

SXST 2101
Introduction to Critical Sexuality Studies

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of critical sexuality studies, seeking to denaturalize what are often seen as the most intimate but also the most taken-for-granted aspects of daily life – bodies and genders, desires and pleasures, sexual practices and identities - in order to consider how human sexuality is socially, historically, and politically constructed. The course will consider these issues from a transnational perspective, exploring how ideas about sexuality circulate, how they have been impacted by dominant Northern/Western understandings, and how they might be challenged and contested. Lectures and readings will attend to the connections between sexuality, gender, and other social formations such as race, ethnicity, class, nation, and empire. We will also critically approach feminist writings on sexuality, considering how feminism has promoted sexual agency as well as how it has reinforced sexual conformity.

Lectures for this course will be recorded and delivered asynchronously online, but weekly tutorials will be blended (some weeks asynchronous, some weeks synchronous, either in person or online). All course materials (syllabus, assignment details and rubrics, lecture videos and slides, required readings and videos, and dropboxes for assignments) will be available on the course website.