

The University of British Columbia
FMST 316
Section 901
Human Sexuality – Reel Representations
Course Syllabus

Class: July 7 - August 6, 2020 – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am -1pm

Location: Online via Canvas and Collaborate Ultra

Instructor: Dr. Brandy Wiebe

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Office: Online via Canvas on Collaborate Ultra

Office Hours: Half hour after each class typically or by appointment

TA: Tori Yang

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Office: Online via Canvas on Collaborate Ultra

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

In this course we will explore a range of issues, debates and understandings of human sexuality from a primarily social psychological perspective. Using both the readings and a number of feature length films we will examine popular representations of human sexuality and our own values while expanding our knowledge of the various physical, emotional and social aspects of human sexuality. This class will include both theoretical and empirical explorations of topics encompassed by the theme of human sexuality. Discussion and debate will be central to this course so students will have a chance to reflect on their own values, attitudes and experiences in relation to class materials from various sources, lecture content and other students.

NOTE: All films contain adult content including explicit sexuality and language.

In six of the classes we will view a feature length film followed by a break and then approximately 60-120 minutes of lecture and discussion time. All other classes will consist of lecture, discussion and debate.

Course Readings:

Ryan, Christopher and Cacilda Jetha (2012) *Sex at Dawn: How We Mate, Why We Stray, and What It Means For Modern Relationships*. Harper Perennial.

AND

Woodford, Michael et al, "Contemporary Heterosexism on Campus and Psychological Distress Among LGBTQ Students: The Mediating Role of Self-Acceptance," *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* Online First Publication: August 2014: 1-21. **Or TBA**

Course Evaluation, Due Dates and Description:

Online Class Participation: **10%**

Exam 1: **20%** Thursday, July 23

Exam 2: **20%** Thursday, Aug 6

Critical Paper One: **25%** Due in class Tuesday, July 21 by 9 am

Critical Paper Two: **25%** Due in class Tuesday, August 4 by 9 am

Exam 1, 20% Thursday, July 23 on Canvas during class time

This exam will consist of a long answer question for *Sex at Dawn*. It covers PART ONE-THREE of *Sex at Dawn* and potentially class materials from weeks 1-5. Two possible long answer questions will be released on Canvas 2 days before the exam (just after the prior class). The exam will consist of one of the two questions you prepared for. Discussion time will be held in Class 4, so ensure readings are done in advance of this class.

Exam 2, 20% Thursday, Aug 6 on Canvas during class time

This exam will consist of a long answer question for *Sex at Dawn*. It covers PART FOUR AND FIVE of *Sex at Dawn*, the Woodford et al or TBA journal article and potentially class materials from weeks 7-9. Two possible long answer questions will be released on Canvas 2 days before the exam (just after the prior class). The exam will consist of one of the two questions you prepared for.

Discussion time will be held in Class 9, so ensure readings are done in advance of this class.

Critical Paper, 2 x 25%, Due on Tuesday, July 21 and Tuesday, August 4 by 9am

Must not exceed 3 double spaced pages plus bibliography (12 pt Times New Roman font)

The goal of this assignment is for you to critically engage with a human sexuality-related topic that interests you. Choose one of the three films we screened in classes 2-4 for the first paper and one of the two films from classes 7-8 and use it as a springboard from which you may explore any sexuality-related topic you chose. Use **at least 1 peer-reviewed academic resource** (excluding the assigned textbook) to critically explore and expand upon the topic you chose. It may be an issue, theme or debate in academic research on sexuality.

In this formal essay please include:

Introduction (4 marks)

-Introduce the issue, theme or debate (why is it important?)

-Clarify why you choose this topic

-Provide a clear thesis statement (what is the purpose of your essay?)

-Discuss the 'common sense' assumptions that people make about your topic

Critically explore your topic using academic sources (10 marks)

-Include at least 1 peer-reviewed academic journal article **published since 2005** (or book chapters-only if passed by Dr. Wiebe).

