

Sex, Love, and Relationships (SOCY 2091)

Fall 2014, TTH 12:30-1:45pm

Classroom: CLRE 207

Instructor: Cristen Dalessandro

Office Hours:

Tuesday 2-4pm or by appointment

Contact Information:

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Office location: Ketchum 414

Course Description: Sociology is the scientific study of society, social relationships, and social institutions. This course will examine how sociologists conceptualize and study sex, love, and intimate relationships in society. It will investigate the constructions of sex, love, and intimate relationships over time, and how broad social phenomena connect to, and impact, changes in intimate life. It will explore the meanings and variations of sex, love, and relationships across time and space.

Required Texts:

There will be no required texts in this class. All readings will be available online through the learning portal (D2L). All readings listed on the schedule for a specific week should be completed by Tuesday of that week.

Grading:

Grading for the class will be determined by the following breakdown:

Reading Response Questions	15%
In-Class Work	10%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	30%
TOTAL	100%

Reading Response Questions (15%): Every Tuesday (except during exam weeks and fall break), you should turn in a response to the reading assignment for that week. These responses only need to be about a paragraph long. You should write a few sentences of your thoughts on the reading, and then write a discussion question for the class (it is my hope that we can address these during the Thursday class period each week). Responses should be typed and need to be submitted electronically by the beginning of class each Tuesday. At 12:30, the portal will close and no further submissions will be accepted. A total of 10 responses will be graded for each student, so you can miss two weeks of responses without penalty to your final grade. For weeks where there are multiple readings, you may choose to focus on only one reading for your response.

In-Class Work (10% of total grade): From time to time we will do in-class work and activities. The worksheets that accompany the films fall under this category, as well as group work and the accompanying worksheets. There is no make-up work for this category.

Exams (75% of total grade): There will be three exams in this class. These exams are not cumulative and will cover the material in one of the three sections that break down the class. Testable material includes lecture, readings, and movies falling under the appropriate section. The format of exams will be a combination of short answer questions and essay questions. Exams are always on Thursdays. Please refer to the class calendar for specific exam dates.

Exam Make-Up Policy- If you have to miss an exam, I will allow make-ups *only with official documentation*. Official documentation examples include doctor's notes, documentation from the athletic department (for athletes), etc. A note from your parents does not count as official documentation. You must notify me either prior to the missed exam, if you know you will be absent, or within 48 hours after the exam. *If you do not notify me within 48 hours after the exam, you waive your opportunity to take a make-up exam.* Make-ups will consist of an alternate exam and date and time must be arranged with the instructor.

Grading Scale:

Letter	Percentage	Description
A A-	93-100 90-92	Exceptional: Exceeds all required elements of the assignment, and the quality of the work is considerably greater than required.
B+ B B-	88-89 83-87 80-82	Good: Meets all required elements of the assignment, and the quality of the work is better than what is required.
C+ C C-	78-79 73-77 70-72	Average: Meets all required elements of an assignment, no more, no less. Quality of assignment is satisfactory for college level work.
D+ D D-	68-69 63-67 60-62	Below average: Does not meet all the required elements of the assignment, and/or the quality is below satisfactory.
F	59 and below	Failing: Almost none of the requirements of the assignment are met and/or the quality of the assignment is unacceptable.

General Class Policies:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services as soon as possible so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Center for Community N200, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>. If you have an undocumented disability that impacts you in your student role, please see me during the first two weeks of class to discuss options.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. 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, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior, and aid of academic dishonesty. Those found to be in violation of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Code Council. Please refer to www.colorado.edu/honorcode to view the specific guidelines. If you have any questions related to this policy, please contact the Honor Code Council at honor@colorado.edu. I don't have a soft spot for cheaters.

My Policies:

1. No laptops or cell phones are allowed in this course. Unfortunately for you, a history of student laptop privilege abuse has caused me to ban laptops in class! If you have a disability that requires you use a laptop, please see me immediately so we can discuss accommodations.
2. There are no make-ups for in-class work or online posts.
3. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. For in-class notes, please contact one of your classmates (see "class contacts" at the end of this syllabus)
4. In this class, as in many sociology classes, our discussions will often focus on controversial issues that may arouse intense feelings and disagreement. While enthusiastic discussion and debate of these issues is wholeheartedly encouraged, insensitive or mean-spirited comments targeted towards anyone in the class based on race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexual orientation, religion, ideas or beliefs will not be tolerated.
5. As the instructor, I reserve the right to ask you to leave if I believe your words and/or actions are contributing to a classroom environment where not all individuals (myself included) feel respected and safe.
6. Please do not get up and leave class- or start packing up to leave- before our time is up. Please avoid consistent lateness to class. It is distracting to both me and the other students. If you must leave early or come late, please let me know ahead of time. Repeatedly disrupting class by being late/leaving early could have a negative impact on your in-class assignment grade. Please respect your fellow classmates, and the instructor, by being on time and leaving on time.

Schedule (All readings are available online; for any films, you will receive a viewing guide)

Week	Topic	Readings (Due Tuesday each week)	Events?
8/26-8/28	Introductions & Starting with What We “Know”	Gray Ch. 2	No reading reflection due
9/2-9/4	“Singlism” and our Cultural Emphasis on Partnering	Excerpts from DePaulo, “Singled Out” (Chs. 1 & 10)	
9/9-9/11	Gender Roles in Relationships	Lamont “Negotiating Courtship” Pyle “Class-Based Masculinities”	Film: “Tough Guise” 9/9
9/16-9/18	Love & Marriage: Personal and Public	Heath- “One Marriage Under God” (Introduction, Ch. 2)	
9/23-9/25	Marriage Cont’d		EXAM 1: 9/25
9/30-10/2	Beyond Monogamy: Other Relationship Forms	Wilkins “Wannabes, Goths, and Christians” Chs. 2-3	
10/7-10/9	Other Relationship Forms Cont’d	Easton & Hardy- “The Ethical Slut” Part 1: Welcome	Film: “Asexual” 10/7
10/14-10/16	Gender, Race, Class, and COLLEGE	Armstrong, Hamilton, & Sweeney- “Sexual Assault on Campus” Bogle- “Hooking Up” (chs. 5-6)	
10/21-10/23	Gender, Race, Class, and COLLEGE	Ray & Roscow- “Getting Off and Getting Intimate” Bogle (Ch. 7)	
10/28-10/30	Gender, Race, Class, and College Cont’d		EXAM 2: 10/30

Week	Topic	Readings	Events?
11/4-11/6	Children in the Context of Relationships	Reich- "Fixing Families" (Ch. 4) Edin & Nelson- "Promises I can Keep" (Chs. 1-3)	Film: "Paycheck to Paycheck" 11/4
11/11-11/13	Children in the Context of Relationships	Hertz- "Single by Chance, Mothers by Choice" (Introduction, 1, 4)	
11/18-11/20	Breaking Up	Vaughan- "Uncoupling" (Introduction-Ch. 3)	
11/25-11/27	N/A		FALL BREAK!
12/2-12/4	Breaking Free from "Codependency"?	Irvine- "Codependent Forevermore" (Introduction and Part I)	
12/9-12/11	Exam Review/Closing	<u>Optional Reading</u> : Illouz (Chs. 1-2)	EXAM 3- 12/11
12/16-12/18	N/A	N/A	

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus if need be throughout the semester.
However, should any part of it change, you will be notified accordingly

Peer Contact Info (your source for getting missed material)

Name_____email_____

Name_____email_____