

Sociology of Sexualities (SYP4060)

Summer A 2023, Class number: 16670
Online (100%) Asynchronous

Instructor Information

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Online office hours: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Fridays
or by appointment over Zoom
<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5531076482>

Hello! I welcome you to SYP 4060, Sociology of Sexualities. I am excited to embark in this brief but exciting journey with you. I look forward to sharing sociological tools that will allow us to reflect about sexualities now and throughout history. I look forward to knowing you and your thoughts throughout this course.

In this document, you will find all the information you need to know about our class. This is also a “living document”, which may be edited and updated at my discretion. With this, let us start. You’ve got this!

“Sexuality is not a thing but a social relation, historically variable, and constituted by power relations.” -Michel Foucault

*“There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.”
-Audre Lorde*

“Sexual freedom is a mental attitude, not a physical act.” -Gloria Steinem

Acknowledgments

I acknowledge and honorably recognize that this course was developed and will be conducted on the ancestral Native homelands of the Seminole and Timucua people, who walked here before us and continue to walk here. This course will be conducted in a manner that will respect the integrity of Native peoples and their territory. I further acknowledge the enslaved peoples, primarily of African descent, whose labor built much of the university.

Preferred Communication Method

I prefer to communicate with you through the Canvas messaging feature. Please use email communication for personal questions such as questions about grades, special circumstances, and needed accommodations. Please, allow me at least 24-48 hours to get back to you. Turnaround time is usually faster.

Course Description

In this course, we will be drawing on social construction theory to examine the creation, reproduction, and stratification of sexualities in social, cultural, historical, and political contexts. While many people think of sexuality as inherent, biological, and purely “natural,” we will be challenging the idea of “pre-social” sexuality. We will spend a good deal of time deconstructing commonsense ideas about sexual categories, paying particular attention to the complexity of sexuality as it intersects with other social categories. This course will focus on sociological approaches to studying sexuality and link sexualities studies to broader sociological questions.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester students should be able to:

- Explain different approaches to researching and theorizing sexuality.
- Articulate what is meant by sexuality as “socially constructed.”
- Explain difference and variation in sexual categories and meanings.
- Detail how sexualities intersect with race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, ability, and other socially constructed categories.
- Explain how sexuality relates to and reinforces social inequalities.
- Articulate how sexuality is a means of social control (and resistance).
- Use key concepts from the course to discuss current research about sexualities.

A Note on Taking a Course on Sexualities

This course will cover explicit, sensitive, and controversial topics through reading, observation, and discussion. It is crucial that all class members approach each topic and each other with maturity and respect. The material we will cover may be challenging to discuss but can also be interesting, enjoyable, and thought-provoking. Our discussions on sexual questions and sociological findings will enhance your understanding of sexuality. Your contributions to class discussions are highly valued, and it is essential to be prepared to discuss the material in a straightforward manner by keeping up with your readings and assignments.

As sexuality is both personal and social, a sociological study of sexuality will raise many issues that we may not all agree on. It is encouraged to disagree with class material, the instructor, and classmates but must be done in a respectful manner. Disrespectful behavior suggests a failure to listen or address what the other speaker has offered. Challenges should not be based on moral or religious statements but can be discussed as social institutions that influence how we view sexuality. To successfully complete the goals of this course, a foundation of respect and trust in this course must be established and developed.

As your instructor, I am here for you! If you have any questions or concerns, please speak directly with me so that we may work through any issues.

Course Materials

Required Textbook:

Sociology of Sexualities by Kathleen Fitzgerald and Kandice L. Grossman (2E) | SAGE Publishing

ISBN: 9781544370651

List Price: \$75.40 at the UF Bookstore

Alternative Options:

SAGE Publishing eBook \$42 for a 90-day rental

UF All Access:

UF All Access is a program that provides students with the correct course materials at the best available pricing. It delivers your materials digitally, including online courseware and standalone eBooks. UF All Access is also proud to be a part of the Affordable UF campaign aimed at reducing the cost of course materials to students.

Please note that this course **will be** participating in the UF All Access program. Login at the following website and Opt-In to gain access to your UF All Access course materials - <https://www.bsd.ufl.edu/AllAccess> – UF All Access will provide you with your required materials digitally at a reduced price and the charge will be posted to your student account. This option will be available starting 1 week prior to the start of the semester and ending 3 weeks after the first day of class.

All other materials will be posted on Canvas.

Assessment Breakdown

Assessment	Description	Percentage of Final Grade
Quizzes	Quizzes will evaluate students' ability to interpret and apply information from class readings.	30
Discussion Board	Every week, you will contribute to our course discussion board. You will be required to respond to the prompt in at least 250 words, referencing relevant course topics from the week. You will also be required to reply to two students in at least 100-125 words. There are 6 discussion posts in the course in total. Posts will be graded on completeness and how well they incorporate and engage with course concepts	40
Mini Projects	Throughout the course, you will be doing three mini projects. These will be announced on Weeks 1, 3, and 5, and you will have approximately two weeks to complete them. Instructions will be provided on Canvas.	30
	Mini Project 1	10
	Mini Project 2	10
	Mini Project 3	10
Total Grade		100

A Note on Course Speed

This course covers a semester's worth of material in six weeks. Therefore, the course moves relatively quickly and requires you to do a significant amount of work in a short time span. It is imperative that you stay on top of course content and activities to succeed, and I strongly recommend not falling behind.

