



FLORIDA
ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY

COURSE CHANGE REQUEST Undergraduate Programs

Department Sociology
College Arts and Letters

UUPC Approval 12/4/23
UFS Approval _____
SCNS Submittal _____
Confirmed _____
Banner Posted _____
Catalog _____

Current Course Prefix and Number SYP 4063

Current Course Title
The Social Construction of Sexuality

Syllabus must be attached for ANY changes to current course details. See Template. Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.

Change title to:
Constructing Sexuality

Change description to:
This course explores how social, cultural, and political forces shape human sexuality. Specifically, it examines how sexual identity, behavior, and desire are shaped by larger social and historical forces. Students will explore the social construction of sexuality, how sexuality is perceived, defined, and experienced in society.

Change prefix

From: _____ To: _____

Change course number

From: _____ To: _____

Change credits*

From: _____ To: _____

Change grading

From: _____ To: _____

Change WAC/Gordon Rule status**

Add Remove

Change General Education Requirements***

Add Remove

*See Definition of a Credit Hour.
**WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See WAC Guidelines.
***GE criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

Change prerequisites/minimum grades to:

Change corequisites to:

Change registration controls to:

Please list existing and new pre/corequisites, specify AND or OR and include minimum passing grade (default is D-).

Effective Term/Year for Changes: Summer 2024

Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Laura Backstrom/lbackstrom@fau.edu/561-297-3270

Approved by

Department Chair Ann Branaman
College Curriculum Chair [Signature]
College Dean _____
UUPC Chair Korey Sorge
Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Meeroff
UFS President _____
Provost _____

Date
11/6/23
11/13/23
11/14/23
12/4/23
12/4/23

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.



Constructing Sexuality (3 credits)

SYP 4063-001: CRN 12302

Summer 2024

Fully Online

This course can be counted towards the sociology major or minor.

No prerequisites.

Instructor: Dr. Laura Backstrom
Office: Culture and Society Building (CU) 259
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11am-1pm and by appointment
Phone: (561) 297-3270
E-Mail: lbackstrom@fau.edu

Course Description

This course explores how social, cultural, and political forces shape human sexuality. Specifically, it examines how sexual identity, behavior, and desire are shaped by larger social and historical forces. Students will explore the social construction of sexuality, how sexuality is perceived, defined, and experienced in society.

Required Texts

None. All readings are posted on Canvas.

Course Objectives

How do individuals develop attractions, make sexual choices, and enact their sexuality? How do institutions and organizations influence understandings of human sexuality over time? This course is about how sexuality is perceived, defined, and experienced in the context of society. The sexual is both personal and social. Although we may perceive sex to be a biologically driven behavior, sex is shaped by social norms, values, and expectations. Sexuality and its components (desire, pleasure, love, the body) are social constructed. Sexuality has been conceptualized differently across time and place. It is shaped by larger social-historical trends. In this course, we explore how sexuality is constructed and examine theories and concepts of a range of sexual practices and identities. We will examine how categories shape our understanding of sexuality and explore a wide range of topics.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss and evaluate sociological theories of sex and sexuality
- Apply these sociological theories to various sexual phenomena

- Understand and critically examine the social construction of sexuality and the social organization of sexuality
- Understand how sexuality has been conceptualized historically
- Be familiar with sociological research on various topics such as sexual orientation, gender, and sexuality across the life course
- Have successfully researched the sociology literature on a topic related to sexuality and effectively summarized and synthesized the findings of previous research
- Pose critical research questions about sexuality

Course Grading Policies

This is an advanced, 4000 level course which means that the material will be more challenging, the workload will be greater, and the expectations for the quality of your work will be more rigorous than in lower level courses. You will be reading dense theoretical works and empirical sociological research, and you will be writing extensively.

I do not give grades; you earn them. Grades are based on your performance in this course.

Assignments

Essays: There are two essays that should be between 4 and 6 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font with one-inch margins. Failure to follow these formatting rules will result in point deductions. The first response paper is worth 100 points, and the final response paper is worth 200 points. Essays are due on **May 29** and **June 20**. In total, essays are worth 75% of your final grade.

Exams: There is one exam that consists of multiple choice and short essay responses. The exam is worth 100 points. The exam is due on **June 12**. The exam is worth 25% of your final grade.

Grading Scale (by percentage and points)

A	=	94-100 %	C	=	73-76%
A-	=	90-93%	C-	=	70-72%
B+	=	87-89%	D+	=	67-69%
B	=	83-86%	D	=	63-66%
B-	=	80-82%	D-	=	60-62%
C+	=	77-79%	F	=	59% and below

Additional Policies

Attendance Policy Statement

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical

performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Disability policy statement

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Code of Academic Integrity policy statement

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#). If your college has particular policies relating to cheating and plagiarism, state so here or provide a link to the full policy—but be sure the college policy does not conflict with the University Regulation.

Religious Accommodations for Students and Faculty

In accordance with regulations of the Florida Board of Governors and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations, and work assignments. The details of this policy, as it pertains to FAU, may be found in the University Catalog and University Regulation 2.007, Religious Observances.

Syllabus Changes I reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus as deemed necessary. I will post these announcements on Canvas.

Policy on Late Work/Make Up Assignments Late assignments will receive a 5% penalty **per day** late. Students will only be able to make up work if there are extraordinary circumstances, and students must provide documentation of illness, accident, or family emergency. Modules

open well in advance of the deadlines, so it is your responsibility to take exams and submit essays on time.

Module 1 (May 14-May 20) The Social Construction of Sexuality

Readings

Working in the (Social) Construction Zone by Lars D. Christiansen and Nancy L. Fischer

Are We Having Sex Now or What? By Greta Christina

How Do Heterosexual Undergraduate Students Define Having Sex? By Kelsey K. Sewell and Donald S. Strassberg

Module 2 (May 21-May 29) Sex Education

No Sex Education by Judith Levine

Sex, Love, and Autonomy in the Teenage Sleepover by Amy Schalet

Sex in America by Robert T. Michael et al.

Essay #1 due May 29

Module 3 (May 30-June 5) Theories of Sexuality

Theoretical Perspectives by Steven Seidman

The Stalled Sexual Revolutions of the 20th Century by Ira Reiss and Reiss

Module 3 (June 6-June 12) Sexual Orientation

Not Born This Way by Shamus Khan

“Bud Sex:” Constructing Normative Masculinity among Rural Straight Men That Have Sex With Men by Tony Silva

Bridges, Tristan and Mignon R. Moore. 2018. “Young Women of Color and Shifting Sexual Identities.” *Contexts* 17(1): 86-88.

Exam due June 12

Module 5 (June 13-June 16) American Hookup Part 1

Readings

American Hookup: Introduction, Ch. 1-6

Module 6 (June 17-June 20) American Hookup Part 2

Readings:

American Hookup: Ch. 7-10, Conclusion

Essay #2 due June 20