**SOCY 1006: Social Construction of Sexuality, Term A 2019**

Monday – Friday, 2:30-4:05 p.m. in Ketchum 1B71

Instructor: Hillary Steinberg

Office: 263 Ketchum Hall

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

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**Course Description**

This course investigates how sexualities operate in larger institutions societally and how that impacts individual understandings and performances of sexuality. Subsequently, we will examine how sexuality affects individual identity, interactions, and movement throughout American society. We will engage critically on both the biological essentialist and social constructionist perspective. However, we will use a social constructionist framework throughout this course more broadly due to the sociological nature of the class. We will specifically look at constructions of female, male, feminine, masculine, homosexuality, and heterosexuality as they coincide with cultural identities such as race, class, and embodiment. We will look at how inequality shapes our own lives but also operates broader sociological trends. The course has three substantive sections; sociological theory, intersectional identities, and institutional inequality.

All materials in the syllabus are subject to change given discussion with students in the class on how best to maximize your success.

**Required Readings**

Articles uploaded to Canvas.

**Grading**

Your final grade will be based on the following course requirements.

The course grade will be based on the following calculation:

Exam 1: 16 points

Exam 2: 17 points

Exam 3: 17 points

Reading Response: 15 points

Final Paper: 20 points

Participation: 10 points

Satire Worksheet: 5 points

Extra Credit 3 points

**Total:** 100 points (3 points wiggle room)

**Course Requirements:**

Exams

Exams will be multiple choice. They are not cumulative and will only cover the units from the section. This includes anything covered in lecture and the assigned readings.

Reading Response

You will write a reading response to guide you on how to best utilize the readings in this course. You will select one reading from the first section and write a 2-page response to be handed in the. It will be turned in on Canvas.

Final Paper

For the final paper, you will write 4-5 pages intersecting a sociological topic from this course you found yourself particularly drawn to. You will explain your own reactions and opinions about said topic. You will do this in the form of imaging a sexual utopia or writing a policy paper. It will be turned in on Canvas.

Participation

There is no formal attendance policy for this class. However, it will be difficult for you to succeed in this course if you do not attend. A portion of your grade will go to participation, which can look like contributions to class discussion and engagement in small group or individual activities. Each day a total of .5 points can be earned, with one day being dropped.

Satire Project

You will select a video dealing with sexuality by the musical comedy group The Lonely Island and analyze it via a worksheet. You will have time to work about this during class.

Extra Credit

You will write a 1-2 page response paper on either a field trip to Lannie’s or watching the movie Kinsey.

This course moves very fast (every two days is one week during the semester). please reach out to me if you will be missing class so that we can implement an alternative assignment.

Your participation in class discussion is encouraged. In this class, we will most assuredly express strong opinions and argue over some points. **It is fine to critique ideas, but not classmates**. No one should be made to feel as if they are being attacked personally over something they express in class.

**Course Policies and Environment**

* Important announcements will be sent out over email to the addresses listed on the class roster. These are daily. You are required to check this email account regularly over the course of the semester. Each day you will receive an email from the instructor with news about the upcoming class, what readings you will be expected to have done, and any due dates. You are responsible for the information in these daily emails.

# You are responsible for material and announcements presented during classroom time. I will not repeat material during office hours if you miss a class. It is your responsibility to get missed notes and updates from fellow students-NOT the instructor. If a due date or other administrative changes are announced, that will supersede the “tentative schedule” found in this syllabus. You are responsible for all information communicated in class, whether or not you are in attendance.