Excused Assignments & Make-Up Assignments

I understand you have other obligations outside of my class. If you know you will need an extension, please reach out to me at least 24 hours before an assignment is due.

It is up to my discretion to allow a student with an unexcused absence to make up a missed assignment, quiz, or exam. If you know you will not be able to attend class due to an exceptional circumstance, please contact me before the relevant class period. Exceptional circumstances are limited to any emergency that can be documented, such as a death in the family, medical emergency/illness requiring medical attention for the student or a family member, or urgent issues beyond the student's control. In such circumstances, students may be asked to submit supporting evidence or documentation to the professor.

If you miss class without prior notice or for a medical reason, you must submit an Instructor Notification request to the Dean of Students (<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/>). The Dean of Students will review your documentation and advise whether your absence warrants an excused absence. However, I have the right to accept or reject the Dean of Students' recommendation.

In certain situations, students with legitimate excuses (court-imposed legal obligations, university-sponsored activities, religious holidays, etc.) or accommodations through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) may be allowed to take an exam early at my discretion. These situations may also excuse students from in-class assignments they miss on those days. Students who will miss an exam for these reasons must notify me at least one week in advance, and appropriate documentation must be provided.

Accessibility Accommodations

There are several circumstances - physical or mental, temporary, or long-term - that can make completing the course requirements unduly difficult for some students. The University has a process for identifying students in need of accommodations, and there are a wide variety of accommodations available (<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/accommodations/>). If you need accommodations for successfully completing this course, you must first register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Any students who are registered with the DRC and wish to use their accommodations in this class must use the DRC portal to send a current accommodation letter to the Professor in a timely manner. Then, the student and the Professor will discuss how the accommodations will be applied to the coursework and the conditions that must be met in order to access the accommodations. Students cannot utilize their DRC accommodations in this class until they have discussed, agreed to, and signed an Accommodation Plan with the instructor.

Grading Scale

The University of Florida's grading scale includes minus grades. The distribution indicated below shows the range of grades. Please note that if you earn a grade of C- or below it will not be counted toward your general education requirements or your Sociology major requirements. In other words, you will need at least 70% in this class to count toward your Gen Ed or Sociology major requirements.

A	93.00 – 100%
A-	90.00 – 92.99%
B+	87.00 – 89.99%
B	83.00 – 86.99%
B-	80.00 – 82.99%
C+	77.00 – 79.99%
C	73.00 – 76.99%
C-	70 – 72.99%
	Minimum passing grade = 70%
D+	67 – 69%
D	63 – 66%
F	Below 60%

Gator Evals

The University expects students to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on a variety of criteria. These evaluations, called GatorEvals, are typically open during the last week of the semester, and students will be notified via email and Canvas notifications when they are open. GatorEvals can also be accessed directly at <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summary results of these evaluations are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

GatorEvals are primarily used in three ways: the instructor's annual performance review, the instructor's Tenure and Promotion materials, and/or for teaching and mentoring awards. In other words, the audience for these evaluations are professors and administrators. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>.

The instructor may also request anonymous feedback from students during the semester. These evaluations give current students an opportunity to provide feedback that might improve their course experience before the semester ends. The instructor will review these evaluations and may make changes to the course based on the feedback provided.

University Honesty Policy

All UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards

of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’”

Some work in this class is required to be completed individually (e.g., IQs, midterm, final exam) and other assignments may be completed in collaboration with others (e.g., TQs and Team Research Assignments). If you are ever unsure whether you are allowed to work with others on an assignment, please reach out to the Professor immediately for clarification. Similarly, there will be times at which using the textbook during class is permissible and other times when it would be a violation of the Honor Code; students should consult with the Professor before using their textbook during class.

The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. For example, "unauthorized assistance" is a violation of the Honor Code, and students who are aware of others engaging in unauthorized assistance are obligated to report it - failure to report unauthorized assistance is considered "complicity in violating the Student Honor Code." Reports can be made to the Professor, the teaching assistant, or the Dean of Students Office. If you have any questions or concerns about permissible or prohibited behaviors, please consult with the instructor.

Netiquette

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. Failure to follow netiquette may result in a grade reduction. Students should be sure that they understand the [UF Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#).

Learning Environment Expectations and Needs

Your success in this course is of utmost important to me. Learning in this course will come through careful preparation and active discussion. I would like this online teaching environment to be a space where we can foster an inclusive environment.

