

SEXUALITIES STUDIES

Fall 2025, WST 3603 (Class #20474)

T | Periods 5-6 (11:45 AM - 1:40 PM) [ROL 205](#)

R | Period 6 (12:50 PM - 1:40 PM), [ROL 205](#)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Interdisciplinary study of sexualities covering diverse theories of sexualities and desire, and how these theories are socially constructed and regulated. Central are the connections between sexualities and other social locators such as race, ethnicity, gender, social class, age, and ability or disability. Please note: *This course will engage and consider a variety of views about sex and sexualities; one political view is not a required nor an expected outcome.* [Major Core (Category B), Minors: WST, HDS (Category A), Specializations: TPS, HESJ]

REQUIRED READING

- SM** Stomblor, M and D.M. Baunauch, E.O. Burgess, W. Simonds, E.J. Windsor. 2019. *Sex Matters: The Sexuality & Society Reader, Fifth Edition*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. [E-book in library; Hard copy available in course reserves in Library West]
- NSS** Fischer, N. and L. Westbrook, S. Seidman. 2022. *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies Original Essays*. New York: Routledge, select readings [E-book in library]
- R** Readings in Canvas (by experts in the field) – see course schedule for details

NOTE: **RQA** = Review Question Assignment

NOTE: I will try to remain as faithful as possible to this syllabus. However, there are times I may need to adjust the plan and make changes. I will announce any such changes in advance, in class or via the class email list.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/GOALS

This course is designed to provide students with an overview the field of sexuality studies. By the end of the semester students should be able to:

- recognize current trends, strengths, and gaps in research about sex/sexuality and the field of sexuality studies.
- outline the diverse ways people think and learn about sexuality and the social consequences thereof.
- explain different theoretical approaches to understanding and researching sexuality.
- understand qualitative research approaches and how to read and review such research articles.
- explain research about difference and variation in sexual categories and meanings.
- explain research detailing patterns of how sexuality structures lives, alongside race, gender, class, age, and ability (at minimum).
- analyze current examples of research and articulate how they extend the field
- identify new areas of research needed in the field

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

PART 1: INTRODUCTION, STATE OF THE FIELD & RESEARCH APPROACHES

Thurs. Aug. 21

INTRODUCTION

Please read syllabus and access class Canvas page

WEEK 1

Tues., Aug. 26

REFLECTING ON SEX/SEXUALITY RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE

Start drafting: Research Reflection Essay (after reading Westbrook reading and podcast)

R, Westbrook, Budnick & Saperstein 2022

Podcast: Littlejohn & Stone 2025 (see Canvas for link)

Review campus policies (see Canvas for links)

Post community discussion guideline/rule (on Canvas)

Thurs., Aug. 28

SEXUALITIES STUDIES RESEARCH

Continue drafting: Research Reflection Essay

R, Graham et al. 2025.

NSS, Budnick (pp. 64-70)

NSS, Epstein (pp.382-391)

WEEK 2

Tues., Sept. 2

SEX/SEXUALITY LESSONS

Due: Research Reflection Essay

SM, Reading 16 (pp. 173-192, including box)

SM, Reading 17 (pp. 193-206, including box)

SM, Reading 20 (pp. 234-239)

Thurs., Sept. 4 **SEX/SEXUALITY/GENDER CURRICULUMS**
NSS, Miceli (pp 427-436)
NSS, Fields and Gilbert (pp. 437-446)

WEEK 3

Tues., Sept. 9 **SEX EDUCATIONS**
SM, Reading 18 (pp. 207-222, including box)
SM, Reading 19 (pp. 223-233, including box)
Recommended:
García, 2009.
Kimmel et al. 2013

Thurs., Sept. 11 **OUTSIDE CLASSROOM LESSONS OF SEX/SEXUALITY**
SM, Reading 12 (pp. 128-142, including box)
R, Allen 2023.
R, Marcantonio 2025.

