

Sexualities and the Body Section 01

WGSS 169

Fall 2023 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2023 to 12/06/2023 Modified 08/16/2023

Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Tanya Bakhru
Office Location:	DMH 213
Telephone:	408-924-5744
Email:	tanya.bakhru@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays 3:30-5:30pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 1:30-2:45
Classroom:	HGH 122

Course Description and Requisites

This course explores the social construction of sexuality and the body from a feminist perspective. It investigates various aspects of sexuality and gendered bodies including identity, community, and social movements based on intersections of race, gender, sexuality, culture, and nation.

Prerequisite(s): Upper Division Standing or instructor consent.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Email Etiquette

When contacting me via email, please remember that email is a formal form of correspondence. Write carefully, identify yourself completely within the email, and be clear about your questions. In the subject line include your name, course information (Jane Doe, WGSS 169), and the subject of your email. Begin emails with appropriate formality (Dear/Hi Dr. Bakhru) and conclude your email with a salutation and your name.

Be aware I will not answer questions via email that can be found in the syllabus. I will refer you to the syllabus. I will not answer questions via email about missed classes – you are required to come to class and fully participate. If you miss class, ask a classmate to share information about what you missed. Substantial questions and questions about assignments should be addressed during my office hours. I do not answer these via email.

Classroom Protocol

You are expected to do all of the assigned reading for the week before coming to class. You are expected to bring that day's reading to class, arrive on time, and participate in class discussion by asking and answering questions. Anticipate a reading load of 30-50 pages per week.

I expect you to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. Class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, guest speakers, and films. All activities during class time, including guest speakers, films, and discussions, are part of the class and may be part of your exams or assignments.

Furthermore, students are responsible for all assignments and announcements presented in class. If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility to contact another student.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and is a serious offense. All references must be cited. Penalties for plagiarism range from an F in the course to expulsion from the university. Students suspected of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action. For more information please see <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/>

Please be aware of your conduct in class. Racist, sexist, homophobic, crude, or inappropriate remarks of any kind will not be tolerated. Respect your classmates and instructor. Always use civil discourse in class.

Guidelines for Civil Discourse

"Democracy is a means of living together despite our differences. Democratic deliberation is an alternative to physical violence. It is predicated on the assumption that it's possible to disagree agreeably, that it's better to laugh than cry, that one can vigorously contest the positions of one's adversary without questioning his or her personal integrity or motivation, and that parties to a debate are entitled to the presumption that their views are legitimate if not correct."

–Thomas Mann

A climate of mutual respect requires free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. All of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment or personal attack. This means opening ourselves to the lived experiences of others, which may not be our own, and treating those experiences as valid. No one is entitled to harass, discriminate, or belittle another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. On the other hand, we cannot permit ourselves to be silenced because we feel awkward discussing politically sensitive issues.

Participating as a good listener while your peers are speaking is also critical. This is your role as members of the audience. Good listening requires effort and energy; "audience member" is not a passive role. Good listening entails offering attentive, supportive nonverbal feedback, and asking questions or offering comments.

When you are involved in a class discussion reflect on the following:

Do you lead? Do you follow? Do you dominate the conversation? Are you hesitant to speak up? Are you aware of other people's desire to join in the conversation? Do you make sure everyone has a chance to contribute? When you have an emotional reaction to something someone says, how do you handle it?

Program Information

Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program Learning Outcomes (PLO):

1. Identify and analyze the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, class, and nation social and institutional contexts.
2. Identify and describe major theories and political movements central to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, placing contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and embodied contexts.
3. Describe the global span of feminist movements and the connection among gender and sexual minorities around the world.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking and research skills through written, oral and creative means.

Course Goals

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe how feminists have theorized the social constructions of sexuality (Sexual Theory Pictionary Exercise).
2. Identify various aspects of gender identity and sexuality, which are politicized in society and describe those processes of politicization (Sex Education in Schools Writing Prompt; Analysis of Viagra Commercials Activity; Sex Testing in the Olympics Prompt).
3. Employ critical thinking and writing skills, particularly in dealing with issues of sex, sexuality, and gender (Essay Exam Assignments).

Course Materials

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Seidman, S., Fischer, N., and Westbrook, L. (Eds.) (2022). *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*. 4th edition. New York: Routledge

Course Requirements and Assignments

Discussion Questions: 10x30points = 300 points

10 times throughout the course you will be asked post a response to a discussion question in class based on either the readings for that week, a short film, or current event. These are opportunities to reflect on the class materials and connect them to your own experiences. Each response should be 100-150 words.

Oral Assessments: 2x100points = 200 points

More details on this assignment will be provided in class

Essays 2x200 = 400 points

Two times in the term I will give you a set of questions to respond to regarding readings assigned for the class. You will be assessed on your ability answer the prompt fully, provide your own stance in relation to the reading response prompt, and draw connections to the assigned reading. Each short write essay should be about 1000 words (3-4 pages).

End of Course Reflection 1x100 = 100 points

At the end of the course you will be asked to write a short reflection about your experience. The essay should be 500 words.

Grading Information

Grading Policy

I utilize a philosophy of *Ungrading*. Ungrading is an approach to assessment whereby the instructor provides students with formative rather than summative feedback, which may be combined with student self-evaluation and/or peer feedback, as well as dialogue with the student.

Ungrading:

- Encourages a growth mindset that can help students take agency in their learning
- Removes the threat of "getting it wrong" or getting a "bad grade," thus freeing students to take more risks and engage in more

creative thinking

- Studies show that students tend to do more and higher-quality work in an ungrading system than they do in a traditionally graded system

What this means that as long as you do the assignment, meet the word requirement, and turn it in on time you will receive full credit. Late work will receive half credit. I will provide you with substantive feedback to help facilitate your intellectual growth.

I grade using a point system. My grading system is very straight-forward and simple. Your final grade is an accumulation of points you have earned throughout the semester.

The grading scale is as follows:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>960 to 1000</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 959</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 829</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 21/23	Introduction to the Course and The Dinner Party
2	Aug 28/30	Foundations Nos. 2, 3, and 4
3	Sep 4/6	Foundations Nos. 5, 6, and 7 Sep 4 Labor Day- No Class
4	Sep 11/13	Bodies and Behaviors Nos. 11, 12, 13, and 14
5	Sep 18/20	Oral Assessments Essay 1 Due Sep 24 at 11:59
6	Sep 25/27	Bodies and Behaviors Nos. 16, 17, 18, and 19
7	Oct 2/4	Relating and Relationships Nos. 21, 22, 24, and 25
8	Oct 9/11	Relating and Relationships Nos. 26, 27, 28, and 30
9	Oct 16/18	Sex, Gender, and Sexuality Nos. 31, 32, 33, and 38
10	Oct 23/25	Oral Assessments Essay 2 Due Oct 29 at 11:59
11	Oct 30/Nov 1	Sex, Gender, and Sexuality Nos. 35, 36, and 39 Essay 2 Due Oct 29 at 11:59
12	Nov 6/8	Social Structures and Institutions Nos. 42, 44, 46, and 48
13	Nov 13/15	Sexual Cultures, Places, and Scenes Nos. 59, 63, 64, and 65

14	Nov 20/22	Sexual Labor and Commerce Nos. 68 Nov 20 Library Day Nov 22 Non-Instructional Day
15	Nov 27/29	Sexual Labor and Commerce Nos. 70, 71, 73, and 74
16	Dec 4/6	Sexual Politics, Social Movements, and Empowerment Nos. 75, 79, 80, 82, 83