

GSWS 0550 Sex & Sexualities (Fall 2017)

Schedule: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Location: 363 Cathedral of Learning

Instructor: Dr. Julie Beaulieu

Email: jrb107@pitt.edu

Office Hours: Monday 12:30-2:00, Tuesday 12:30-2:00, & by appointment

Office Location: 402B Cathedral of Learning

UTA: Larisa Mednis

UTA Email: lam239@pitt.edu

Required texts

Fischer and Seidman, *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies* (third edition)

Course description

How and why did sex and sexuality become subjects of study? How are our experiences of sex and sexuality shaped by a history of "scientific" explorations of desire? Why has sexuality become so central to our understanding of identity? What was sex like before "sexuality" was invented? This seminar explores these questions by approaching sex and sexuality as socially, historically, and culturally contingent concepts. We will consider sex and sexuality as they relate to other categories of identity, including race, class, ethnicity, nation, and ability. Our theoretical and historical investigations will create the groundwork for understanding and rethinking how sexuality is understood in culture today. Topics treated will include the history of "sexuality," "the science of sex," sex ed., Foucault, AIDS, disability studies, and the racial politics of sexuality. This class fulfills the general education requirement in "Historical Change."

Course objectives

- Introduction to sexuality studies, and to a range of disciplinary tools and methods for understanding sex and sexualities in historical and cultural context
- The ability to construct a written historical argument through key sources
- The development of written and oral skills and an introduction to the critical vocabulary in the field
- The development of a rich understanding of the social construction of sexuality

Assignments

- Participation & Attendance (10%)
- Bullet Points (best of 7) (25%)
- Quiz/in-class writing (10%)
- GSWS Event Review (2-3 pages) (5%)
- Midterm (20%)
- Final (30%)

* Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and posted in courseweb/blackboard

Course information & policies

Attendance

Attendance is required. Please come to class on time and prepared. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to contact me about missing work and subsequent assignments. "Excused" absences will be given if you provide documentation. Please expect your grade to reflect your commitment to this course. More than three absences will strongly affect your final grade. If you miss 4 or more classes, you risk failing the course.

Assignments

You are responsible for keeping up with your work. Assignments and readings are due on the day that they appear on the syllabus. If you are absent, your work is still due. Late assignments will be marked down 10% per day. It is your responsibility to contact me about missed work.

All written work must be proofread. Please use MLA in-text citation for all sources. You must submit a midterm and a final exam in order to pass the class.

Assignment descriptions with grading rubrics will be passed out in class and uploaded to courseweb (under documents). Please contact me if you have any questions about the assignments.

Reading quizzes will be periodically assigned throughout the term. Reading quizzes can be made up (during office hours) if you have an excused absence.

Grade Scale

Highest	Lowest	Letter
100.00 %	94.00 %	A
93.99 %	90.00 %	A-
89.99 %	87.00 %	B+
86.99 %	84.00 %	B
83.99 %	80.00 %	B-
79.99 %	77.00 %	C+
76.99 %	74.00 %	C
73.99 %	70.00 %	C-
69.99 %	67.00 %	D+
66.99 %	60.00 %	D
59.99 %	0.00 %	F

Required readings

All required readings are listed on the syllabus. The required text is available at the Pitt bookstore and all other readings can be found in courseweb under documents. Please bring the readings to class. All readings on the syllabus are required unless otherwise noted.

Participation

Thoughtful participation is expected, appreciated, and part of your grade.

“A” participants: maintain solid attendance; contribute to the class environment by being awake, alert, and engaged; demonstrate a willingness to participate in productive, academic, and relevant ways; refrain from private conversations during class time; do not use a telephone or any other electronic device for anything besides coursework; contribute to class discussions during every class.

“B” participants: follow the above rubric 85% of the time.

“C” participants: follow the above rubric 75% of the time; arrive late and/or have poor attendance.

“D” participants: follow the above rubric 65% of the time; arrive late and/or have poor attendance.

