

The University of British Columbia
FMST 316
Section 201
Human Sexuality – Reel Representations
Course Syllabus

Class: January 11 - April 12, 2021 – Mondays, 10 am - 1 pm

Location: SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE LIVE VIA ZOOM ON CANVAS

Instructor: Dr. Brandy Wiebe (they/she)

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Office Hours: Half hour BEFORE each class or by appointment

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TA Office Hours: Half hour AFTER each class or by appointment

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on in their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

My home, from where I will be teaching this course, is located on traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the səlilwətaʔł təməx^w (Tsleil-Waututh) people. I am grateful I work and play on this land.

During this pandemic, the shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0> for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/supportresources/freedom-expression>

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 approximately 60-90 minutes of lecture and discussion time. If there is insufficient time for a break after the film students will need to decide for themselves when to take this break during the screening. 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%** Monday, February 22 in class

Exam 2: **20%** Monday, March 22 in class

Critical Paper One: **25%** Due before class Monday, March 1 **BY** 10 am

Critical Paper Two: **25%** Due before class Monday, April 12 **BY** 10 am

Exam 1, 20% Monday, Feb 22 on Canvas **2HRS** 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 1 week 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% Monday, Mar 22 on Canvas **2 HRS** 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 1 week 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 8, so ensure readings are done in advance of this class.

Critical Paper, 2 x 25%, Due before class on Monday Mar 1 and Apr 12

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 2-5 for the first paper and one of the two films from classes 7-9 and use it as an idea-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)

- Why is your topic important?
- Why did you personally 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 academic research on a topic NOT a film review or analysis, a reiteration of class materials 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. In relation to class materials, 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 you **MUST** include **year and page for all in text references** (both direct and indirect). If your chosen style does not already do this simply adapt it.
- 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.

Online Class Participation, 10%

This 10% will primarily be based on Canvas' internal ranking of students' participation as either Low, Moderate or High. Beyond that there is a small amount of wiggle room to acknowledge the people who have participated in the class in a way that fostered conversation and contributed to the group's well being. The inverse of this also applies. This 10% is included not to penalize people who are uncomfortable speaking out in class but to encourage a space where everyone's input can be respectfully heard and actively encouraged. You will have multiple opportunities and ways to contribute to class discussion. Paramount in this classroom is the respect and dignity of all people involved.

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. Emails 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:

Jan 11 -Class One: Introduction, Theoretical Orientations and Key Historical Ideas

Jan 18 - Class Two: Understanding and Researching Human Sexuality

Film: 'Kinsey' (2004)

Jan 25 - Class Three: The Body Performed

Film: 'Moonlight' (2016)

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

Feb 1 - Class Four: Attraction and Orientation

Feb 8 - Class Five: Romantic Sexual Relationships

Film: 'Her' (2013)

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

Feb 22 - Class Six *Midterm Exam 1*

Mar 1 - Class Seven: Ability, Spirituality and Sexuality

Critical Paper One due before class

Film: 'The Sessions' (2012)

Mar 8 - Class Eight: All Things Reproductive/Not and STIs

Mar 15 - Class Nine: 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

Mar 22 - Class Ten *Midterm Exam 2*

Mar 29 - Class Eleven: Sexual Communication

Apr 5 - **CANCELED EASTER**

Apr 12 - Class Twelve: Wrap Up

Critical Paper Two due before class