

# SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES

SOC 4890 / GWST 4500

Fall 2023

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<b>Instructor:</b> Kenneth R. Hanson, PhD	<b>Time:</b> T/R 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
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**Dr. Hanson's Office:** 304 Arts & Sciences Bldg.

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00 PM, Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 PM, or by appointment

## Course Materials:

- All required materials will be made available on WyoCourses (Canvas)
- Students who consult materials outside of course content must cite appropriately.

**Course Description:** This is an advanced seminar class intended to give students a deep understanding of the rich field of sexuality studies. The sociology of sexualities is inherently interdisciplinary. Thus, while we will approach the topic from a sociological perspective, we will engage with material from across the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. Students will be expected to deeply engage with original scholarly material, apply that material to their own lived experiences, and produce original scholarly work. Students will be assessed on their ability to grapple with scholarly works in class discussions, write critical reflective essays, and investigate areas of scholarship of their interest. By the end of this course, students will have gained a deep knowledge base of this exciting field of study.

**Prerequisites:** This class is limited to students with junior or senior standing.

## Course Assignments:

- 7 Pre-Seminar Freewrites (10 points each – 70 total)
- 3 Critical Essays (30 points each – 90 total)
- 2 Seminar Discussion Leader (60 points)
- 1 Final Paper (80 points)
- Course Total: 300 points

## Course Policy: Attendance and Participation

- Attendance and participation are not graded daily, but students must attend in order to be discussion leaders and must attend the final paper roundtable discussion on the last day of class. When you are a discussion leader, it is disheartening to come to an empty or apathetic class. Please attend and participate for the sake of your peers who are leading the majority of the class discussions, who you hope will do the same when it is your turn to lead class discussions.

**Important Dates:**

Last day to drop without penalty .....	September 7
Critical Essay #1 .....	October 5
Midterm Grades Due .....	October 26
Critical Essay #2 .....	November 2
Last day to partial withdraw .....	November 10
Critical Essay #3 .....	November 20
Final Paper Due .....	December 15
Final Grades Due .....	December 21

**Assignment Overview:**

- **Detailed assignment instructions and grading rubrics are on Canvas. It is your responsibility to read these.**
- **Pre-seminar Freewrites** — Seven times during the course students are expected to complete a pre-seminar freewrite. Freewrites are creative, so formatting and grammar are not strictly graded. What they *must show* is the following. 1. The student has read the day's assigned reading(s). 2. The student has questions about the reading and how it applies to *previous readings or class discussions*. Each freewrite is worth 10 points of a student's grade for a combined total of 70 points (23% overall). Because freewrites are meant to be completed before class, I cannot accept freewrites late. However, I will drop lower scores if the student wishes to complete additional freewrites. **Note, you cannot submit freewrites on days you are discussion leader, and they are only accepted on discussion leader days, meaning there are 19 opportunities total.**
- **Critical Essays** — Three critical essays are due throughout the course. The goal of these essays is to apply material we are learning in the course to your life and the world around you. Each essay should be 1,000–1,200 words with a 50 word grace. Essays outside that range (950–1250) *will lose points*. Each essay is worth 30 points for a combined total of 90 points (30% overall). Essay prompts can be found on Canvas.
- **Seminar Discussion Leader** — Twice during the course, you will be part of a **group of 2–3** people who will lead the discussion for that day. Your group will be responsible for reading the material, leading the class in a discussion of the material, and, as decided by your group, designing and facilitating activities. Feel free to be creative with your activities, but please also be inclusive. The materials for the day are set and you must discuss them sufficiently; however, you are free (and encouraged) to bring in outside material as you see fit. There are 19 days available for seminar leading. We will select groups and seminar days Week 2. This assignment is worth 30 points each time, for a combined total of 60 points (20% overall).
- **Final Paper** — For your final assignment, you must write a research paper on a topic of your choice that is relevant to the sociology of sexualities. Final papers must be a minimum of 2,500 words. This assignment is broken into two parts. 20 points come from the final paper round table discussion on the last day of class, and 60 points come from the paper itself, for a total of 80 points (27% of the final grade).

**Late Assignment Policy:** Pre-seminar freewrites must be completed before class and therefore cannot be accepted late. Critical essays are not subject to a late penalty. Final papers are due 12/15/2023 and will only be accepted after that date for students taking an 'I' for the course, which are only given in extraordinary circumstances well in advance of the deadline.

**Course Policy: Grade Appeals**

- Grade appeals will *only* be considered in writing. Students who wish to appeal a grade must submit an appeal describing why they believe the grade to be incorrect within one week from when the assignment was returned. The appeal must address what grade they believe to be correct and why.