“F” participants: follow the above rubric 50% of the time; arrive late and/or have poor attendance.

University and GSWS Program Policies and Statements

Disability resources and services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For more information, visit <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs/>.

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam, or paper will be imposed. For the full Academic Integrity policy, go to: www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html.

Violation of the Academic Integrity Code requires the instructor to submit an Academic Integrity Violation Report to the Dean’s Office.

“Turnitin”

Students agree that by taking this course all required assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Classroom recording policy

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student’s own private use.

E-mail policy

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

Please give me time to respond to emails. I will do my best to reply to emails within 24 hours (M-F). I will respond to weekend emails when time permits; I will reply to urgent weekend emails as soon as possible, but otherwise please wait until Monday for a response. Email is ideally used for quick questions/clarifications. All other concerns—questions about your progress, written work, your grade, class in general—should be addressed during office hours. Please feel free to send a reminder/follow up if I have missed an important email.

Cell phone and laptop policy

All cell phones and other electronic communication devices are to be turned to the off setting during class. Laptops are to be used for note taking & PDF reading only.

Non-discrimination policy

As an educational institution and as an employer, Pitt values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability, or status as a veteran. For more information, visit <http://cfo.pitt.edu/policies/documents/policy07-01-03web.pdf>

Gender-inclusive language guidelines

Aspiring to create a learning environment in which people of all identities are encouraged to contribute their perspectives to academic discourse, The University of Pittsburgh Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program provides guidelines and resources regarding gender-inclusive/non-sexist language. Following these guidelines fosters an inclusive and welcoming environment, strengthens academic writing, enriches discussion, and reflects best professional practices.

Language is gender-inclusive and non-sexist when we use words that affirm and respect how people describe, express, and experience their gender. Just as sexist language excludes women's experiences, non-gender-inclusive language excludes the experiences of individuals whose identities may not fit the gender binary, and/or who may not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth. Identities including trans, intersex, and genderqueer reflect personal descriptions, expressions, and experiences. Gender-inclusive/non-sexist language acknowledges people of any gender (for example, first year student versus freshman, chair versus chairman, humankind versus mankind, etc.). It also affirms non-binary gender identifications, and recognizes the difference between biological sex and gender expression. Students, faculty, and staff may share their preferred pronouns and names, and these gender identities and gender expressions should be honored.

These guidelines fulfill the best intentions of the University of Pittsburgh's Non-Discrimination Policy: <https://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/07/07-01-03.html>. For additional information please visit the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program: <http://www.gswstudies.pitt.edu/>

Content warning and class climate

Our course readings and classroom discussions will often focus on mature, difficult, and potentially challenging topics. As with any course in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program, course topics are often political *and* personal. Readings and discussions might trigger strong feelings—anger, discomfort, anxiety, confusion, excitement, humor, and even boredom. Some of us will have emotional responses to the readings; some of us will have emotional responses to our peers' understanding of the readings; all of us should feel responsible for creating a space that is both intellectually rigorous and respectful. Above all, be respectful (even when you strongly disagree) and be mindful of the ways that our identities position us in the classroom.

I expect everyone to come to class prepared to discuss the readings in a mature and respectful way. If you are struggling with the course materials, here are some tips: read the syllabus so that you are prepared in advance. You can approach your instructor ahead of time if you'd like more information about a topic or reading. If you think a particular reading or topic might be especially challenging or unsettling, you can arrive to class early and take a seat by the door so that you can easily exit the classroom as needed. If you need to leave or miss class, you are still responsible for the work you miss. If you are struggling to keep up with the work because of the course content, you should speak with me and/or seek help from the counseling center.

Sexual misconduct, required reporting, and Title IX

The University is committed to combatting sexual misconduct. As a result, you should know that University faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct, including harassment and sexual violence, to the University's Title IX office so that the victim may be provided appropriate resources and support options. What this means is that as your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct that are directly reported to me, or of which I am somehow made aware.

