

SEXUALITY & MODERNITY
SOC 209 H1F
University of Toronto, St. George Campus
Fall 2025: Tuesday 3:10-5:00 p.m.

Course Director: Adam Isaiah Green : **Office Address:** 17th Floor, 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 Library Reading List.

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: All tests will be uploaded to Quercus.

Due dates: Late tests will be docked 5 points per day.

Missed deadlines and tests: students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero for that test unless the reason is a circumstance beyond their control. **Within three days** of missing a test deadline, students must send the instructor a request for consideration. Students must document their request with **one of the following:**

- Absence declaration via ACORN
- U of T Verification of Illness or Injury Form
- College Registrar’s letter (e.g., in case of personal/family crisis or emergency)
- Letter of Academic Accommodation from Accessibility Services

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

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service is described on the Turnitin.com web site.’

Assignments not submitted through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0 %), unless a student instead provides, along with their position paper, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submit is truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via Turnitin) is in place because, strictly speaking, using Turnitin is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

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 2 Welcome!

Welcome and introduction to class materials and format

Definitions: sex, sexuality, gender

September 9 Science as Sexual Knowledge

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

September 16 Foucault: The Modern Disciplining of Sexualities

Foucault, Michel. 1980. *The History of Sexuality, Volume I*. New York: Vintage Books. Pp. 1-73

(Use the following link to access the reading)

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

September 23 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.

September 30 Capitalism, Gay Identity & Community

D'Emilio, John. 1983. "Capitalism and Gay Identity". Pp. 467-476 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 7-8 **Test 1**

October 14 Lesbianism in Mid-Century Canada

Film: *Forbidden Love: The Unashamed Story of Lesbian Lives*

October 21 Disciplined Sexual Desires?

MacKinnon, Catharine. 2002. "Pleasure Under Patriarchy" Pp. 33-43 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.

October 28 **NO CLASS: FALL READING WEEK**

November 4 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 11-12 **Test 2**

November 18 Transgender

Lecture: Transgender

Westbrook, Laurel. 2016. "Transforming the Sex/Gender/Sexuality System. The Construction of Trans Categories in the United States." Pp. 61-73 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 25 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 3 posted on Quercus.

FINAL TAKE-HOME TEST DUE Wednesday, November 26 at 6pm, on Quercus.