**Course Policy: Grading Policy**

- 90–100% = A
- 80–89.99% = B
- 70–79.99% = C
- 60–69.99% = D
- 0–59.99% = F
- Incompletes are only given in extraordinary circumstances.
- Grades are not rounded at the end of the semester.

**Course Policy: Writing Guidelines**

- Failure to adhere to the below policies will result in a loss of points.
- Consult the document Writing for Social Science Courses on Canvas for writing tips.
- Essays must include your name and the title of the course.
- Correct grammar, spelling and punctuation are expected.
- Use 12. pt. Times New Roman or a similarly standard font (Arial, Courier, Garamond, Helvetica).
- Double-space papers.
- Use a standard citation style (APA, ASA, Chicago, MLA).
- Upload all assignments on WyoCourses (Canvas).

**Course Policy: Classroom and Professional Interaction Expectations**

- Mobile phones and other handheld electronic devices are distracting and should be not be used in a seminar style course. If you must, I ask that you excuse yourself quietly and answer messages and calls in the hallway. Laptops and tablets are permitted for note-taking purposes. If you are using technology for note-taking purposes, I ask that you sit behind your analog peers. Other electronic aides will be accommodated for students working with DSS.
- **No unauthorized video or audio recording during class is permitted. This is a policy I take very seriously and will take action on should you violate it.** For students working with DSS who require recording, contact me before recording class sessions.
- Students are expected to engage one another and the instructor in a professional manner. Emails addressed to the instructor should be formal. They should list the course in the subject line, have a greeting, acknowledge the recipient professionally, and contain a signature. Students who email the instructor as described here before the end of week 5 and mention this course policy specifically, will earn three extra credit points.

- Disagreements are at the center of the educational process, but hate speech, put-downs, belittling, mocking, and other unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated. This is especially true of racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, or otherwise discriminatory language and practices.
- As the instructor I reserve the right to dismiss students from the classroom and related digital spaces who are being disruptive or who otherwise fail to behave professionally and respectfully.

**Course Policy: Academic Dishonesty**

- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. I report all cases of academic dishonesty.
- If I suspect you of academic dishonesty, I will first ask you to meet with me during office hours or another agreed upon time to discuss the process. Failure to respond is not exculpatory, I will still proceed with filing a formal notice.
- Per University of Wyoming guidelines, academic dishonesty penalties are determined by the instructor of record for first time offenses. Generally, you will fail the assignment or the course depending on the severity. Second time offenders are suspended from the University of Wyoming for one year. Third time offenders are expelled.
- Academic dishonesty encompasses a range of issues including: plagiarism, cheating, using artificially intelligent chatbots to generate assignments, submitting the same assignment from another class as though it were unique for this class, the fabrication of scientific results, breaching ethical research practices, and more. It also includes knowingly facilitating another student's academic dishonesty.

**University Policy: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

- The University of Wyoming values an educational environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The diversity that students and faculty bring to campus, including age, country of origin, cultural background, disability, economic class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, linguistic variations, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, worldview, and other social and cultural diversity is valued, respected, and considered a resource for learning.

**University Policy: Disability Support**

- The University of Wyoming is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you have a disability, including but not limited to physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities, and would like to request accommodations in this course due to your disability, please register with and provide documentation of your disability as soon as possible to Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 128 Knight Hall. You may also contact DSS at (307) 766-3073 or [udss@uwyo.edu](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu). It is in the student's best interest to request accommodations within the first week of classes, understanding that accommodations are not retroactive. Visit the DSS website for more information at: [www.uwyo.edu/udss](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)

**University Policy: Mandatory Reporter**

- UW faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX, discrimination based upon sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University, the faculty member MUST report information you share about the incident to the university's Title IX Coordinator (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. Faculty can help direct you or you may find info about UW policy and resources at <http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit>

- You do not have to go through the experience alone. Assistance and resources are available, and you are not required to make a formal complaint or participate in an investigation to access them.

### Campus Resources

- UW Writing Center: writing@uwyo.edu, Coe Library Level 1, www.uwyo.edu/writing-center
- Disability Support Services: udss@uwyo.edu, 128 Knight Hall, www.uwyo.edu/udss
- Counseling: uccstaff@uwyo.edu, 341 Knight Hall, www.uwyo.edu/ucc
- Academic Affairs: 312 Old Main, www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs
- Dean of Students: dos@uwyo.edu, 128 Knight Hall, www.uwyo.edu/dos
- UW Police: uwpd@uwyo.edu, 1426 E Flint St, www.uwyo.edu/uwpd
- Student Code of Conduct: www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct

### Schedule note

- The schedule provided in this syllabus is subject to change as necessary. Changes will be announced in class and on Canvas.

