



SOC 597-01W SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER II

(7/8/24-8/8/24)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Julia Meszaros, Associate Professor

Office Location: Ferguson 230

Office Hours: SUMMER ONLINE M-F, 8-5 by appointment

Office Fax: **903-886-5330**

University Email Address: Julia.Meszaros@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**

Communication Response Time: 48 hours, M-F 9 to 5 PM

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

1. Ward, Jane. *The tragedy of heterosexuality*. NYU Press, 2022.
2. Butler, Judith. *Gender trouble: Feminism and the subversion of identity*. Routledge, 2011.
3. PDF readings will be available on D2L under the week's modules

The books should be available used on Amazon, particularly Butler's book.

Course Description

This course is a general introduction to the sociology of sexualities, providing an introduction to major topics related to gender and sexuality. Topics covered include an defining sexuality, representations of sexuality, and the intersections of sexuality with race, gender, class, etc. The course will focus on the socially constructed nature of sexuality by examining understandings of sexuality across both time and space.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will apply the Sociological imagination to topics surrounding gender and sexuality across different cultural and historical contexts in order to become more globally engaged citizens. This SLO will be measured in the essays and discussion posts.
2. Students will apply critical thinking skills to examine sexualities in a variety of representations. This SLO will be measured in the essays and discussion posts.
3. Students will apply the sociological lens and knowledge into their daily lives regarding sexualities. This SLO will be measured in the essays and discussion posts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To be successful in the course you must be able to use D2L, and using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

Instructional Methods

This course will be delivered entirely online. You must have access to D2L in order to complete the requirements for this course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

You must log into D2L multiple times a week in order to be successful in this course. All course communications and assignments will be completed through D2L. If you have questions regarding access to D2L or technical requirements, information to reach out to Campus IT is provided below.

LATE WORK POLICY: Late work will be marked down by 10% for a week late, 30% off for two weeks late, and 50% for three weeks late. Beyond three weeks, late work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

GRADING POLICY: Grades will not be changed after final submission nor do I round grades at the end of the semester.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100% 900-1000 points

B = 80%-89% 800-899

C = 70%-79% 700-799

D = 60%-69% 600-699

F = 59% or Below 599

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ASSESSMENTS

Essays: 4 Short Essays (4@200 points each, 800 Total)

The essays will relate the week's book to the two articles assigned in order to comment on the overall theme of the week. This course moves fast, but the essays should be three to five pages double spaced and must have a clear argument that links the readings to each other. Please cite in APA, MLA or Chicago style both in text and at the end of the paper. Make sure to **DIRECTLY ENGAGE** the readings in your answer to support the statements and arguments you are making to connect to the week's themes.

Weekly Discussion Board Postings (4 @ 50 points: 200 points): Each week students will post to a discussion board analyzing two videos that highlight topics from the course in contemporary life examples. Each student will post a 300 word response to the prompt questions that relate to each video. Students will need to post responses to at least two of their classmates' post in order to engage with each other.

Ice Breaker Board Posting (1 @ 10 points): Each student will post an ice breaker post that discusses their major, their year at school, why they are taking the course, etc. This post will be created the first week of the course to foster community between students and the instructor.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I prefer communication via email. I rarely answer my office phone and am much more likely to respond to email. I will respond to email within 24 to 48 hours, between normal business hours of 8am to 5pm. Please be sure that when you email me, you use a proper greeting (Dr. Meszaros Professor Meszaros) an email body, and an appropriate closing. You should never send an email with just an attachment and no email body. Be sure you have an appropriate and informative subject line and include the name and section of the course you are enrolled in. See the attached

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page for some email expectations that would serve you well in all future communication with any professors or potential employers.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

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Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week One (7/8-7/13) Intersectionality

Read Zimmerman and West's "Doing Gender" PDF

Read *Gender Trouble* by Butler

Read McCall's "Complexity of Intersectionality" PDF

Online Discussion Due: 7/13

Ice Breaker Due: 7/13

Week Two (7/14-7/20) Non Normative Sexualities

Read Klesse's "Polyamory and its Others" PDF

Read Escoffer's "Gay for Pay" PDF

Read Cuthbert's "When we Talk about Gender, We talk about Sex"

Read Taylor's "Dollars are a Girl's Best Friend"

Online Discussion Due: 7/20

Essay One Due: 7/20: Essay one should focus on the intersectional relationship between gender and sexuality, as well as the idea of doing gender and gender as a performative identity.

Week Three (7/21-7/27) Compulsory Heterosexuality

Read PDF Adrienne Rich's essay on compulsory heterosexuality

Read Gayle Rubin's essay on the traffic in women

Read Jane Ward's *Tragedy of Heterosexuality*

Online Discussion Due: 7/27

Second Essay Due: 7/27: Essay two should focus on deviant sexualities: what unites these various deviant sexualities? Which deviant forms of sexuality are more tolerated than others? Why?

Week Four (7/28-8/3) Sexual Identity and Embodiment

Readings

Read Ward's "Dude Sex"

Read Robinson's "Transamorous Misogyny"

Read Schilt and Westbrook's "Doing Gender, Doing Heteronormativity"

Read Jones' "Cumming to a Screen near you"

Online Discussion Due: 8/3

Essay Three Due: 8/3: Essay Three should focus on heterosexuality and the issues facing heterosexual women within a system that historically set them as property. Connect how

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heterosexuality benefits men more than women across the readings and how that relates to capitalism.

Week Five (8/4-8/8): Bullying and Wrap Up

Read Pascoe's "Notes on Bullying"

Online Discussion Due: **8/8**

Essay Four Due: **8/8**: Essay Four should focus on the role of sexual identity and embodiment in our understanding of sexual orientation and how that can also be challenged through different expressions of gender and sexual identities.