

The University of British Columbia
FMST 316
Section 002
Human Sexuality – Reel Representations
Course Syllabus

Class: September 7 – November 30, 2011 - Wednesdays, 6-9pm

Location: ANSO 207

Instructor: Dr. Brandy Wiebe

E-mail: brandy.wiebe@ubc.ca

Office: Buchanan A 204

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 or by appointment

TA: Catherine Zangger

E-mail: czangger@gmail.com

Office: ANSO 108

Office Hours: Wednesdays 4-5pm or 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 text book 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 before 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:

Rathus, S. A., Nevid, J. S., Fichner-Rathus, L. & Herold, E. S. (2010). *Human sexuality in a world of diversity* (3rd Canadian edition). Toronto: Pearson Education Inc.

Course Evaluation, Due Dates and Description:

Midterm Exam: **25%** Wednesday, October 12 in class

Final Exam: **30%** Wednesday, November 30 in class

Critical Paper One: **20%** Due in class Wednesday, October 19

Critical Paper Two: **20%** Due in class Wednesday, November 16

Class Participation: **5%**

Midterm Exam, 25% Wednesday, October 12 in class

This exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. It covers readings and all class materials (including films) from weeks 1-5.

Final Exam, 30% Wednesday, November 30 in class

This exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. It covers readings and all class materials (including films) from weeks 7-12.

Critical Paper, 2 x 20%, Due in class on Wednesday, October 19 and November 16
3 pages double spaced per paper

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 2-6 for the first paper and one of the three films from classes 7-11. Use class materials and **at least 1 peer-reviewed academic resource** (excluding the assigned textbook) to critically explore and expand upon an issue, theme or debate that came up in the film.

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

Critical engagement with the film using class materials and academic sources (10 marks)

- Include at least 1 peer-reviewed academic journal articles (or book chapters-only if passed by me).
- Use your chosen sources to explore the values, beliefs and common assumptions often made about human sexuality and how the people in the film struggled with and experienced various aspects of their sexuality.
- Discuss the relevant theoretical background to the topic
- Provide an *integrated* discussion of your academic sources to reflect on the film's contents.

This is the most important part of the essay. **This is a critical discussion of the film not a film review!!**

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 it 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** 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.

Class Participation, 5%

This 5% 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 assignments will not be accepted more than 7 days after their due date.**

Submission of assignments: Papers assignments will be submitted as a *hard copy* in class. E-mails will not be accepted. Papers not given to me in person **MUST** be date and time stamped and submitted to the Main Office in ANSO. Assignments slipped under my door will not be accepted.

Course Overview and Readings:

September 7 – Class One: Introduction and Theoretical Orientations

September 14 – Class Two: Understanding and Researching Human Sexuality

Readings: Chapter 1 and 2

Film: 'Kinsey' (2004)

September 21 – Class Three: The Body Performed

Readings: Chapter 3 and 5

Film: 'Brokeback Mountain' (2005)

September 28 – Class Four: Attraction and Love

Readings: Chapters 6 and 9

October 5 – Class Five: Romantic Sexual Relationships

Readings: Chapters 4 and 7

Film: Vicky Cristina Barcelona (2008)

October 12 – Class Six

Midterm Exam

October 19 – Class Seven: All Things Reproductive

Critical Paper One due in class

Readings: Chapters 10 and 11

October 26 – Class Eight: STIs and Sexual Dysfunction

Readings: Chapters 13 and 14

Film: 'Dangerous Beauty' (1998)

November 2 – Class Nine: Sexual Spectrums

Readings: Chapters 8 and 12

November 9 – Class 10: Sexual Variation and Coercion

Readings: Chapters 15 and 16

Film: 'The Piano' (1993)

November 16 – Class Eleven: Sex for Sale

Critical Paper Two due in class

Reading: Chapter 17

Film: 'The People vs Larry Flynt' (1996)

November 23 – Class Twelve: Review and Leftover Debate and Discussion

November 30 – Class Thirteen

Final Exam