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 Monday, December 9 at noon. You must get my approval of your proposed topic by submitting a short written description electronically (1 to 2 pages) by no later than Friday, October 25 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 Sunday before class. I will circulate a sign-up sheet.

- 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.

Accessibility: Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with AccessibleNU (accessiblenu@northwestern.edu; 847-467-5530) and provide professors with an accommodation notification from AccessibleNU, preferably within the first two weeks of class. All information will remain confidential.

Communication:
This course will use the Canvas course management system.

Safety and Security
Students can find useful resources for safety and security, academic support, and mental and physical health and well-being at the NUhelp website and app.

SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

I will post articles and individual book chapters on Canvas as PDFs. You will need the books by Foucault, Ghaziani, Carrillo, and Hoang. The books by Carrillo and Hoang will be available on reserve at the NU library. The Foucault and Ghaziani books are available electronically at the NU library website.

Class 1 – September 30: The Social Construction of Sexuality: Sexual Scripts and Sexual Fields


Class 2 – October 7: 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 14: Heterosexualities: Meanings and Boundaries


*Also recommended:*


Class 4 – October 21: LGBTQ: Collective Identities, Rights, and Social Movements


October 25 – Deadline for description of proposed term paper topic and initial bibliography

Class 5 – October 28: Sexuality, Place, and Space


*Also recommended:*

Class 6 – November 4: Sexual Migration, Globalization, and Cross-racial Sexual Encounters


*Also recommended:*
Class 7 – November 11: Sex/Gender Panics and the Punitive State


Also recommended:


Class 8 – November 18: The Political Economy of Sexuality and Global Capitalism


Also recommended:


Class 9 – November 25: Science, Technology, Expertise, and Religion


December 9 – Term paper due by noon.