There are two important exceptions to this requirement about which you should be aware:

A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here:
<http://www.titleix.pitt.edu/report/confidentiality>

An important exception to the reporting requirement exists for academic work. Disclosures about sexual misconduct that are shared as part of an academic project, classroom discussion, or course assignment, are not required to be disclosed to the University's Title IX office.

If you are the victim of sexual misconduct, Pitt encourages you to reach out to these resources:

- Title IX Office: 412-648-7860
- SHARE @ the University Counseling Center: 412-648-7930 (8:30 A.M. TO 5 P.M. M-F)
and 412-648-7856 (AFTER BUSINESS HOURS)

If you have a safety concern, please contact the University of Pittsburgh Police, 412-624-2121.

Other reporting information is available here: <http://www.titleix.pitt.edu/report-0>

List of readings, assignments, & events

Week One/introduction

Tuesday 8/29

- Introduction to the course

Thursday 8/31

- Steven Seidman, “Theoretical Perspectives” (*NSS*)
- Jeffrey Weeks, “The Invention of Sexuality” (cw)

Week Two/a history of sexuality?

Tuesday 9/5

- David Halperin, “Is There a History of Sexuality?” (cw)

Thursday 9/7

- Jonathan Ned Katz, “The Invention of Heterosexuality” (cw)
- Daniel Santore, “Gender and the Organization of Heterosexual Intimacy” (*NSS*)

Week Three/regulating sexuality

Tuesday 9/12

- Adrienne Rich, “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence” (cw)
- Interview w/Arlene Stein, “Shrinking Lesbian Culture” (*NSS*)

EVENT (lecture):

“Sexuality and Islam in France”

Denis Provencher

9/13 from 1:30pm - 3:00pm in 602 CL

Thursday 9/14

- Celia Roberts, “Medicine and the Making of a Sexual Body” (*NSS*)
- P.J. McGann, “Healing Disorderly Desire: Medical-Therapeutic Regulations of Sexuality” (*NSS*)

Week Four/Morality, Education, & Children

Tuesday 9/19

- Nancy Fisher, “Purity and Pollution: Sex as Moral Discourse” (*NSS*)
- Tina Fetner, “The Pro-Family Movement” (*NSS*)

Thursday 9/21

- Interview w/Janice Irvine, “Politics of Sex Education” (*NSS*)
- Kerry Robinson, “Children’s Sexual Citizenship” (*NSS*)

Week Five/the queer child & “discipline”

Tuesday 9/26

- Kathryn Bond Stockton, excerpt, *The Queer Child, or Growing Sideways in the Twentieth Century* (cw)

Thursday 9/28

- Riki Wilchins, “Homosexuality: Foucault and the Politics of the Self” & “Foucault and the Disciplinary Society” (cw)

EVENT (lecture):

“Race, Face, Ravage, and Lyrical Fat: Deleuze and Childhood Poverty”

Kathryn Bond Stockton

9/29 from 4:00pm - 5:30pm in 548 WPU

Week Six/Foucault & Rubin (key theorists)

Tuesday 10/3

- Michel Foucault, excerpt, *The History of Sexuality, Volume One* (cw)

Thursday 10/5

- Gayle Rubin, “Thinking Sex” (cw)

Week Seven/ studying sexual cultures & communities

Tuesday 10/10

- Fall Break/Monday classes meet on Tuesday/No Tuesday Classes

Thursday 10/12

- Gayle Rubin, “Studying Sexual Subcultures: Excavating the Ethnography of Gay Communities in Urban North America” (cw)

Week Eight/studying sexual cultures & communities

Tuesday 10/17

*** CLASS MEETS @ RUBIN EVENT ***

EVENT (conversation):

“A Conversation with Gayle Rubin for Undergraduates”

Gayle Rubin

10/17 from 2:30pm – 3:45pm in Auditorium 5 Scaife Hall

EVENT (lecture):