WEEK 4

Tues., Sept. 16 **COMPLEXITIES OF SEX/SEXUALITY RESEARCH**
SM, Reading 7 (pp. 68-74)
SM, Reading 8 (pp. 75-84)
SM, Reading 9 (pp. 87-98)

Thurs., Sept. 18 **METHODS OF SEX/SEXUALITY RESEARCH**
R, Todd, 2021.
R, Schact, 2004.

WEEK 5

Tues., Sept. 23 **APPROACHES TO THINKING ABOUT SEX/SEXUALITY**
R, Seidman, 2016.
NSS, Patil (pp. 410-417) RQA
Recommended:
Rubin, 1984.

Thurs., Sept. 25 **APPROACHES TO THINKING ABOUT SEX/SEXUALITY**
NSS, Jones, (pp. 81-90) RQA
R, Winder & Ota 2025.

WEEK 6

Tues., Sept. 30 **EXAM 1**

Thurs., Oct. 2 **READING RESEARCH**
Research Article Presentation Preparation
R, Small and Calarco, 2022.
R, Lewis, 2007.

PART II: READING RESEARCH

WEEK 7

Tues., Oct. 7

CATEGORIZING SEX

SM, Reading 1 (pp. 5-13, including box)

SM, Reading 2 (pp. 14-24)

NSS, Prybylo (pp. 35-46)

NSS, Lamont (pp. 47-55)

Thurs., Oct. 9

CATEGORIZING SEX

SM, Reading 3 (pp. 25-31)

NSS, Westbrook (pp. 25-34) RQA

WEEK 8

Tues., Oct. 14

CATEGORIZING SEX

SM, Reading 4 (pp. 32-40, including box)

SM, Reading 5 (pp. 41-51, including box)

SM, Reading 44 (pp 529-541)

Thurs., Oct. 16

CATEGORIZING SEX

SM, Reading 6 (pp. 52-64, including box)

NSS, Carrillo (pp. 355-362) RQA

Recommended:

Hamilton and Armstrong, 2009

WEEK 9

Tues., Oct. 21

SEXUAL BODIES & THEIR CONSTRUCTIONS

NSS, Braun (pp.107-117)

NSS, Andrejek and Heath (pp. 335-343)

NSS, Roberts (pp. 392-400) RQA

Thurs., Oct. 23

SEXUAL COMMERCE & DIGITAL SPACES

SM, Reading 13 (pp. 143-152)

NSS, Currington and Lundquist (pp.214-223)

NSS, Widner (pp. 521-527) RQA

WEEK 10

Tues., Oct. 28

SEXUAL LABOR AND INDUSTRY

SM, Reading 58 (pp. 685-692)

SM, Reading 31, (pp. 363-382, including box)

R, Hanson & Brooks, 2025.

Thurs., Oct. 30

SEXUAL EXPRESSIONS & COMMUNITIES

SM, Reading 47, (pp. 564-572)

SM, Reading 48 (pp. 577-584)

NSS, Schippers (pp. 261-270) RQA

WEEK 11**Tues., Nov. 4****SEXUAL RELATIONS**

SM, Reading 30 (pp. 352-362)

SM, Reading 32 (pp. 383-392)

NSS, Buggs (pp. 224-232) **RQA****Thurs., Nov. 6****SEXUAL COMFORT & HEALTH?**

Robinson, 2025.

R, Mitchell et al.. 2023.

WEEK 12**Tues., Nov. 11****NO CLASS – UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY**Littlejohn book podcast, 2024. (link in Canvas) **RQA****Thurs., Nov. 13****SEXUAL HEALTH & SAFER SEX**

SM, Reading 37, (pp. 441-449)

SM, Reading 38, (pp. 455-463)

NSS, Barcelos (pp. 721-729) **RQA**

WEEK 13**Tues., Nov. 18****SEXUAL HEALTH & WELLBEING**

SM, Reading 39 (pp. 464-476)

SM, Reading 40 (pp. 477-486)

