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](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

September 29  
*Foucault: The Modern Disciplining of Sexualities*


October 6  
*The Medicalization of Homosexuality*


October 13  
*Capitalism, Gay Identity & Community*


October 20  
*Test 1*

October 27  
*Homosexuality in Mid-Century America*


November 3  
*Disciplined Sexual Desires?*


November 10      NO CLASS: Reading Week

November 17      Butler: Gender & Performativity


November 24      Test 2

December 1       Transgender

Lecture: Transgender


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


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