“Gay Sex and the Post-Industrial City: Leathermen and San Francisco's South of Market”

Gayle Rubin

10/17 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm in 602 CL

Thursday 10/19

- Salvador Vidal-Ortiz and Brandon Andrew Robinson, “The Racial and Sexual Stereotypes of the ‘Down Low’ on Craigslist.org” (NSS)
- Jeffrey McCune, “Discrete/Discreet Acts: Goin’ Down Low” (cw)

Week Nine/anarchy & manifestos

Tuesday 10/24

- Jack Halberstam, “Gaga Sexualities” (cw)

Thursday 10/26

- Anon., “Queers Read This” (cw)
- *We Were Here: The AIDS Years in San Francisco* (film) (watch on Pitt Kanopy)

EVENT (presentation):

“Teaching Queer”

Stacey Waite

10/26 from 12:30pm – 2:00pm in 501 CL

EVENT (lecture):

“Wild Things: Notes on Queer Anarchy”

Jack Halberstam

10/26 from 6:00pm – 7:30pm 125 Frick Fine Arts Auditorium

Friday 10/27

- Midterm due by 4:00pm

Week Ten/sexual “systems”

Tuesday 10/31

- Benjamin Kahan, “Conjectures on the Sexual World-System” (cw)

*** CLASS MEETS @ KAHAN EVENT ***

EVENT (lecture):

“Sex in the Age of Fordism: The Standardization of Sexual Objects”

Benjamin Kahan

10/31 from 2:30pm – 4:00pm in Auditorium 5 Scaife Hall

Thursday 11/2

- Alan Bray, excerpt from *Deep Gossip* (cw)

Week Eleven/sexuality & gender

Tuesday 11/7

- Laurel Westbrook, “Transforming the Sex/Gender/Sexuality System: The Construction of Trans Categories in the United States” (NSS)
- Joelle Ruby Ryan, “From Transgender to Trans*” (NSS)

EVENT (film screening/Q & A w/director)

REAL BOY

11/7 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm in Frick Fine Arts Auditorium

Thursday 11/9

- Nicola Gavey, “Viagara and the Coital Imperative” (NSS)
- Lisa Jean Moore, “Polishing the Pearl: Discoveries of the Clitoris” (NSS)

Week Twelve/race & the history of sexuality

Tuesday 11/14

- Siobhan Somerville, “Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body” (cw)

Thursday 11/16

- Patricia Hill Collins, “Pornography and Black Women’s Bodies” (cw)
- Jennifer Nash, “Strange Bedfellows” (cw)

EVENT (lecture):

“The ‘Crooked Stitches’ of Desire: Sewing and Sexual Awakening in Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*”

Elizabeth Rodriguez Fielder

11/16 from 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Week Thirteen/consent

Tuesday 11/21

- Janet Halley, “The Move to Affirmative Consent” (cw)

Thursday 11/23

- No Class/Thanksgiving Break

Week Fourteen/global sexualities

Tuesday 11/28

- Leila J. Rupp, “Toward a Global History of Same-Sex Sexuality” (cw)
- Marcia Oliver, “Uganda’s Anti-Homosexuality Bill: Reflections from a Transnational Frame” (cw)

Thursday 11/30

- Saadia Toor, “How not to Talk About Muslim Women: Patriarchy, Islam and the sexual regulation of Pakistani women” (*NSS*)
- Pardis Mahdavi, “Iran’s Sexual Revolution” (*NSS*)

Week Fifteen/marriage & monogamy

Tuesday 12/5

- Emily Star and Michele Adams, “The Domestic Exotic: Mail-Order Brides and the Paradox of Globalized Intimacies” (cw)

Thursday 12/7

- Mary Bernstein, “The Marriage Contract” (*NSS*)
- Christian Klesse, “Contesting the Culture of Monogamy” (*NSS*)

Finals Week

Thursday 12/14

- Final Exam due by 4:00 pm