-Provide an *integrated* discussion of your academic source(s) to reflect on the topic you chose. An exploratory academic paper is similar to a critical literature review.

This is the most important part of the essay. **This is a critical exploration of a topic not a film review or analysis, a reiteration of class discussions or an opinion paper!!**

Conclusions (3 marks)

-Include a paragraph reflecting on how the research you conducted affected your view of this topic in light of the materials we have covered in class. How did your research make you think about human sexuality differently?

Style (3 marks)

-Reference in any style you are comfortable with but you must be CONSISTENT and thorough in its usage and include **year and page for all references** within the text.

-Writing skills (spelling, grammar, readability, etc.)

-Presented in a professional manner

Be sure to proofread your paper before handing it in!

Take notes to keep track of the information you gather so as not to plagiarize.

Course Policies:

Plagiarism is a serious, punishable offense and will not be tolerated.

Deadlines and Exam: These dates are firmly set and can only be negotiated in the case of unforeseen events (illness, funerals, etc). Documentation is required in the case of a missed exam or late paper. With documentation alternative arrangements will be discussed with the student. Without documentation late assignments will receive a deduction of **10% per day late (Saturday and Sunday 10% each)** and missed exams will be given a mark of 0.

Late submission will not allow time for comprehensive feedback to be given.

Late assignments will not be accepted more than 7 days after their due date.

Submission of assignments and exams via Canvas. E-mails will not be accepted.

'Early Alert':

During the term, I will do my best to reach out and offer support if I am concerned about your academic performance or wellbeing. I also encourage you to come and speak with me if you need assistance. In addition, I may identify my concerns using Early Alert. The program allows academic, financial, or mental health concerns to be identified sooner and responded to in a more coordinated way. This provides you with the earliest possible connection to resources like academic advising, financial advising, counselling, or other resources and support to help you get back on track. The information is treated confidentially and is sent because I care about your academic success and wellbeing. For more information, please visit earlyalert.ubc.ca.

Student Needs:

This course welcomes folks with physical and learning disabilities. If you require any assistance please speak with Dr. Wiebe early in the semester, so that efforts can be made. The Disability Resource Centre in Brock Hall is available for further consultation and resource provision.

Course Overview and Readings:

July 6 -Class One: Introduction, Theoretical Orientations and Key Historical Ideas

July 8 - Class Two: Understanding and Researching Human Sexuality

Film: 'Kinsey' (2004)

July 14 - Class Three: The Body Performed

Film: 'Moonlight' (2016)

Related movies for further interest: 'Get Out' (2017)
Thriller, Racialized Black Bodies

July 16 - Class Four: Romantic Sexual Relationships

Film: 'Vicky Cristina Barcelona' (2008)

Related movies for further interest: 'Saving Face' (2004)
Rom Com, Asian American Lesbians
'Professor Marston and the Wonder Women' (2017)
Bio Pic, Creator of Wonder Woman's Polyamorous Family

July 21 - Class Five: All Things Reproductive/Not and STIs

Critical Paper One due in class

July 23 - Class Six *Midterm Exam 1 via Canvas*

July 28 - Class Seven: Ability, Spirituality and Sexuality

Film: 'The Sessions' (2012)

July 30 – Class Eight: Sexual Coercion

Film: 'The Piano' (1993)

Related movies for further interest (Trigger Warnings!!):
'Dance Me Outside' (1994)
Canadian Indie, Violence against Indigenous Women
'Perks of Being a Wallflower' (2012)
Comedy-Drama, Male Sexual Assault
'Nannette' (2018)
Australian Anti-Comedy Special, Violence against Queer Women

Aug 4 – Class Nine: Sexual Communication

Critical Paper Two due in class

Film: 'Bringing Sexy Back' Queer Eye: We're in Japan! (2019)

Aug 6 – Class Ten *Midterm Exam 2 via Canvas*