* Please turn off cell phone ringers, and avoid engaging in side conversation, reading, sleeping, texting, or extraneous online activity while in class.This is disrespectful of other students and the instructors and disruptive to the learning community. If I notice you doing any of these things, the possible reactions range from polite requests to cease to light public ridicule to being asked to leave the room.
* If you have an excusable absence (religious holidays, illness, etc.), please let me know as soon as possible to accommodate you. It is very easy to fall behind due to the condensed nature of the course.
* Similarly, because of how short this class is, late assignments will only be accepted two days after the due date at a 10% penalty.
* If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services promptly so that your needs can be accommodated. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: [303-492-8671](tel:303-492-8671), Center for Community N200, and <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.
* If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at  
  <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>
* Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance.  In this class, you will be offered alternate time to take the exam after religious observances are over or given an extension on due date for religious observances. See full details at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html>
* Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important concerning individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities.  Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.  See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>   and at  
  <http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code>
* The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships policy apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at [303-492-2127](tel:303-492-2127) or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at [303-492-5550](tel:303-492-5550). Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>
* All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior.  All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); [303-735-2273](tel:303-735-2273)). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>  and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>
* Please keep all returned work in case you have a grade dispute at the end of the semester.  If the calculation of your grade does not match our records, it is your responsibility to provide proof of graded work. You should keep track of your online grade book to catch any errors as early as possible.
* Web Page: The syllabus, readings, assignments, grades, and other information will be posted on the website on Canvas. The most recent course information will be available there, as information in this syllabus may be changed over the course of the semester. Email updates will be sent out when important material is posted on the website.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

Section 1 – Sociological Theory

Day 1

6/3 Topic: Sociological Concepts

Reading: Gender Chapters 1 and 2

Day 2

6/4 Topic: Biological Essentialism and Social Constructionism

Reading: Gender Chapter 3; Bio/Social chart

Day 3

6/5 Topic: Biological Essentialism and Social Constructionism

Reading: Gender Chapter 4; Are We Having Sex?

Day 4

6/6 Topic: Sociological History of Sex

Reading: Thinking Sex; Sexual Anatomy 101

Day 5

6/7 Topic: Hegemonic Masculinity

Reading: Chapter 6; Masculine Privilege Checklist

Day 6

6/10 Topic: Femininity

Reading: Chapter 7

Day 7

6/11 **Exam 1**

Section 2 – Intersecting Identities

Day 8

6/12 The Erotic Marketplace

Guest Speaker Ian Whalen

Reading: Hook Up Culture

Day 9

6/13 Heteronormativity and Monogamy

Reading: Dude, You’re a Fag; Heterosexual Questionnaire

Day 10

6/14 Topic: LGBTQ Rights, History, and Identity

Reading: I Don’t Like Passing

**Due: Reading Response**

Day 11

6/17 Topic: Transgender Subjectivities

Reading: Doing Gender, Doing Heteronormativity; To Count or Not to Count

Day 12

6/18 Race and Sexuality

Guest Speaker Jasmine Suryawan

Reading: Children Having Children

Day 13

6/19 Religion and Sexuality

Reading: Making Chastity Sexy

Day 14

6/20 Sexuality and Embodiment

Guest Speaker Hallie Berkson-Gold

Reading: Myth of the perfect body; “Pissing yourself isn’t particularly attractive”

Day 15

6/21 **Exam 2**

Section 3 – Institutional Inequality

Day 16

6/24 Topic: Violence on Campus

Guest Lecture Katie Mercer

Reading: CU Boulder Sexual Assault

Day 17

6/25 Topic: Gendered Violence

Reading: Tactics of Sexual Coercion

Day 18

6/26 Topic: Sex Education and the Life Course

Reading: Mixed Messages

Day 19

6/27 Topic: Sex Work

Guest Speaker Mel

Reading: Dominatrix

Day 20

6/28 Topic: Safe Sex, Contraception, and Abortion

Reading: Safer sex

Day 21

7/1 Topic: Media Depictions of Sexuality

Day 22

7/2 Topic: Sexual Utopias

Reading: Sluts in Utopia; I Have a Dream

Day 23

7/2 In Class Dialogue and Satire Worksheet

**Due: Satire Worksheet**

7/4 **NO CLASS: INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Day 24

7/5 **Exam 3**

**Due: Final Paper**