

SOCL 359: Sexuality and Society (On Demand)

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[Response time: within 24-48 hours on weekdays]

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays at 1PM Central

(<https://wku.zoom.us/j/99432847531>)

[Please make and confirm an appointment at least 24 hours prior.]

Proceed with caution

Please drop this course if you are uncomfortable reading about, discussing, watching videos on, doing projects related to, or taking exams which cover the following topics: sexuality and the law, consensual non-monogamous relationships, prostitution (i.e., sex work), pornography, sexual acts, sexual orientation, sexuality and socialization, stripping/erotic dancing, or related topics. Some of the readings, lectures, and videos/images are explicit.

Readings

Rather than using a textbook in this course, you will be reading PDFs of journal articles for each section of the course.

Course Description

This course examines sexuality largely from a sociological perspective. In addition to the disciplinary focus of the course affecting the course's content, the content of this course (see below) is also impacted by a need to differentiate it from other sexuality-focused courses offered at WKU and the inclusion of the course as an elective for the Criminology major and minor. If you are interested in issues such as STIs, contraception, sexual positions, sexual anatomy, sex organs, etc., consider taking Human Sexuality (PH 365). Public Health also offers Sexuality Education (PH 468). If you are interested in a psychological perspective on sexuality, consider enrolling in Psychology of Sexuality (PSYS 482).

Course Content

The primary topics covered via lecture, videos, and/or readings for each exam follow. (Note: this is not an exhaustive listing of material covered in the course and is subject to change.)

Exam 1: socialization and sexuality—agents of socialization, mass media impact; sexual orientation—population distribution, measurement issues, marriage equality, employment discrimination, and health disparities among sexual minority youth.

Exam 2: sexuality and the law—laws regulating sexuality and court cases addressing the constitutionality of such laws; pornography—porn and socialization, porn and technological innovation, and porn and normalization; consensual non-monogamous relationships.

Exam 3: stripping—subcultural norms, stigma management, client-dancer interactions, emotional labor, lifestyle effects on relationships, men who dance for women, and secondary effects (i.e., criminal activity, property values) of strip clubs on surrounding areas.

Exam 4: sex work—laws; structure and organization of prostitution; UCR data; indoor vs outdoor victimization experiences/risks, indoor vs outdoor services and client interactions; online prostitution; male prostitution; the Swedish Model vs the New Zealand model; FOSTA.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of socialization effects on sexuality.
- Explain recent developments in issues associated with sexual orientation (e.g., marriage equality, employment discrimination, and health disparities).
- Explain the impact of norms, laws, and court decisions on sexuality.
- Discuss methodological issues regarding the study of sexuality.
- Show an understanding of subcultures associated with sexuality (e.g., swinging and other consensual non-monogamous relationships).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship of pornography to normalization and erotic empowerment.
- Summarize research on the association of pornography with normalization and erotic empowerment.
- Note norms that impact client-dancer interactions.
- Discuss how involvement in stripping is associated with emotional labor, stigma management, and the establishment of intimate relationships with others.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the organization of different tiers of strip clubs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the structure and organization of prostitution.
- Contrast different forms of prostitution and associated risks to providers and clients.
- Discuss the impact of FOSTA on sex work.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the differences between the Swedish Model and the New Zealand model regarding approaches to sex work.
- Apply concepts learned throughout the semester.
- Demonstrate sufficient mastery of all aspects of course content via assessment measures.

Interacting with Your Instructor:

If you have questions regarding course content (lectures and readings), need clarification of matters related to the course, wish to further engage in a discussion of course material, etc., please meet with me via Zoom during my virtual office hours or send me an email. For privacy concerns related to FERPA, please send all emails from your WKU email account. Also, please put “SOCL 359 On Demand” in the subject heading of all emails. If you wish to meet during my virtual office hours, please confirm your intention to meet at least 24 hours prior. If you cannot meet during my scheduled office hours, please contact me regarding the possibility of scheduling an alternative meeting time. I will respond within 24-48 hours to all emails I receive on weekdays.

Examinations, Course Readings, and Lectures:

Your grade in the course will be primarily determined by your performance on four examinations which cover course readings, lectures, and related material. **All exams must be taken at a proctored testing site.**

Course lectures, readings, exams and other material for each section of the course are located within a folder titled “Exam # Material.” Sign into Blackboard using your WKU NetID and password.

There are reading questions for each reading. Everything you need to know from the readings is covered in these questions. Learn (memorize) the answers to them. On the exams I will ask detailed, specific questions from this material. Approximately 20-30% of the exam questions will come from the readings.

The rest of the exam will largely cover material discussed in lecture. Listen to the recorded lectures in the order in which they are listed under the “Lecture Order” heading. To access the lectures, click on the link; they will open in a new window. Take detailed notes from the lectures. Don’t make the mistake of only writing down what is on the PowerPoint slides. If you only write down what is on the slides, you will not do well in this course. The slides are largely topical outlines, and many slides are not very detailed. In terms of taking notes, pay attention to and write down those things that 1) I emphasize, 2) I explicitly say to know, and 3) I state at a slower pace; I interchange these tactics. Use these pointers as a guide to distinguish between those things that I want you to hear and/or use to illustrate lecture points versus the material that you should place in your lecture notes. There will be specific, detailed questions on the exams covering lecture material. In addition to the recorded lectures, there are some short, typed lectures included in some sections of the course.

