

SOC3385G - Sexuality & Stigma

Department of Sociology

Thursdays 10:30-1:30 – Winter 2017

Room: BR-19

Instructor: Dr. Nichole Edwards

Contact Information: nedwar7@uwo.ca

Office Hours: TBA

Office: UH-352

Course Description

Sociologist Erving Goffman uses the term ‘spoiled identity’ to refer to an identity that causes one to experience stigma. Stigma, in turn, describes an attribute that is socially constructed as deeply discrediting or potentially discreditable. While ‘spoiled identities’, and the ensuing stigma one experiences may relate to racial, ethnic, or sexual minorities, body size, gender, or physical disabilities – in other words, attributes that are visible – they also include things like mental health, religion, and sexuality – attributes that are *invisible*.

This course specifically aims to navigate a variety of ‘spoiled identities’ as they relate to sex and sexuality. By first establishing the understanding that stigma and sexuality are themselves social constructs, students will engage with both theoretical and empirical texts in order to more fully understand who experiences stigma as a result of sexual orientations, practices, identities and relationships, and how those stigmas are managed, experienced, and perceived.

Taught through an intersectional lens where elements of race, class, gender, age, and culture are often considered *alongside* sexuality, some of the specific topics we cover in this course include: the stigma around sex work; the gendered stigma in experiences of hookup culture; the morality-based stigma involved in many abortion and reproductive debates; the stigma of being childless by choice; and, for instance, the stigma effecting the everyday rights of sexual minorities around the world.

Textbooks

A custom course pack is available for purchase at the UWO bookstore.

Additional links and articles will be made available throughout the semester on the class OWL website.

Assessments and Weighting

Participation – 10%

By this time in your undergraduate degree, you know that being actively present can significantly increase your grade. Learning is not a spectator sport and this course has been designed so that there is ample opportunity for discussion in both small and large groups. You are expected to contribute.

Five Online Discussion Posts – 15% (worth 3% each)

Five times throughout the semester, you must complete a 500 word online discussion post based on the assigned reading. Each post will be worth 3% of your overall grade. Details on how to complete the posts will be outlined at the start of the semester.

Midterm – 20%

On February 16, there will be an in-class midterm lasting 1.5 hrs. The midterm will include three sections: 1) T/F, multiple choice, fill in the blank. 2) Short answer - definitions and terminology, and 3) Short essay

2,500 word Essay – 30 %

You are responsible for writing a 2,500 word essay on a topic of your choosing. This topic must fall under the umbrella of one of the themes of this course, however you are free to choose something of interest to you. You must have your topic approved by me before March 2nd. The essay is due, and must be submitted to Turnitin by 11:59pm on March 29th.

Final Exam – 25%

The exam will follow the format of the in-class midterm, with more emphasis on short answer and (short) essay questions. This will take place during the scheduled exam schedule.

Weekly Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic
Jan. 5	The Social Construction of Stigma and Sexuality
Jan. 12	Selling Sex, Buying Sex
Jan. 19	Second Wave Feminism and Sexual Politics
Jan. 26	Erotic Welfare: Sex in the Age of an Epidemic
Feb. 2	Sexuality and Citizenship: A Global Perspective
Feb. 9	Bisexuality, Asexuality and Sexual Fluidity
Feb. 16	IN-CLASS MIDTERM
Feb. 20-24	READING WEEK - NO CLASS
Mar. 2	Unmarried and Childfree: The New Normal?
Mar. 9	20 th Century Constructions of Wife and Mother
Mar. 16	Critiques on Heterosexuality
Mar. 23	Girls and Sex
Mar. 30	Toxic Masculinity and Rape Culture
Apr. 6	Exploring Non-Monogamies

Detailed Schedule and Readings

Part I: Theorizing Sexuality and Stigma

Jan 5th: The Social Construction of Stigma and Sexuality

- No reading for first class

Part II: Politics, Morality, and Stigma

Jan 12th: Selling Sex, Buying Sex

- Krüsi, A., et al. 2014. "Criminalisation of clients: reproducing vulnerabilities for violence and poor health among street-based sex workers in Canada—a qualitative study" *BMJ Open*. 4, Pp. 1-11.

Jan 19th: Second Wave Feminism and Sexual Politics

- De Beauvoir, S. 1949. "Introduction". *The Second Sex*. Paris: Editions Gallimard. Pp.1-17.

Jan 26th: Erotic Welfare: Sex in the age of an Epidemic

- TBA

Part III: Sexual Minorities and Stigma

Feb 2nd: Sexuality and Citizenship: A Global Perspective

- Soboleva, I. and Bakmetjev, Y. 2015. "Political Awareness and Self-Blame in the Explanatory Narratives of LGBT People Amid the Anti-LGBT Campaign in Russia." *Sexuality & Culture*, 19, pp. 275-296.

Feb 9th: Bisexuality, Asexuality and Sexual Fluidity

- Delvoye, M. and Tasker, F. 2016. "Narrating Self-Identity in Bisexual Motherhood." *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*. 12(1), pp. 5-23.

Feb 16th: IN-CLASS MIDTERM

Feb 20-24th: Reading Week

Mar 2nd: Unmarried and Childless: The new normal?

- TBA

Part IV: Contemporary Sexual Practices, Identities and Stigma

Mar 9th: 20th Century Constructions of Wife and Mother

- Friedan, B. 1963. "The Problem that Has No Name." *The Feminine Mystique*. New York: Dell Publishing. Pp. 1-27.

Mar 16th: Critiques on Heterosexuality

- Jackson, S. 2003. "Heterosexuality, Heteronormativity and Gender hierarchy: Some Reflections on Recent Debates." Weeks, J., Holland, J. (eds). *Sexualities and Society: A Reader*: Cambridge: Polity Press. Pp. 69-83.

Mar 23rd: Girls and Sex

- Orenstein, P. 2016. "Hookups and Hang-Ups." *Girls & Sex: Navigating the Complicated New Landscape*. New York: HarperCollins. Pp. 103-140.

Mar 30th: Toxic Masculinity and Rape Culture

- Kimmel, M. 2008. "Predatory Sex and Party Rape." *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men*. New York: Harper Collins. Pp. 217-241.

Apr 6th: Exploring Non-Monogamies

- Kleese, C. 2006. "Polyamory and it's 'Others': Contesting the Terms of Non-Monogamy." *Sexualities*. 9(5), pp. 565-583.

2016-17 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html> The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg130.html>)

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html>

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg112.html>)

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for information including a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.