Thurs., Nov. 20**RECENT RESEARCH - ARTICLE PRESENTATIONS**

WEEK 14**Tues., Nov. 25****NO CLASSES – UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY****Thurs., Nov. 27****NO CLASSES – UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY**

WEEK 15**Tues., Dec. 2th****RECENT RESEARCH - ARTICLE PRESENTATIONS***Take Home Exam 2 Preparations*

Tuesday, Dec. 9**DUE: EXAM 2**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: This class depends on everyone's active participation and thoughtful discussion. Regular attendance is expected. [No attendance will be taken, but thinking and discussion will regularly occur in class and significant assignments will depend on knowledge acquired from participating]. In that regard, you are expected to come to class prepared to engage with the material and to participate in the class discussion. This means you should do the readings assigned for that day before you attend class. Please note: my teaching is not meant to endorse or advocate the arguments and theories in the material of this course, but rather to foster a space for students to think for themselves and dialogue with others.

READING AND STUDY TIME: Each week the class meetings will include discussion-based lectures, structured discussion, and some small-group assignments. The assigned readings for each week include 2-4 readings/day, all readings by key researchers and representing current research. Together the readings will provide core concepts of the field with interesting empirical examples. Before class you should complete the readings and think about the core concepts and contributions, using review questions to help. Course lecture each week will also include overviews of readings to help students with material. Please note, university courses, in general, are designed such that every hour in class is expected to be accompanied by at least 3 hours of study outside of class.

RESEARCH REFLECTION ESSAY: (5 points possible, 1% of final grade, DUE: Sept. 2): As we begin the semester, you will be asked to write an essay, building off ideas from introductory materials, answering the question: *If you could do research on something about sex/sexuality, what would you research?* (Please note – You don't have answer this question in terms of survey research). Please write it as a 500–700-word essay, including a description of your area of interest and linking it to ideas from class materials on August 26-28th. *Further information will be provided in class.*

REVIEW QUESTION ASSIGNMENTS (4 points possible/assignment, total = 40 points, 13% of the final grade): Throughout the semester, you will be asked to briefly answer the review questions for a reading before class (in preparation for discussion with classmates during class). The purpose of these assignments is to help you think more about the readings and master the key ideas and contributions of them. In general, each assignment will ask you to write a brief (1-2 sentence answer) for each of three review questions at the end of a reading, so you will turn in about 6 sentences for each assignment. The readings for which you are expected to do such assignments are marked with **RQA** in the weekly schedule on the syllabus. (Note: Grading will follow this general rubric: 1 point for each review question answered (for total of 3) and 1 point for participating in the accompanying discussion in class)

EXAM 1 (100 points possible, 33% of the final grade): Exam 1 will be an in-class exam on *Tuesday, September 30th*. It will cover the material from the first part of the course. *Further information will be provided in class.*

RESEARCH ARTICLE PRESENTATION: (30 points possible, 10% of the final grade): In Week 13 or 15 of the semester, you will be expected to do a group presentation about a piece of recent sexuality research. The presentation and paper will focus on one in-depth example of recent sexuality research. *Further information will be provided in class.*

EXAM 2 (125 points possible, 41% of the final grade): Exam 2 will be a take-home exam distributed on *Tuesday, December 2nd* and due nearly one week later on *Tuesday, December 9th* at 11am. It will include three essay questions listed on canvas. *Further information will be provided in class.*

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

UF ACADEMIC POLICIES: This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/). The direct link is <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.)

ANSWERS TO IMPORTANT CLASS QUESTIONS:

May I take my exam late? May I turn my assignment/paper in late? Late assignments, papers, and exams will only be accepted/arranged when students face documented circumstances beyond his or her control.

May I take an incomplete in the course? The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences states that an incomplete can “only be given when a student has completed a major portion of the course with a passing grade and has been unable to complete the course requirements because of documented circumstances beyond his or her control” (see also Undergraduate catalog under “Grades/ Grading Policy”). An “Incomplete” (or “I” grade) can only be assigned before the final exam/final paper of the course.