

SEXUALITY & MODERNITY
SOC 209 H1F
University of Toronto, St. George Campus
Fall 2023: Thursday 3:10-5:00 p.m.

Course Director: Adam Isaiah Green : **Office Address:** 17145, 700 University Ave.
Office Hours: by appointment: **Email:** AdamIsaiah.Green@utoronto.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course, we will examine questions related to the intersection of gender and sexuality in the modern West, with a special focus on alternative (non-heteronormative) identities, practices, communities and desires. To do so, we proceed self-consciously with a critical analysis of the modern study of sexuality, and the ways in which sexual science, as a kind of social practice, has affected the construction and regulation of gender and sexual orientation. We also consider how social structures such as capitalism and patriarchy, and social stratification—including race, class, and age—shape the sphere of sexuality, gender and intimate life. The goal of the course is to link modernity, as a particular epochal moment in history, to the development of sexuality in Western societies over the past 150 years.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students will be responsible for reading and analysing a considerable amount of literature each class. There is an expectation that students will come prepared each class to discuss the literature and to engage with its ideas in a meaningful way and on a regular basis.

PREREQUISITE: The prerequisite to take this course is SOC100H1. Students without this requirement will be removed at any time discovered and without notice.

GRADING POLICY: Students will be given two mid-term essay tests, each worth 40% of the total grade, and one final test worth 20% of the total grade. All tests will be take-home.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Course readings will be made available through Quercus.

CLASS RULES AND REGULATIONS: Attendance is mandatory. Students absent from class penalize themselves, as the material covered in lectures and in class discussions will reappear on the midterm and final tests.

Plagiarism: Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. Know where you stand by reading the “Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters” in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Accessibility Services: If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Communications: Students must submit assignments as specified above. All tests will be uploaded to Quercus.

Due dates: Late papers will be docked 5 points per day. Students who submit their papers late due to illness will need to notify the instructor by email and also declare their absence on the system (ACORN), on the day the assignment/test is due.

*If a personal or family crisis prevents you from meeting a deadline, contact your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies), and have the registrar contact me directly through email.

AI: Use of AI is strictly forbidden for class tests.

Contesting a test grade: Students who are dissatisfied with their test grades have one week to address their concerns, in writing, to the teaching assistant. The format for contesting a grade begins with a 1 page typed document, submitted to the teaching assistant, outlining why the grade is inappropriate. Students who remain unhappy with the response should make an appointment with the instructor to review the case.

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 7 Welcome!

Welcome and introduction to class materials and format

Definitions: sex, sexuality, gender

September 14 Science as Sexual Knowledge

Katz, Jonathan Ned. 2007. *The Invention of Heterosexuality*. (Chapters 2, 4) Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

September 21 Foucault: The Modern Disciplining of Sexualities

Foucault, Michel. 1980. *The History of Sexuality, Volume I*. New York: Vintage Books. Pp. 1-76

Use the following link to access the reading:

<https://suplaney.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/foucault-the-history-of-sexuality-volume-1.pdf>

September 28 The Medicalization of Homosexuality

Conrad, Peter and Joseph W. Schneider. 1992. "Homosexuality: From Sin to Sickness to Life-Style." Pp. 172-213 in Conrad, Peter and Joseph W. Schneider (eds.), *Deviance and Medicalization. From Badness to Sickness*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

October 5 Capitalism, Gay Identity & Community

D'Emilio, John. 1983. "Capitalism and Gay Identity". In H. Abelove, M. Barale and David Halperin (eds.) *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Bereket, Tarik and Barry Adam. 2006. "The Emergence of Gay Identity in Contemporary Turkey". *Sexualities* 9, 2: 131-151

October 12-13 **Test 1**

October 19 Lesbianism in Mid-Century Canada

Film: *Forbidden Love: The Unashamed Story of Lesbian Lives*
October 26 Disciplined Sexual Desires?

MacKinnon, Catharine. 2002. "Sexuality, Pornography, and Method: 'Pleasure Under Patriarchy'" Pp. 20-33 in Christine Williams and Arlene Stein (eds.), *Sexuality and Gender*. Malden: MA Blackwell.

Rich, Adrienne. 1993. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence", Pp. 227-254 in Abelove, Henry, Michele Aina Barale and David M. Halperin (eds.), *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. New York and London: Routledge.

Hakim, Catherine. 2010. "Erotic Capital". *European Sociological Review*. 26: 499–518.

November 2 Butler: Gender & Performativity

Butler, Judith. 1993. "Imitation and Gender Insubordination". Pp. 307-320 in H. Abelove, M. Barale and David Halperin (eds.) *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Film: *FtF: Female to Femme*

November 9 NO CLASS: FALL READING WEEK

November 16 -17 Test 2

November 23 Transgender

Lecture: Transgender

Westbrook, Laurel. 2016. "Transforming the Sex/Gender/Sexuality System. The Construction of Trans Categories in the United States." Pp. 33-42 in Fischer, L. Nancy and Steven Seidman (eds), *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies. Third Edition*. London and New York: Routledge.

Film: *Growing Up Trans*

November 30 Stratification in Late Modern Erotic Worlds: The Sexual Fields Framework

Green, Adam Isaiah. 2014. "Chapter 1: The Sexual Fields Framework" Pp. 25-56 in Adam Isaiah Green (ed.), *Sexual Fields: Toward a Sociology of Collective Sexual Life*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Green, Adam Isaiah. 2008. "The Social Organization of Desire: A Sexual Fields Approach." *Sociological Theory* 26, 1: 25-50.

Test 2 published to Quercus.

FINAL TAKE-HOME TEST DUE Friday, December 1 at 5pm, on Quercus.