

SEXUALITY & MODERNITY
SOC209 H1F – L0101/L9101
University of Toronto, St. George Campus
Fall 2020

Course Director: Adam Isaiah Green: **Office Address:** 248, 725 Spadina Avenue
Office Hours: By appointment via ZOOM. **Email:** AdamIsaiah.Green@utoronto.ca
TA: Pamela Tsui **Email:** Pamela.Tsui@mail.utoronto.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course, we will examine questions related to the intersection of gender and sexuality in the modern West, with a special focus on alternative (non-heteronormative) identities, practices, communities and desires. To do so, we proceed self-consciously with a critical analysis of the modern study of sexuality, and the ways in which sexual science, as a kind of social practice, has affected the construction and regulation of gender and sexual orientation. We also consider how social structures such as capitalism and patriarchy, and social stratification—including race, class, and age—shape the sphere of sexuality, gender and intimate life. The goal of the course is to link modernity, as a particular epochal moment in history, to the development of sexuality in Western societies over the past 150 years.

MODE OF DELIVERY: Course content will be delivered through Zoom Pro with pre-recorded, asynchronous lectures. Links to the lectures will be sent via email and will be uploaded every Tuesday by 4pm.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students will be responsible for reading and analysing a considerable amount of literature each class. There is an expectation that students will come prepared each asynchronous lecture to engage with its ideas in a meaningful way and on a regular basis.

PREREQUISITE: The prerequisite to take this course is SOC101Y1 or SOC102H1 or SOC100H1. Students without this requirement will be removed at any time discovered and without notice.

GRADING POLICY: Students will be given two essay tests, each worth 40% of the total grade, and one final test worth 20% of the total grade.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Course readings will be made available through Quercus, with exception to Foucault, Michel. 1980. *The History of Sexuality, Volume I*. New York: Vintage Books, which must be purchased.

CLASS RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Plagiarism: Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. Know where you stand by reading the “Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters” in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Accessibility Services: If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Communications: Students must submit assignments as specified above.

Due dates: Late papers will be docked 5 points per day. Students who submit their papers late due to illness will need to notify the instructor by email and also declare their absence on the system (ACORN) on the day the assignment is due.

- If a personal or family crisis prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies). The letter must be scanned and sent to the course instructor via email.

Contesting a test grade: Students who are dissatisfied with their test grades have one week to address their concerns, in writing, to the teaching assistant. The format for contesting a grade begins with a 1 page typed document, submitted to the teaching assistant by email, outlining why the grade is inappropriate. Students who remain unhappy with the response should make an appointment with the instructor to review the case.

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 15 Welcome!

Welcome and introduction to class materials and format

Definitions: sex, sexuality, gender

September 22 Science as Sexual Knowledge

Katz, Jonathan Ned. 2007. *The Invention of Heterosexuality*. (Chapters 2, 4) Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

September 29 Foucault: The Modern Disciplining of Sexualities

Foucault, Michel. 1980. *The History of Sexuality, Volume I*. New York: Vintage Books. Pp. 1-76

October 6 The Medicalization of Homosexuality

Conrad, Peter and Joseph W. Schneider. 1992. "Homosexuality: From Sin to Sickness to Life-Style." Pp. 172-213 in Conrad, Peter and Joseph W. Schneider (eds.), *Deviance and Medicalization. From Badness to Sickness*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

October 13 Capitalism, Gay Identity & Community

D'Emilio, John. 1983. "Capitalism and Gay Identity". In H. Abelove, M. Barale and David Halperin (eds.) *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Bereket, Tarik and Barry Adam. 2006. "The Emergence of Gay Identity in Contemporary Turkey". *Sexualities* 9, 2: 131-151

October 20 **Test 1**

October 27 Homosexuality in Mid-Century America

Levine, Martin. 1992. "The Life and Death of Gay Clones." Pp. 147-164 in Herdt, Gilbert (ed.), *Gay Culture in America*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Kennedy, Elizabeth Lapovsky and Madeline Davis. 1989. "The Reproduction of Butch-Fem Roles: A Social Constructionist Approach." Pp. 241-258 in Peiss, Kathy and Christina Simmons (eds.). *Passion and Power. Sexuality in History*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

November 3 Disciplined Sexual Desires?

MacKinnon, Catharine. 2002. "Sexuality, Pornography, and Method: 'Pleasure Under Patriarchy'" Pp. 20-33 in Christine Williams and Arlene Stein (eds.), *Sexuality and Gender*. Malden: MA Blackwell.

Rich, Adrienne. 1993. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence", Pp. 227-254 in Abelove, Henry, Michele Aina Barale and David M. Halperin (eds.), *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. New York and London: Routledge.

Hakim, Catherine. 2010. "Erotic Capital". *European Sociological Review*. 26: 499-518.

November 10 **NO CLASS: Reading Week**

November 17 Butler: Gender & Performativity

Butler, Judith. 1993. "Imitation and Gender Insubordination". Pp. 307-320 in H. Abelove, M. Barale and David Halperin (eds.) *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Weir, Allison. 2004. "From the Subversion of Identity to the Subversion of Solidarity: Judith Butler and the Critique of Women's Identity." Pp. 41-50 in Barbara Crow, Lisa Gotell (eds.), *Open Boundaries*. Prentice Hall.

November 24 **Test 2**

December 1 Transgender

Lecture: Transgender

Westbrook, Laurel. 2016. "Transforming the Sex/Gender/Sexuality System. The Construction of Trans Categories in the United States." Pp. 33-42 in Fischer, L. Nancy and Steven Seidman (eds), *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies. Third Edition*. London and New York: Routledge.

Connell, Catherine. 2010. "Doing, Undoing or Redoing Gender? Learning from the Workplace Experiences of Transpeople." *Gender & Society*. 1:31-55.

December 8 Stratification in Late Modern Erotic Worlds: The Sexual Fields Framework

Green, Adam Isaiah. 2014. "Chapter 1: The Sexual Fields Framework" Pp. 25-56 in Adam Isaiah Green (ed.), *Sexual Fields: Toward a Sociology of Collective Sexual Life*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Green, Adam Isaiah. 2008. "The Social Organization of Desire: A Sexual Fields Approach." *Sociological Theory* 26, 1: 25-50.

FINAL TEST DUE Thursday, December 10, at 4pm, Location TBA