



Sociology 4452G-001

Social Construction of Sexuality

Winter 2023

Delivery Method	Date/Time	Location
In-person	Tuesdays 9:30 to 12:30	STVH-3166

Course Instructor	Contact Information
Dr. Julie McMullin	mcmullin@uwo.ca Department of Sociology, Office SSC 5206

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-3:30 or by appointment (in person or zoom).

1. Course Description

This course will explore the social construction of various forms of sexuality from sociological, criminological, historical, cultural, raced, classed, gendered and queer frameworks. The course will examine theoretical conceptions of normalcy and move into discussions about both legal and illegal forms of sexuality.

Antirequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s): Registration in third year or above in any Department of Sociology module, or fourth year in any module.

Course Weight: 0.50

2. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand and be able to explain how sexuality and deviant sexuality are socially constructed.
- Understand and be able to explain how social structure, place, and time impact constructions of sexuality and its expressions.
- Creatively engage peers in presentation of course material.
- Critically evaluate and synthesize course material in presentations and writing.
- Further develop critical thinking, research, and writing skills.

3. Course Format

This is an **in-person course**.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

4. Textbook and other resources

There will be no textbook for this course.

Weekly readings will be available through Western Libraries.

Additional course material (e.g. videos, readings) will be posted on the OWL site.

5. Communication

The best way to reach the teaching team is through email. My email and the Teaching Assistants emails will be posted to OWL.

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

6. Course Content and Schedule

Students should check the course OWL site frequently to access the online lessons, course material, and for key deadlines. Students are responsible for checking the OWL site on the morning of each class to determine whether the class will need to be conducted online.

7. Method of Evaluation

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Students are expected to attend all classes and to come to class prepared to critically discuss the readings and other course material.

Students will be required to upload all assignments to OWL.

More details about the assignments will be posted on OWL.

Evaluation Component	Brief Description	Due Date	Percentage of Grade
Participation	Attend class; actively participate class discussions; answer on-line questions as required; demonstrate accomplishment of learning objectives	On-going	20%
Paper Proposal	Students will submit a two-page paper proposal that includes the general topic, preliminary research question, preliminary outline, and proposed bibliography. Late penalty: 5% per day	January 31	10%
Seminar facilitation	Students will lead the class discussions of the weekly course readings. This will require short summaries of the readings, critical evaluations, and the development of creative group work projects.	Date to be determined during the first class.	30%

Final Paper	Students will write a research paper of approximately 3500 words. The paper will use primary academic sources (10-15) and will address a specific research question.	April 10	40%
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8. Student Absences/Academic Consideration for Missed Work

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Reasonable extensions will be negotiated in these cases.

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. The student medical certificate is available at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation: When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of

work and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

9. Accessibility Options:

Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

10. Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a [Scholastic Offence](#).

A Note on Plagiarism: Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea 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 scholastic offence.

Plagiarism Checking: All required papers and take-home exams 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 (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

11. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources available at Western to help. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

12. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)
[Academic Support and Engagement Services](#)

12. Important Dates

Please refer to the [Western's academic calendar](#) for important dates.

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#).

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.