### Week 1: Welcome to Sociology of Sexualities

- Tuesday August 29  
Introductions
- Thursday August 31  
Other, Please Specify: Queer Methods in Sociology (Compton, Meadow and Schilt) pp. 1–20 (pp. 21–28 optional)

### Week 2: Sexology and The Linguistic Turn

- Tuesday September 5  
Toward a 'Value-Free' Science of Sex: The Kinsey Reports (Irvine) Ch. 1  
*Select Seminar Discussion Leader Days*
- Thursday September 7  
We 'Other Victorians' & Right of Death and Power over Life (Foucault)

### Week 3: Queer Theory

- Tuesday September 12  
Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality (Rubin)
- Thursday September 14  
Capitalism and Gay Identity (D'Emilio)

### Week 4: Sexuality, Bullying, High School

- Tuesday September 19  
Dude, You're a Fag (Pascoe) Ch. 3 & Ch. 4  
(1) **Seminar Leaders:**
- Thursday September 21  
Normalizing Sexual Violence (Hlavka)  
(2) **Seminar Leaders:**

**Week 5: Reading *Sexual Citizens***

- Tuesday September 26  
What is sex for? (Hirsch and Khan)  
(3) **Seminar Leaders:**
- Thursday September 28  
Acts of entitlement, self-absorption, and violence (Hirsch and Khan)  
(4) **Seminar Leaders:**

**Week 6: Reading *The Tragedy of Heterosexuality***

- Tuesday October 3  
He's just not that into you: the misogyny paradox (Ward)  
(5) **Seminar Leaders:**
- Thursday October 5  
Pickup artists: inside the seduction industry (Ward)  
(6) **Seminar Leaders:**  
**Critical Essay #1**

**Week 7: Reading *Unsafe Words***

- Tuesday October 10  
Introduction (Buggs and Hoppe)  
(7) **Seminar Leaders:**
- Thursday October 12  
Black Femmedom as Violence and Resistance (Velvet)  
(Trans)forming #MeToo (Hsu)  
(8) **Seminar Leaders:**

**Week 8: Sex Work pt. I**

- Tuesday October 17  
Dealing in Desire (Hoang) Ch. 3 (Ch. 1 optional)  
(9) **Seminar Leaders:**
- Thursday October 19  
Camming (Jones)  
(10) **Seminar Leaders:**

**Week 9: Sex Work pt. II**

- Tuesday October 24  
The Pornography Wars (Burke)  
(11) **Seminar Leaders:**
- Thursday October 26  
The Pornography Wars (Burke)  
(12) **Seminar Leaders:**

**Week 10: Sex Tech**

- Tuesday October 31  
How Sex Changed the Internet (Cole)  
(13) **Seminar Leaders:**
- Thursday November 2  
Rethinking 'Sex Robots:' Gender, Desire, and Embodiment in Posthuman Sextech (Locatelli)  
(14) **Seminar Leaders:**  
**Critical Essay #2**

**Week 11: Rural Sexualities**

- Tuesday November 7  
The Legacy of Matthew Shepard (Tabler et al.)  
(15) **Seminar Leaders:**
- Thursday November 9  
Still Straight: Why They Have Sex with Men (Silva)  
(16) **Seminar Leaders:**

**Week 12: Reading *Trans Kids***

- Tuesday November 14  
Trans Kids: Being Gendered in the 21st Century (Meadow)  
(17) **Seminar Leaders:**
- Thursday November 16  
Trans Kids: Being Gendered in the 21st Century (Meadow)  
(18) **Seminar Leaders:**

**Week 13: Trans Sexualities cont.**

- Tuesday November 21  
Transamorous Misogyny: Masculinity, Heterosexuality, and Cis Men's Sexist Desires for Trans Women (Robinson)  
(19) **Seminar Leaders:**
- Thursday November 23  
NO CLASS

**Week 14: Reading *Nice is Not Enough***

- Tuesday November 28  
Nice is Not Enough: Inequality and the Limits of Kindness (Pascoe)
- Thursday November 30  
Nice is Not Enough: Inequality and the Limits of Kindness (Pascoe)  
Class visit with C.J. Pascoe, author of *Dude, You're a Fag* and *Nice is Not Enough*  
**Critical Essay #3**

**Week 15: Asexuality**

- Tuesday December 5  
[Taboo Science Podcast](#)
- Thursday December 7  
Final Paper Roundtable Discussion

**FINALS WEEK**

- December 15  
**Final Paper Due**