Class Behavior

People learn best when they are encouraged to ask questions and express their diverse opinions on course content, which may include images, texts, data, and theories from across the disciplines. This is especially true in courses that deal with provocative or contemporary issues. UF offers many such courses, in which students encounter concepts of race, color, sex, and/or national origin. We teach these important issues because understanding them is essential for anyone who seeks to make economic, cultural, and societal contributions to today’s complex world. With this in mind, we do not limit access to, or classroom discussion of, facts, ideas, and opinions - including those that some may find uncomfortable, unwelcome, disagreeable, or even offensive. In response to challenging material, students and instructors are encouraged to ask honest questions and thoughtfully engage one another’s ideas. But hostility, disruptive and disrespectful behavior, and provocation for provocation’s sake have **no place in a classroom**; reasonable people disagree reasonably. These guidelines can help instructors and students as they work together to fulfill the mission of the University of Florida, which includes the exploration of intellectual boundaries, the creation of new knowledge, and the pursuit of new ideas.

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please email umatter@ufl.edu, call 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter We Care to refer or report a concern, and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the UF Counseling & Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services and non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit the UF Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit the UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111, or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center website.

Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center 352-264-6760 Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-5PM, some services available 24/7

Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network 352-377-8255 (24-hour helpline)

Title IX

Title IX is a federal law that requires officials with the authority to take action, to report violations of the gender equity policy. Officials with authority must report these violations to the Title IX Coordinator or their deputies. The obligation to report applies whenever an Official with Authority receives, in the course and scope of employment, information about the alleged misconduct and policy violation. The report must include all information known to the employee which would be relevant to an investigation or redress of the incident, including whether the alleged victim has expressed a desire for confidentiality. The Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity provides support to anyone affected by sexual or gender-based misconduct, harassment, or discrimination. Please know that your instructor in this course is considered an Official with Authority who is required to report violations of the gender equity policy.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420.

General study skills and tutoring: <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Food Insecurity

A person experiences food insecurity when they are unable to access healthy, nutritious food. Food insecurity encompasses both the quantity and nutritional quality of food. Food insecurity can be experienced for short periods of time but can also be experienced over an extended period. College students experience food insecurity in many ways - some examples include hunger causing a distraction while studying or in class, choosing to avoid exercise due to an inadequate diet, choosing between buying textbooks and groceries while waiting on financial aid, or only being able to afford ramen.

The Alan and Cathy Hitchcock Field & Fork Food Pantry serves members of the UF community experiencing food insecurity. They are open to everyone in the UF community, regardless of income, class, race, gender, housing status, or ability. They do not ask for verification of need - we only ask that you bring your Gator 1 card.

Guests may shop up to two times per week either by placing an online order or by taking a pre-made to-go bag. They are currently limited to their COVID-19 operations due to staff shortages but they are working to achieve enough staff so that they may return to their normal operations.

Course Component Guidelines

- **Quizzes** will be opened every Monday at 8 AM and will be open until the following Sunday at 11:59 PM.
- **Discussion Boards** will be opened every Monday at 8 AM, and your original post is due by that Friday at 11:59 PM. Your responses are due on Sunday at 11:59 PM.
- **Mini Projects** will be opened every two weeks on Monday at 8 AM and will be closed after 2 weeks, due on Sunday at 11:59 PM. These will be opened on weeks 1, 3, and 5. You will have approximately two weeks to complete the assignment.

Additional Comments

- Modules will be opened on a week-by-week basis, therefore there is no opportunity to work ahead.

Tentative Class Schedule

Modules	Dates	Materials	To Do	Assignments Due
Module 1: Sexuality as a Science/Social Construct	May 15 th to May 20 th	<input type="checkbox"/> Read and Watch Lectures on Chapters 1 and 2 (Sociology of Sexualities Reader) <input type="checkbox"/> Read/ Watch Additional Assigned Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction Post <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board 1	All assignments due on May 21 st
Module 2: Sexuality and its Intersections	May 21 st to May 27 th	<input type="checkbox"/> Read and Watch Lectures on Chapters 3, 4, and 5 (Sociology of Sexualities Reader) <input type="checkbox"/> Read/ Watch	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Mini Project 1	All assignments due on May 28 th

		Additional Assigned Materials		
Module 3: Sexuality and Social Institutions	May 28 th to June 3 rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Read and Watch Lectures on Chapters 7, 8, and 9 (Sociology of Sexualities Reader) <input type="checkbox"/> Read/ Watch Additional Assigned Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board 3	All assignments due on June 4 th
Module 4: Sexuality and Health	June 4 th to June 10 th	<input type="checkbox"/> Read and Watch Lectures on Chapters 10, and 11 (Sociology of Sexualities Reader) <input type="checkbox"/> Read/ Watch Additional Assigned Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Mini Project 2	All assignments due on June 11 th
Module 5: Sexual Violence	June 11 th to June 17 th	<input type="checkbox"/> Read and Watch Lectures on Chapters 12, and 13 (Sociology of Sexualities Reader)	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board 5	All assignments due on June 18 th

		<input type="checkbox"/> Read/ Watch Additional Assigned Materials		
Module 6: Sexual Activism and Wrap-Up	June 18 th to June 23rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Read and Watch Lectures on Chapter 6 (Sociology of Sexualities Reader) <input type="checkbox"/> Read/ Watch Additional Assigned Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Board 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Mini Project 3	All assignments due on June 23rd