Professor: Dr. Coleman Nye  
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Office hours: TBA  
Lecture: Thursdays 13:30 - 17:20; WMC 2202

Course Description:
How many sexes are there? Are sex differences determined by the brain, by hormones, by genes, by genitals, by social environment, by some combination of these factors, or by something else entirely? Is sexuality a product of nature, nurture, or both? Is biological sex fixed or can it change over time? What are the values, assumptions, and beliefs that shape these questions and what is at stake in the answers we provide?

This third-year course critically examines the social, material, political, and technological intersections of science and sex. It asks: What do we know about sex and sexuality, what don’t we know, and how do we come to know (or not know) it? Drawing together readings and media from biology, anthropology, philosophy, history, feminist and indigenous science studies, queer theory, critical race theory, and the literary and performing arts, we will explore a range of questions, including (but not limited to): What is the biology – as a scientific matter and as bodily matter – of sex and gender? What can (or can’t) animals such as promiscuous primates or monogamous voles tell us about human sex, gender, and sexuality? How are scientific values such as objectivity, discovery, or universality engaged in producing and naturalizing gendered, classed, or racialized differences? What other approaches to thinking and doing sex exist within and beyond the sciences, and how might they alter, challenge, or subvert dominant regimes of knowledge production about sexual difference? How do the social contexts and meanings of categories such as monogamy, masculinity, or asexuality shape scientific research questions and practices? In turn, how does scientific research influence our understandings and experiences of these categories and the people (or animals or plants or bacteria) who fall into with them? What role do technologies such as hormones, PET scans, or vibrators play in shaping our definitions and experiences of our bodies’ sex?

After successful completion of this course, students are expected to:

- Convey an understanding of the social, historical, and political dimensions of scientific knowledge production;
- Analyze the connections between biology and society at individual, institutional, and global scales
- Articulate in verbal and written form how sex and sexuality act as generative sites of knowledge, power, and governance
- Act as critical consumers and producers of knowledge about sex as a practice, identity, materiality, and concept, particularly as it intersects with other formations of subjectivity and difference such as race, gender, class, and ability

Educational Goals:
I Display disciplinary knowledge of core concepts of gender and sexuality.
II Develop Transferable Skills and Information Literacy.
III Analyze and assess the concept of gender with an intersectional focus.
IV Analyze assess, and apply interdisciplinary approaches to gender and sexuality.
V Display Engaged and Empathetic citizenship.

For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: [http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html](http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html)

Prerequisite: 30 units. Breadth-Humanities/Social Sciences/Science.
Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- Attendance: 10%
- Ten Sex/Gender Questions Exercise: 15%
- Lab Notebook: 25%
- Implosion Group Project: 25%
- Final Project: 25%

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Angela Willey, *Undoing Monogamy: The Politics of Science and the Possibilities of Biology* ($26 on Amazon)