

SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES
SOCIOLOGY 360
Spring 2017

Contact Information:

Professor Dean

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GE: no **Prerequisites:** Sociology majors/minors, Queer Studies minors

Class Description & Objectives:

This course will provide both an overview of the study of sexuality across institutions of society and tools –theoretical, conceptual and empirical– for analyzing sexuality. The course assumes that sexuality and its multifarious components (desire, the body, pleasure, love, romance, etc.) are more than an individual, personal, psychological or natural fact. On the contrary, we will explore how sexuality is a *social fact*, meaning that sexuality is socially created, organized, constrained and contested.

Sexuality operates in all of the major social institutions that sociologists study (the family, religion, education, work, polity and the economy). Today, it is one of the major areas of political and cultural contestation, as we can see through social issues such as same-sex marriage, pornography, sex work, sex education, public sex and sadomasochism. Consequently, sexuality comprises one of the most salient and important axes of social difference in the social world today.

The social construction of sexualities --the critical perspectives developed by many different scholars of sexuality—will be studied. Furthermore, we will examine sexual difference in this class by looking to the differences between majority and minority sexualities, but with an eye toward how sexual difference is crosscut with other social differences based on race, class, gender, taste, age and appearance. Our studies will be guided by questions of history, creativity, domination, and justice. The class format, while including lectures and presentations, will focus on collaborative, interactive learning. Students will work together in small groups on discussions.

Required Texts:

Gray, Mary. 2009. *Out in the Country: Youth, Media, and Queer Visibility in Rural America*. New York: New York University Press.

Schalet, Amy. 2011. *Not Under My Roof: Parents, Teens, and the Culture of Sex*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Evaluation:

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Quizzes	20%
Journal Responses	20%
<u>Class Participation</u>	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Above is subject to change.