

## **SOCI 382<sup>1</sup>**

### **Sociology of Sexualities**

**Instructor: Sara Naderi**

#### **Course Description:**

This course explores sexual desires, identities, and practices as socially and historically constructed phenomena. While at first glance, Sexuality may seem like a personal topic, putting our sociological lens, one may discover sexuality as a social phenomenon that encapsulates not only our bodies and desires but also social norms and regulations. Sexuality has become a core yet hidden concept in the modern organization of self-identity and image and the self's position in and relation to society. As such, Sexuality often serves as a litmus test for what is socially considered "right" or "wrong," "good" or "bad.", "normal" or "abnormal".

Employing sociological imagination, one may see that study of sexuality is always the study of intersectional systems of power. This course will consider how persons' sexuality determines their position in hierarchy of power in society as well as how the person's position in the systematic hierarchic of class, age(ageism), culture and race (racism), body (ablism) and geography (colonialism) affects how the society recognizes/ celebrates or stigmatizes/suppresses their sexuality.

We will begin with a brief inquiry into the history of sexuality as a socially constructed phenomenon in North American society. Then we will focus on the centric position of sexuality in featuring the human body/ identity in modern medical science/psychiatry and how the modern perception of sexuality shapes and reshapes the binary system of sexuality in early modernity. Finally, we continue our studies on how this modern binary definition of sexuality was challenged and questioned by numerous life experiences, collective actions coming from those life experiences (social movements) and critical (nonbinary) theories of articulating them. We also investigate different aspects of sexual culture in our nowadays society, including media representation, education, institutions, bodies, and sexual violence.

The focus of the course will be on North American societies. However, we may shift our focus into non-western, non-modern perceptions of sexuality to get a broader perspective of how sexual desires and practices are treated differently in different cultures.

#### **Course Pre/Co-requisites:**

SOCI 281 is not mandatory but recommended prerequisite for this course

#### **Required Resources May Include:**

##### **Textbook**

**Kathleen J. Fitzgerald and Kandice L. Grossman. 2020. Sociology of Sexualities. Second Edition. SAGE Publications, Inc.**

Other supplementary readings (papers/ book chapters) and videos will also be posted, in PDF format, on Brightspace

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<sup>1</sup> 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.