

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**Spring 2016**  
**SYLLABUS**

| <b>SOCI 4240: Sociology of Sex 3Hrs</b> |  |                    |   |
|---|--|--------------------|---|
| <b>Department of</b>                    | <b>Sociology &amp; Psychology</b>  | <b>Division of</b> | <b>Liberal Arts &amp; Life Sciences</b> |
| <b>Instructor Name:</b>                 | <b>Steven L. Arxer</b>   |                    |   |
| <b>Office Location:</b>                 | <b>Building 2, Room 321</b>  |                    |   |
| <b>Office Phone:</b>                    | <b>972-338-1592</b>  |                    |   |
| <b>Email Address:</b>                   | <b>steven.arxer@untdallas.edu</b>  |                    |   |
| <b>Office Hours:</b>                    | Preferred method of communication: Email Response time back to email is 48 hours.<br>Virtual Office Hours: Wednesdays 8-10am. Face-to-Face Office hours:<br>Tuesdays/Thursdays 8-10am and by appointment. <i>Not available on Saturday and Sundays, and weekdays after 10 PM.</i>  |                    |   |
| <b>Classroom Location:</b>              | <b>DAL2, 303</b>   |                    |   |
| <b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>  | Tuesdays/Thursdays 10:00-11:20am   |                    |   |
| <b>Course Catalog Description:</b>      | <b>Sexuality and how it is perceived, defined and experienced in the context of society. Course explores sexuality as a social and historical construction and focuses on how sexuality influences our lives as reflected in social norms, attitudes and beliefs, and through public and private policies and practices.</b>   |                    |   |
| <b>Prerequisites:</b>                   | <b>SOCI 1510 or equivalent</b>   |                    |   |
| <b>Required Text:</b>                   | <p><b>Title: Sex, Self, and Society: The Social Construction of Sexuality</b><br/> <b>Editor: Tracey L. Steele (2005)</b></p> <p><b>*Note: if you have a different edition of the text please notify the professor to make sure that your text will satisfy the requirements of the course</b></p> <p><b>**All other reading material will be provided by the professor in advance either electronically or in hardcopy in class</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are responsible for completing the readings for the day they are assigned and come to class prepared to discuss them.</li> </ul>   |                    |   |
| <b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>    | UNT Dallas Library:<br>phone: (972) 780-3625;<br>web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a><br>UNT Dallas Bookstore:<br>phone: (972) 780-3652;<br>e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com">1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com</a>   |                    |   |
| <b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>        |  |                    |   |
|   | This course is designed as an overview of sociological scholarship on human sexuality and will focus especially on key work in the last twenty years. The course will begin its overview with a central theoretical work in conceptualizing the social construction of sexuality. With this as a grounding assumption, we will closely examine various ways sociologists have conceptualized, theorized, and observed sexuality. The course will also consider empirical work that links sexuality to institutions and social structures. In all, the course is meant to move students to a more comprehensive understanding of the sexuality by considering sexuality to be a social practice and not just biology. |                    |   |

| <b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will be able to</b> |  |
|---|--|
| 1   | Know the basic theories related to the study of sexuality.   |
| 2   | Outline the various perspectives relevant to sexuality (i.e., sociology, history) and used to analyze gender relations.                          |
| 3   | Describe classic and contemporary scholarship on sexuality and attendant empirical research  |
| 4   | Raise questions about continuing sexism, patriarchy, and homophobia in our society, and look at applied attempts to rectify social inequalities. |

## Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class.

| <b>TOPICS</b>  | <b>TIMELINE</b>   |
|--|---|
| <b>Introduction</b><br><u>Reading:</u><br>The Sociological Imagination, by C. W. Mills (on Blackboard)<br>Preface, Introduction, Part 1  | 1/19  |
| <b>Developing A Sociological Approach Sexuality: Structural-Functionalism</b><br><u>Reading:</u><br>Talcott Parsons, “Sex Roles in the American Kinship System” (On Blackboard)          | 1/21-1/26   |
| <b>Developing A Sociological Approach Sexuality: Conflict Theory</b><br><u>Reading:</u><br>Beyond the Binaries: Depolarizing the Categories of Sex, Sexuality and Gender—Judith Lorber   | 1/28-2/2  |
| <b>Developing A Sociological Approach Sexuality: Symbolic Interactionism/Social Constructionism</b><br><u>Reading:</u><br>‘Doing it’: The Social Construction of S-E-X, Tracey L. Steele | 2/4-2/9   |
| <b>Exam Review</b>   | 2/11  |
| <b>EXAM 1</b>  | 2/16  |
| <b>History: Historical Perspectives of Sexuality</b><br><u>Reading:</u><br>The Invention of Sexuality—Jonathan Ned Katz<br><br>Online Blackboard activity Alfred Kinsey (2/18)           | 2/18 (virtual class day—no face-to-face class)<br><br>2/23 (return to face-to-face class) |
| <b>Institutions: Economy and Work</b><br><u>Reading:</u>   | 2/25-3/1  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Capitalism and Gay Identity—John D’Emilio   |   |
| <b>Institutions: Media, Pornography and Sexual Objectification</b><br><u>Reading:</u><br>Pornography, Civil, Rights and Speech—Catharine Mackinnon  | <b>3/3</b>  |
| <b>EXAM</b>   | <b>3/8</b>  |
| <b>Institutions: Sport</b><br><u>Reading</u><br>Doing Time, Doing Masculinity: Sports and Prison—Don Sabo (On Blackboard)   | <b>3/10-3/22</b>                                      |
| <b>Institution: Family</b><br><u>Reading</u><br>Deconstructing the Essential Father-- Silverstein, Louise B.; Auerbach, Carl F  | <b>3/24-3/29</b>                                      |
| <b>Online Blackboard Activity : Essential Father Interview Video</b>  | <b>3/31 (virtual class day—no face-to-face class)</b> |
| <b>Body &amp; Politics: Sexual Violence</b><br><u>Reading</u><br>Boswell, A. and Joan Spade. “Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture: Why are some Fraternities more Dangerous Places for Women?”, pp. 133-47 (on Blackboard)<br><br>CNN Blackboard article | <b>4/5-4/7</b>  |
| <b>Exam 3</b>   | <b>4/12</b>   |
| <b>Body &amp; Politics: Culture, Race and Sexual Attractiveness</b><br><u>Reading:</u><br>Medicalization of Racial Features: Asian American Women and Cosmetic Surgery—Eugenia Kaw  | <b>4/14-4/19</b>                                      |
|   | <b>4/21-4/26</b>                                      |

