Northwestern University
Fall 2017
Sociology of Sexuality
SOCIOL 476-0-20 - GNDR_ST 490-0-20
Wednesday 2-4:50 PM, Parkes Hall 222

Professor Héctor Carrillo
Office: 1808 Chicago Avenue, Room 101
Office hours: Wednesday 11 AM -12 PM, Thursday 2-3 PM, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This graduate seminar asks the following questions: What do we learn about society by studying sexuality? What do we learn about sexuality by studying society? We will focus on sociological approaches to studying sexuality and link sexuality studies to broader sociological questions about culture, social interaction, social inequality, globalization, social movements, science, health, and public policy. We will explore various theoretical and methodological approaches that have been used in sociological studies of sexuality—including those that guide sexuality-related analyses of meanings and identities, practices and behaviors, politics, power, relationships, population movement, collective identities and social movements, and morality and social control.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be expected to:

- Do all required readings prior to each class session and participate in class discussion.

- Submit a term paper electronically (20-25 pages in length) by December 4 at 2:00 PM. You must get my approval of your proposed topic by submitting a short written description electronically by no later than Friday, October 20 and meeting with me individually soon thereafter. Include an initial bibliography with your description. The bibliography for the term paper must expand beyond the readings for the seminar. The paper can be on a topic of your choice, but it is expected to be a sociological paper that relies on concepts and theories discussed in the seminar.

- Circulate discussion questions in advance of one or two seminar sessions during the quarter. These questions must be posted by 5:00 pm on the Tuesday before class. A sign-up sheet will be circulated.

- Read weekly posted discussion questions before class and be prepared to discuss them.

- Make sure that your own submitted questions are addressed during our discussion of the readings.
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Grading: You will earn a grade by completing the following assignments:

Term paper 75% of the final grade
Class participation and discussion questions 25% of the final grade

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend class seminars on a regular basis.

Syllabus is Subject to Change: This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check whether any announcements were made while you were absent.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental for this course and plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please review the Graduate School’s policy on academic integrity at: http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/index.html

Accessibility: Any student with a documented disability needing accommodations is requested to speak to the Accessible NU Center: http://www.northwestern.edu/accessiblenu/about-us/our-office/evanston-campus/index.html. Please also speak with me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first two weeks of class). All discussions will remain confidential.

Communication:
This course will use the new Canvas course management system: (http://www.it.northwestern.edu/education/learning-management/login.html).

SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

I will post articles and individual book chapters on Canvas as PDFs. You will need the books by Foucault, Ghaziani, Hoang, and Carrillo. The book by Hoang will be available on reserve at the NU library on October 1st. The Foucault and Ghaziani books are available electronically at the NU library website (the links appear on Canvas). My own book will be published in early November, and I’m making special provisions to make a copy available to you (see the note below: do not buy it from the press or through Amazon, as it won’t arrive in time).

Class 1 – September 20: The Social Construction of Sexuality: Sexual Scripts and Sexual Fields


*Also recommended:*

**Class 2 – September 27: Foucault and Queer Theory in Sociology**


Epstein, Steven. 2003. An Incitement to Discourse: Sociology and *The History of Sexuality*. *Sociological Forum* 18, no. 3 (September): 486-500


*Also recommended:*

**Class 3 – October 4: Heterosexualities: Meanings and Boundaries**


*Also recommended:*


**Class 4 – October 11: LGBTQ: Collective Identities, Rights, and Social Movements**


Class 5 – October 18: Sexuality, Place, and Space


Also recommended:


Class 6 – October 25: Sex/Gender Panics and the Punitive State


Also recommended:

Class 7 – November 1: The Political Economy of Sexuality and Global Capitalism

Also recommended:

Class 8 – November 8: Science, Technology, Expertise, and Religion


Class 9 – November 15: Sexual Migration, Globalization, and Cross-racial Sexual Encounters

Carrillo, Héctor. 2017. Pathways of Desire: The Sexual Migration of Mexican Gay Men. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press. (Don’t pre-order the book because it won’t arrive in time. I expect to receive advance copies on Nov. 7, which I can make available to you at the author’s discount price.)

Also recommended:

Class 10 – November 22: TBA

December 4 – Term paper due (by 2 PM)