

SOCI 382¹

Sociology of Sexualities



Instructor:

Dr. Aaron Devor

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Office Hours: Weds 4:30-5:30 PM, Weds 9:30-10:00 PM

Course Description:

An examination of sociological, theoretical and historical perspectives on sexualities.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:

In this course you will gain a greater understanding and empathy for the myriad ways that human beings experience their own sexuality and that of other people.

Course Pre/Co-requisites/Related courses:

Sociology 281: Sociology of Genders is a recommended pre-requisite but is not required. You might want to follow this course with Sociology 435: Issues in Trans Communities.

Topics May Include:

Topics may include medicalization of sexualities; research methods used in the study of sexualities; sexualities of children and teens; heterosexualities; lesbian, gay, and queer sexualities; bisexualities, asexualities, pansexualities, and polyamoury; trans sexualities; sexually transmitted infections; sexual consent; sex for sale; sex positivity. Intersections among sexualities and other forms of social statuses and inequalities will be considered.

Required Activities May Include:

This will be a 3-hour evening course that meets once a week on Wednesday evenings. Communication outside of class times will be done electronically. Class time will be a combination of lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, group activities, and videos. Attendance will be required. The full course syllabus will specify the assigned readings for each week. All assigned readings will be available through the library, web pages, or on Brightspace. You will be required to read assigned readings and to write a short commentary BEFORE class most weeks. There will be in-class exams and an optional additional writing assignment.

¹ This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.

Some unedited comments from students:

Aaron was a captivating instructor. He made the information interesting, and clear. When it came time for midterms, I was prepared because he made it clear what he wanted us to learn from this class. A three hour lecture can be hard, and i've severely struggled in the past keeping focused, but he did an excellent job of changing up the teaching method allowing moods to shift and energy to rise. Aaron was kind, funny, and brilliant, and i thoroughly enjoyed learning from him, and taking his class.

Dr Devor was very knowledgeable in the topics covered during class. Not only was he able to explain the content covered clearly, he was also able to invoke critical thinking which I found helpful in my learning. He made the class interesting through various methods including using videos, guest speakers, group work and a full class lining up activity on risks (which i really enjoyed:). Additionally, I found it very helpful that he always gave room for questions for the class, because this helped to clarify some of the doubts that I had. Overall I have gained more knowledge in the aspect of sexuality and have definitely become more aware of various issues which I had been so sheltered from

Dr. Devor demonstrated great knowledge and competency when it came to teaching this course's material. I gained much trust and respect for his throughout the semester because of this. This learning environment he created formed a safe space in which students would explore thoughts and ideas without fear of judgement.

The most respectful professor I have ever had in my entire life.

Aaron is a very clear speaker and educator with an exceptional level of knowledge. He is also great at engaging with the students in the class and listening to the opinions of students. Aaron also did a great job of bringing in speakers to speak on topics that others had more info on.

Aaron was a great teacher, he made the class interesting and fun, I hate 3 hr classes, but I enjoyed his, and how he engaged the class in interesting things that we wanted to stay awake for! Thank Aaron! I can't wait to have you next semester too.

Amazing teacher, very well organized.

He was an amazing prof! I am a 4th year sociology student and was starting to feel a bit disheartened by the content/profs in a lot of sociology classes but Dr. Devor was a breath of fresh air and I sincerely looked forward to coming to class. It was so easy to pay attention; he was a great speaker, interesting, and picked great readings/topics.

As a member of the LGBTQ community, I really, really appreciated learning more about LGBT history and the way he taught it. He was also super funny and tried his best to keep heavy topics light. Very clearly an expert in his field, and I wish I could take more classes with him. Thank you so much!

Dr. Devor is an amazingly respectful and knowing prof who tackled every topic, even the difficult ones, with great skill.

He was friendly and welcoming!

I can't say enough good things about Aaron! He is an engaging instructor and made it easy to come to late evening class each week. I appreciated his honesty, humour and playfulness. He utilized technology, videos and hands on learning to really make this course enjoyable. I wish he taught more classes and I wish there were more sexuality/gender classes offered at Uvic. It is such a fascinating subject and Aaron made it that much more enjoyable!

I wouldn't change anything. I loved the in class exam structure, I loved the commentary, all the readings were so interesting. Great class