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Body &amp; Politics: Abortion, Conception and Procreation</b><br><u>Reading:</u><br>Motherhood and Morality in America—Kristen Luker<br>Video: Pro-life & Pro-Choice Movements |          |
| <b>Sexuality and Collective Action</b><br><br><u>Reading:</u><br>Social Movement Abeyance-- (On Blackboard)   | 4/28-5/3 |
| <b>Exam Review</b>  | 5/5      |
| <b>Final Exam: May 13<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday), 1-3pm, Dal 2, 303</b>   | May TBA  |
| Note: This syllabus may be subject to changes and/or revisions.   |          |

## Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

### Reading Reviews (20 points possible/review)

To facilitate discussion and understanding of material, you will be expected to write 5 reviews over the course of the semester. Reviews should be written as a full 2 page overviews of the review article of the day. Each review should strive to identify the author(s)' key points and provide critical reflection about the work (especially in relation to other reading and ideas from class). In addition, each review should include at least 1 class discussion question that will be offered during class.

### Online Assignments

There are 2 scheduled online assignment that will posted on Blackboard. All directions, material and submission guidelines will also be posted on Blackboard. Each online assignment is worth

### Exams

There will be a total of three exams worth 50 points each. Exams cover material from the texts, assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions and will typically consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions.

### Grading Matrix:

| Instrument         | Value (points or percentages) | Total      |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Reading Reviews    | 5 Reviews at 20 points each   | 100        |
| Online Assignments | 2 at 5 points each            | 10         |
| Exams              | 3 at 50 points                | 150        |
| <b>Total:</b>      | <b>100%</b>                   | <b>260</b> |

### Grade Determination:

Grade                  Percent                  Points

|   |           |              |
|---|-----------|--------------|
| A | 90-100%   | 234-260      |
| B | 80-89%    | 208-233      |
| C | 70-79%    | 182-207      |
| D | 60-69%    | 156-181      |
| F | Below 60% | 154 or lower |

\*\* You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress. If you have questions about your grade or if you need documentation of your grade

## University Policies and Procedures

### Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

*The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. For more information, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office. If you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Meredith at 972-338-1777 or email at [Rosemary.Meredith@untdallas.edu](mailto:Rosemary.Meredith@untdallas.edu)*

### Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

*The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.*

### Assignment Policy:

Any style guide may be used as long as it is used consistently throughout the paper.

*Note:* No extensions are given, unless a legitimate excuse is received well before the due date. For illness or injury a doctor's note is required. An unexcused late assignment will result in an automatic 10 point deduction and an additional 5 point deduction for each day after that.

### Exam Policy:

*Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).*

*Note:* If you come in late for an exam and another student has already turned in a completed exam, you cannot take the regular exam

### Academic Integrity:

*Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of conduct and Academic Dishonesty policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct at [http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student\\_conduct/index.html](http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html) for complete provisions of this code.*

### Bad Weather Policy:

*On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website [www.unt.edu/dallas](http://www.unt.edu/dallas). Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.*

### Classroom Policies

1. Since discussion is an essential part of this course please come to class prepared and on time.
2. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers.
3. Do not come into class late or leave early.
4. You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress (see course requirements and grading scheme to help you keep track of available points). If you have questions about your grade come to office hours, make an

appointment, or contact me via email. Do not make specific inquiries about your grade in class.

5. No late work will be accepted unless you have a valid documented excuse (documented illness or death in the family). **If you miss an assignment and you have a valid documented excuse notify me as soon as possible via phone or email so we can arrange a reasonable time for you to make up the missed assignment.**

6. All work must be turned in during class. I will not accept emailed work unless you have a valid documented excuse.

**Attendance and Participation Policy:**

*The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.*

To get the most out of this class your attendance is required.

- An attendance sign in sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class. Sign your name in the sheet to document your attendance. Failure to sign the sheet will be considered an absence.
- Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of this class. Students are also expected to be on time for all scheduled class meetings. Students who come to class late will be counted as absent. **5 overall points will be deducted for every unexcused absence**
- If you have a documented excuse for your absence let me know as soon as possible and bring it to class. A valid documented excuse consists of a doctor's note documenting your illness or death in the family

**Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

*Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.*