

The University of British Columbia
FMST 316
Section 001
Human Sexuality – Reel Representations
Course Syllabus

Class: May 12 – June 18, 2015 – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-8pm

Location: Buchanan B 213

Instructor: Dr. Brandy Wiebe

E-mail: brandy.wiebe@ubc.ca

Office: ANSO 3108

Office Hours: 4:30-5pm in classroom or by appointment

TA: Bethany Schmidt

TA Email: bethany.schmidt@alumni.ubc.ca

TA Office Hours: 4:30-5pm in classroom or by appointment

Office : Classroom

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 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:

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 LGBQ 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:

Exam 1: **30%** Thursday, May 28

Exam 2: **25%** Thursday, June 11

Critical Paper One: **20%** Due in class Tuesday, June 2

Critical Paper Two: **20%** Due in class Thursday, June 18

Class Participation: **5%**

Exam 1, 30% Thursday, May 28 in class

This exam will consist of short answer questions and an essay question for *Sex at Dawn*. It covers PART ONE-THREE of *Sex at Dawn* and all class materials (including films) from weeks 1-5.

Exam 2, 25% Thursday June 11 in class

This exam will consist of short answer questions and an essay question for *Sex at Dawn*. It covers PART FOUR AND FIVE of *Sex at Dawn*, the Woodford et al. article and all class materials (including films) from weeks 7-9.

Critical Paper, 2 x 20%, Due in class on Tuesday, June 2 and Thursday, June 18

MUST not exceed 3 pages double spaced per paper (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 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 article **published since 2005** (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, 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 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 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.

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.

'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.

Course Overview and Readings:

May 12 -Class One: Introduction, Theoretical Orientations and Key Historical Moments

May 14 - Class Two: Understanding and Researching Human Sexuality

Film: 'Kinsey' (2004)

May 19 - Class Three: The Body Performed

Film: 'Brokeback Mountain' (2005)

May 21 - Class Four: Attraction and Orientation

May 26 - Class Five: Romantic Sexual Relationships

Film: 'Vicky Cristina Barcelona' (2008)

May 28 - Class Six *Midterm Exam 1*

Readings: Parts I-III of 'Sex at Dawn'

June 2 - Class Seven: STIs and Sexual Dysfunction

Critical Paper One due in class

Film: 'The Sessions' (2012)

June 4 – Class Eight: All Things Reproductive and Not

June 9 – Class Nine: Sexual Variation, Coercion and Commerce

Film: 'The Piano' (1993)

June 11 – Class Ten *Midterm Exam 2*

Readings: Parts IV-V of 'Sex at Dawn' and Woodford et al. article

June 16 – Class Eleven: Sex for Sale

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

June 18 – Class Twelve: Sexual Spectrums and Leftover Debate and Discussion

Critical Paper Two due in class