

GSWS 100
Sex Talk

Introduction to Contemporary Issues in Sexuality Studies

Fall 2019

Thu 10:30 - 12:20 | Schrum Science Centre B9201

Dr. Helen Leung

Office: AQ 5104A

Office Hours: Wed 10-11 am | Thu 2-3 pm | or by appointment

Tel: 778-782-5688 (during office hours only)

Email: helen_leung@sfu.ca

Course Description

In this course, students are introduced to major contemporary issues in sexuality studies through an exploration of how sex is portrayed, talked about, and evaluated in different media and cultural contexts. Topics covered include: an overview of sexuality theories; media culture and sexualization; social media and the public/private boundaries of sex; sex on screen; sexual identity in media; sexual identity and consumer culture; trans media and non-binary language of gender; heterosexuality and its discontent; technology and the future of sex.

Educational Goals: http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html

Click on link to **Undergraduate Course - Lower Division** to see the goals for GSWS 100.

Course Assessment

Tutorial Attendance	10%
Tutorial Participation	10%
Mid-Term Exam (In-class)	30%
Research Assignment	20%
Final Exam (Take-home)	30%

Required Texts

All required readings are available for download on Canvas.

Description of Assignments

Tutorial Attendance: Tutorial attendance is a course requirement. This grade will reflect a student's attendance record.

Tutorial Participation: The tutorial participation grade will reflect a student's level of preparation in tutorials.

Mid-Term: An in-class exam on material learnt during the first half of the course.

Research Assignment: An exercise that requires students to conduct research on an assigned topic and prepare an annotated bibliography (4-5 pages) to document and evaluate their research. Details will be given in class.

Final Exam: A take-home, open-book exam that tests students' understanding of major concepts in the course and ability to apply these concepts to critical analyses of sexuality and culture. All the material studied in the course will be covered. Questions will be available on Canvas 48 hours before the due date. Exams **MUST BE** submitted through Canvas on or before the due date. No late exam will be accepted or given credit.

Course Policies

- Students are expected to finish all assigned reading before coming to class. Quizzes and exercises related to assigned readings may occasionally be given at lectures or in tutorials.
- Late assignments will not be marked or given credit.
- Plagiarism, whether intentional or not, will result in an F on the plagiarized assignment. All suspected cases will be thoroughly investigated. Consult the self-directed tutorial "Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism" (link available on Canvas) for more information on what constitutes plagiarism.
- Please keep copies of notes and drafts of all your assignments in case questions of plagiarism arise.
- Lecture outlines will be available on CANVAS one day prior to the lecture. Please note that outlines only contain summaries of the main points presented at lectures and should not be treated as a replacement or a complete documentation. You are expected to be familiar with ideas presented during lectures and it is your own responsibility to catch up if you miss any lecture classes.
- The topic of sexuality is often sensitive and challenging for students. If you are troubled by any reading material or visual imagery for whatever reason and need accommodation, please make sure you come talk to me and I'll do my best to find a solution. You are also expected to show respect and compassion to your classmates in the classroom. An open mind and a sense of humour are essential!

Content Warning

- Occasionally, lecture material will consist of images and videos showing nudity, graphic sexuality, and explicit language.
- All sexual content shown in class is of a consensual nature. Occasionally, certain images and themes discussed in class may be controversial for some. If you think you might have problems with anything discussed in class, please come talk to me and I will try my best to find solutions.

READING SCHEDULE

Please finish all assigned readings by the scheduled dates.

Week 1 Sep 5

Introduction

No tutorials this week.

Week 2 Sep 12

Serious Sex Talk: An Overview of Theoretical Perspectives on Sexuality

Steven Seidman, "Theoretical Perspectives"

Week 3 Sep 19

Good Porn, Bad Porn: Media, Technology & Sexualization

Feona Attwood, "Sex and the Media"

Week 4 Sep 26

That Eggplant Emoji: Social Media & The Boundary of Public/Private Sex

Theresa M. Senft, "The Public, the Private, and the Pornographic"

Amy Adele Hasinoff, "Sexting as Media Production: Rethinking Social Media and Sexuality"

Week 5 Oct 3

Sex On Screen: The Language of Cinematic Sex

Tanya Krzywinska, "Formal Conventions of Cinematic Sex"

Week 6 Oct 10

Midterm Exam Review

Introduction to Research Assignment

Please complete the research tutorial on Canvas prior to lecture.

Week 7 Oct 17

Midterm Exam

No tutorials this week.

Week 8 Oct 24

Studious Sex: Critical Vocabulary For Studying Sexual Identities

Wendy Hilton-Morrow and Kathleen Battles, Introduction to *Sexual Identities and the Media*

Week 9 Oct 31

Queer Eye For Sale: Consumer Culture and LGBTQ Representation

Wendy Hilton-Morrow and Kathleen Battles, "Consumer Culture"

Week 10 Nov 7

Change the Signs: Trans Media and Non-Binary Language

Tobias Raun, "Video Blogging as a Vehicle of Transformation: Exploring the Intersection between Trans Identity and Information Technology"

A. Finn Enke, "Stick Figures and Little Bits: Towards a Non-binary Pedagogy"

Week 11 Nov 14

Unhappily Ever After: Heterosexuality and its Discontent

Leena-Maija Rossi, "'Happy' and 'Unhappy' Performatives"

Rebecca Hawkes & Cherie Lacey, "'The Future of Sex': Intermedial Desire Between Fembot Fantasies and Sexbot Technologies"

Week 12 Nov 21

OS, AI & iRobot: Technology and the Future of Sex

In-class screening: episodes from *Black Mirror*

Research Assignment due in lecture at 10:30 am

Week 13 Nov 28

Wrap-Up & Discussion

Final Exam Guidelines & Review

No tutorials this week.

Dec 4, 2019 Final Exam Questions Available On Canvas by 8 am PST

Dec 6, 2019 Final Exam Due Via Canvas Upload at 5 pm PST