In addition, there are links to videos in some sections of the course. Questions related to this material will appear on the exam.

Each exam is worth 100 points and will consist of multiple-choice questions and true-false statements. Please don’t make the mistake of assuming that, since the exams consist of multiple-choice questions and true-false statements, you only need to recognize material. I strive to construct exams that assess your mastery of course material, testing both the breadth and depth of your knowledge. Therefore, please be well-prepared for each of the exams you take in this course. The exams are challenging. I suggest that you study for the exams as though you would be taking a short answer exam in which you would have to write out the answers to questions from the readings and questions that will appear from lecture; knowing the material that well will significantly enhance your performance on the exams. Some students tell me that flash cards are very helpful to them as they prepare for the exams. Simply repeatedly reading over course material (lecture notes, readings answers, or flashcards containing material from both lecture notes and readings) is not sufficient preparation for taking exams; you need to learn the material.

When you go to the testing site to take your exams, you will sign onto Blackboard and click on the “Exams” folder and then click on the exam itself. The testing site proctor will have the passcode for the exam and will enter the passcode. After the proctor has entered the passcode, begin the exam. Exams are timed and will auto-submit 60 minutes after you open the exam.

Scheduling Exams:

You need to take Exams 1-4 at a testing center. For more information on finding a testing center near you visit the [On Demand website](http://www.wku.edu/ondemand/exams.php). (http://www.wku.edu/ondemand/exams.php) Plan ahead. Submit your examination request in advance - at least 5 days – so On Demand has sufficient time to process your request.

Course Grades

Course grades will be determined according to the following scale:

Total Points	Grade
360-400	A
320-359	B
280-319	C
220-279	D
≤ 219	F

Please do not ask me to provide extra-credit opportunities or to assign you a grade that is higher than what you have earned in the course. Such requests will not be honored, and I will not respond to emails in which such requests are made. To wit, please don't ask if there is "anything I can do to raise my grade in the class," and I am aware that you're "only a few points away" from a given grade. Moreover, it is inappropriate to attempt to leverage a grade by making appeals regarding the effect of a course grade on one's academic standing or athletic eligibility, the renewal of a scholarship or financial aid, the likelihood of your being admitted into law school or a post-graduate program, and so on.

Written Exercises (bonus points for each exam):

Sometime after you complete each exam, you will submit a short, written assignment related to course content. **To receive credit for the written exercises, you must submit the written exercise for each module before taking the next exam. The use of AI (e.g., generation systems/apps such as ChatGPT) to construct your responses is prohibited (or, as the Germans say, "verboten"). Other instructions for these submissions are provided in the Exam 1 Material folder.** These assignments are accessible via the Written Exercise folder. After assessing the quality of your submission, I will award the points you have earned by completing this exercise. These points will appear in the Exam # Written Exercise columns in Blackboard and will be added to the Total Points, allowing you to improve your course grade. These exercises are administered in lieu of curving exams. In addition to being well-structured and coherent, your submissions should be free of misspellings, grammatical errors, errors in subject-verb agreement, run-on sentences, and incomplete sentences; deductions will be made for such errors. Points earned will improve your course grade, but your performance on the written exercises will not lower your course grade. It is possible for students who perform exceptionally well on the exams to finish the course having accumulated more than 400 points in the course. [Note: The number of possible points for each exercise is listed at the top of the description of the assignment. The points you earn will be added to the total points you've earned in the course; it's essentially the same as your having scored that many points higher on the exam. In Blackboard it will show zero points possible when you click on the assignment, so don't be confused by this; this setting is used so that Blackboard's grade percentage is calculated from a base of 400 points rather than calculating it from 400 exam points plus the bonus points earned from the written exercises.]

Technical Requirements & Accessibility:

"Minimum Technical Requirements & Accessibility

Since this is an online course, your computer should meet the recommended technology guidelines. Please refer to the [Technology Requirements page](#) to determine if your computer and internet speed meets the requirements. You can also find this information in the Student Resources item in the course menu."

(https://distancelearning.wku.edu/bb/technical_requirement/index.html) For those enrolled in the course, this information is accessible via the Technical Requirements tab in Blackboard.)

Technology Problems?

Throughout the semester if you have technology issues with the Tegrity lectures, please call Information Technology at 745-7000. They can recommend appropriate, compatible Internet browsers (and versions thereof). They also have expertise associated with other issues (processor speed of your computer, speed of your Internet connection, etc.) that might affect your ability to view the lectures.

ADA Accommodation

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX/Discrimination & Harassment

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators or Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

Regular and Substantive Interaction:

- Welcome message with instructor introduction, and description of course content and student expectations.
- Suggested course schedule with time management recommendations to successfully complete a self-paced, On Demand course within a specific timeframe.
- Communication and interaction via email along with expected response of 24-48 hours listed in syllabus and posted within the course.
- Set Virtual Office Hours listed in syllabus and posted within the course.
- A total of 4 "short answer" written assignments within each learning module requiring grades / feedback. Each assignment must be completed before proceeding to the next learning module.
- All graded assignments will be graded within a 2-week period, with feedback.