

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**SOCI 3044  
Summer 2022  
Sociology of Sex and Sexuality**

**Instructor:** Nicholas Hrynyk  
**Office Hours:** T/TH 11:30-12:30  
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**Course Schedule:** 2:35-5:25 p.m.

**Method of Delivery:** Online Synchronously – Tues/Thurs 2:35-5:25 p.m. via Brightspace (MS Teams). Virtual Classroom can be found on Brightspace Course Homepage.

**Course Description:** What is gender and what is sex? Why is sex so important? Does sex have a history? Where are the origins of the Western “obsession” with sex and sexuality? How do other cultures perceive and regulate sexualities? The focus of this course will be on the historical and contemporary examination of some main debates and issues pertaining to the social construction of sex, gender and sexuality. The arguments against essentializing and dichotomizing of sexed/gendered bodies will be discussed in depth alongside the recent attempts to go beyond sexual dualisms and/or gender binaries.

We will investigate the socio-historical invention of homosexuality, the concept of heteronormativity, and the complexity of multiple sexual identities and behaviours, as exemplified by the emergence of LGBTIQ theories, social movements, and communities. How many sexes exist? How do (post)modern intersexuals, transsexuals, transgendered, and other queers fit into the mainstream heterosexual matrix, which presupposes a “natural” and linear development from our anatomical sex to the appropriate gender identification and sexual desire for the ‘opposite’ sex? In what ways is sexuality entwined with ableism and the social and cultural construction of the body? We will, thus, examine the social regulation and control of sexuality, the intersection of various dimensions of power and domination, and the importance of agency in remaking sexual and intimate life - in resisting social inequalities and injustices. The final section will glance over some human rights violations, the influence of media and pornography in perpetrating sexual and gender stereotypes, and the booming industry of sex tourism.

The main objectives of this course are to familiarize students with the past and current research in the sociology of sex and sexuality, to stimulate them in linking their own experiences with key theoretical concepts, and to reflect critically upon taken-for-granted knowledge about human sexualities.

**Prerequisites:** SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003 [1.0], or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002, and third-year standing.

**Reading (s)/Textbook (s):** All required readings will be made available on ARES on Brightspace

**Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

Critical Analysis Essay: 20%  
Major Essay Proposal: 10%  
Major Essay: 40%  
Final Exam (take-home): 30%