1pm
and by appointment in Suzzallo Espresso

Jacob Young
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4pm-5pm
in Condon 16

Required Reading:

The Gender of Sexuality - Pepper Schwartz and Virginia Rutter

Speaking of Sexuality: Interdisciplinary Readings - Edited by J. Kenneth Davidson Sr.
and Nelwyn B. Moore  (second edition)

Introduction to the Course

Sexuality is a powerful influence in all of our personal lives, but it is also a potent public issue. This course will look at how our personal lives interact with cultural, historical and political forces and hopefully give you information that helps you have a better understanding of what shapes social policy and social norms about sex.

While this is primarily a sociology class, the study of sexuality is necessarily interdisciplinary- so I will also use a variety of academic sources and readings throughout the quarter.

The first part of the course concentrates on institutional forces (religion, historical influences, cultural norms, etc), but increasingly, as the course goes on, we focus more on the individual, the life cycle and then on contemporary social issues.

Still, the main analytic frame is Sociology. Sociologists think that while our body and brain help predict the ways we express sexuality, that the culture we live in, and the way
our parents and society socialize us, is at least as important, and maybe more important than biological determinants. You don't have to accept a sociological lens as the only way to see sexuality - but I hope our discipline will supplement and extend your knowledge of the way sexuality functions in society and in your own life.

**General Overview**

We meet twice a week for lecture. Classes include a combination of lectures, films, and sometimes, a guest lecturer. You are responsible for everything that happens in a class period, and the tests will be a mixture of class time and the assigned readings. Your grade will be based on three tests. The first two tests are worth 25% each and the final is worth 50%. The first two tests cover only the material that is new for that test- the last test is inclusive over all the material. Given the size of this class, all tests will be quantitative and you will need to bring the appropriate forms.

NOTE: The good news is that this is a large class so many people who want to take this class have the opportunity to do so. The bad news is that because of the class size, it is almost impossible to make exceptions to the timing of tests. Therefore, if you oversleep and miss a class, I cannot give you a make up. The only make ups will be given for serious personal or family emergencies and they must be authenticated by a doctor’s note (on medical stationary) or some similar note from a professional involved in the event (emergency medics, funeral director, championship playoffs, etc). If you know that you have to be away for a test, let us know ahead of time and we can tell you if we think your problem qualifies for special consideration. The final is listed for the Friday of finals week. The University assigns that, and there is nothing we can do about it. We are prohibited from giving it another time. In special cases we might be able to do it a day ahead of time- but convenience is not an adequate reason.

I know this seems unfriendly but when people miss a test, we have to make up new ones. With almost 700 students to serve this could be endless- so we have to draw a hard line and stick to it.

**Lecture Schedule:** (could change, but probably won’t—still, stay tuned to in class announcements- you are responsible for them!)

**First Week**
**Thursday, September 27th**

Introduction to the Sociology of Sexuality

What's Your Sexuality IQ? A self graded "test" to see just how much you need this class!!
What is Sex? What is Sexuality?

Essentialist (Biological) theories versus other theories of sexual identity and sexual behavior.

Social Constructionist

Integrative

Reading:

Chapter 1 in The Gender of Sexuality

Second Week
Tuesday, October 2\textsuperscript{nd}

Who Studies Sex and Why?

The History of the Study of Sexuality

The Early "Sex Stars"... Freud, Kinsey, and other supporting players...

Freud: Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis

Havelock Ellis: Biology and early behavioral approaches

Kinsey: Taxonomy and Liberalism

Survey Research, and modern methodologies

Documentary on Kinsey

Reading

In Speaking of Sexuality

Chapter 2 - Alfred Kinsey

Chapter 4 – The Social Organization of Sexuality

Chapter 5 - Sex Among the Americans
Thursday, October 4th

Part Two: Who Studies Sex

Masters and Johnson and the Behavioral and Feminist Responses

The Human Sexual Response Cycle Controversy: A Biological, Sociological, and Psychological Debate

Masters and Johnson: The Medicalization of Sexuality

Tieffer, et al.: Feminist Theory

Readings

In Speaking of Sexuality

Chapter 3 - Masters and Johnson

Third Week

What the Scientific Community was Reacting To: The Backdrop of Religion and Culture

Tuesday, Oct 9th

History -- The Role of Religion in Sexual Ideology and Prescription

Movies

The Ancient World
The Eastern World

Readings

In Speaking of Sexuality

Chapter 9: Current Religious Doctrines of Sexual and Erotic Development in Children

Chapter 42 Religiosity and Sexual Responsibility

Thursday, Oct 11th

Closer to Home: The Early History of American Sexual Culture
Were the Puritans really pure? What is the history of sexuality in America? A quick tour of approximately four hundred years of the control- and loss of control- of sexual conduct

The first settlements- east coast and south

The disturbing sexual history of enslaved people - Black and Native Americans

The Ascendance of Women in the West

The industrializing east

The Victorian Period

The Roaring Twenties and the Repressive Thirties

The Second World War-- to the Baby Boom

Readings

On Reserve

Chapters One and Two in Intimate Matters

Fourth Week
Tuesday, Oct 16th

No class – The President of the University will be giving a speech in our classroom.

Thursday, Oct 18th

Contemporary American Sexuality-- What is Sexual Desire? 
Who do we want? And Why?

Theories of Sexual Identity and Orientation

Heterosexuality, Homosexuality, Bisexuality, Transsexuality

Readings

In The Gender of Sexuality
In Speaking of Sexuality

Chapter 28 - Human Sexual Orientation Has a Heritable Component

Chapter 29 - We Cannot Conclude Sexual Orientation is a Biological Phenomenon

Chapter 30 - Do Parents Influence the Sexual Orientation of Their Children?

Movie: Sex Unknown

Fifth Week
Tuesday, Oct 23rd

FIRST EXAM— BRING FORMS and PENCILS!

Thursday, Oct 25th

The Sociological Body

Exploring how body, mind, and culture interact.

Movie: Private Dicks

Readings

In Speaking of Sexuality

Chapter 8: Human Sexual Development

Chapter 10: Early Childhood Exposure to Parental Nudity and Scenes of Parental Sexuality

Sixth Week
Tuesday, Oct 30th

Who does What to Whom?

The social significance of Who does What to Whom...
Masturbation, age at first sexual intercourse, sexual frequency, orgasm, oral sex, numbers of partners, attitudes and behaviors about extramarital sexuality... etc.

Readings

Chapter 2 in The Gender of Sexuality
In Speaking of Sexuality

Chapter 7- Sexuality in Mating, Dating and other Relationships
Chapter 17- Race, Gender and Class in Sexual Scripts

Thursday, Nov 1st

Sexuality and Uncommitted Relationships:
Power and Gender in Sexual Relationships
Initiation and Refusal in Relationships
Specific and consequential issues: Contraception and Condom Use

Readings

Chapter 3 in The Gender of Sexuality
In Speaking of Sexuality

Chapter 12 - College Virgins: How men and women perceive their sexual status
Chapter 13 - Communicating with new sex partners
Chapter 34 - Token Resistance to Sex: New Perspectives to an Old Stereotype
Seventh Week
Tuesday, Nov 6th

Sexuality in Long Term Relationships

Sexual Transitions in Marriage and Cohabitation

Sexual desire in long-term relationships

Readings

Chapter 4 in The Gender of Sexuality

In Speaking of Sexuality

Chapter 23 - Marital Style and Its Effects on Sexual Desire and Functioning

Chapter 16 - Passionate Marriage

Thursday, Nov 8th

Sexual Emotions and Obsessions: Jealousy, Betrayal, and Possessiveness

The Sociology of Jealousy and Possessiveness and Sometimes Extramarital Sexuality

Readings

In The Gender of Sexuality - pp 148-155

In Speaking of Sexuality

Chapter 14 - Sexual Infidelity Among Married and Cohabiting Americans

Tuesday, November 13th

Betrayals and Sexual Obsessions Part Two:

The Strange Case of Bill Clinton and Jennifer, Monica, etc. What is the role of sexual scandal in American life? What does it teach us? Why does it keep happening?
Readings

Chapter 5 of The Gender of Sexuality 176-184

In Speaking of Sexuality

Chapter 20- In the Garden of Tabloid Delight

Thursday, November 15th

Testing Monogamy
Polyamory, Swinging, Open Relationships.

Movie "When Two Won't Do" A Documentary on Polyamory

Ninth Week
Tuesday, Nov 20th

The Commercial Alternative: The Great Arousal Industry

Hot Topics: Prostitution, Call Girls, Courtesans, Historically and Today

Prostitution versus Sex Trafficking

Movie: The Courtesan

Readings

The Brothel (on reserve) chapters 1, 2, 7

Thursday, Nov 22nd - Thanksgiving Holiday

Tenth Week
Tuesday, Nov 27th

Sex and Commerce: The Great Arousal Industry Part Two

On line and up close and personal

Pornography, Sexual Toys and Fancy Sexual Aids

Pharmaceutical Inventions, Aphrodisiacs and Other Economics of Sexuality
The war against vibrators... The states of Georgia, and Alabama get weird...

Readings

In Speaking of Sexuality

Chapter 38 What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?

Chapter 41 Naked Capitalists

Possibly - Vibrator Movie…

Thursday, Nov 29th

SECOND EXAM – BRING FORMS AND PENCILS

Eleventh Week

Tuesday, Dec 4th

Reactions to a Changing Culture of Sexuality: Trying to Control Sex in the 21st Century

Abstinence Versus Comprehensive Sex Education

Readings

In Gender and Sexuality

Pages 168 to 176

In Speaking about Sex

Chapter 43- Where’d You Learn That?

Chapter 44-- Sexuality Education: Philosophies and Practices

Short video on the Abstinence Movement

Thursday, Dec 6th- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Sex: NOW you can ask!!