

Fall 2008  
Dr. Lois West  
Phone: 305-348-3651  
Email: [westl@fiu.edu](mailto:westl@fiu.edu)

## SYLLABUS: SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITY

**Description:** This course examines sexual attitudes, beliefs and behaviors from a sociological perspective. We will consider how the biology of sex gets sociologically constructed. We will go back and forth between basic information about sex in relation to social contexts and the issue, meaning and enactment of personal choice.

**Required Readings:** Susan McCammon, David Knox, Caroline Schacht, Choices in Sexuality, Third Edition, Atomic Dog Publishing.

Kristen Luker, When Sex Goes to School. Norton Publishers

**Course Requirements:** Your grade will be based on the successful completion of two quantitative (multiple choice) exams—a midterm and final test based on the readings (30 points each, 60 points total), and two qualitative projects—one on the Luker book which has two parts—participation in a debate on the book for 5 points and a take-home essay exam question for 15 points. The final research project is an oral presentation (group or individual) on a sociological theme (10 points for the oral presentation, 10 points for the paper summary with a one page minimum research bibliography. Each person will turn in her/his individual contribution summary/biblio.). Total of 100 possible points.

**NOTE: There will be NO make-ups. If you cannot complete the assignments when they are due, please do not enroll in this course.**

### Course Outline

**August 26:** Introductions. What does sociology offer the study of sexuality? Considering the concepts of personal choice and consent.

**Required Reading (RR):** Choices, Chapter 1.

**August 28:** Definitions and conceptual issues. Sex vs. gender? **RR:** Choices, Chapter 5.

**Sept. 2:** Sex Research and Theory. **RR:** Choices, Chapter 2. Recommended: View film on life of Kinsey starring Liam Neeson.

**Sept. 4:** Sexual literacy: knowing biology underlying behaviors. **RR:** Choices, Chapters 3 and 4.

**Sept. 9-11:** Emotional literacy: communication and its problems. **RR:** Choices, Chapters 6 and 7.

**Sept. 16:** Behavioral Diversity I. **RR:** Choices, Chapter 8.

**Sept. 18:** Behavioral Diversity II. **RR:** Choices, Chapter 9.

**Sept. 23: MIDTERM EXAM—in -class multiple choice based on Choices Chapters 1-9.**

**Sept. 25-Oct. 2: Luker book **RR: ALL Luker book. In-class debates worth 5 points. Take home ESSAY EXAM DUE October 7 (15 points).****

**Oct. 7-9: Sexual Reproduction. **RR: Choices, Chapters 10-11.****

**Oct. 14: Sexuality and the Life Course. **RR: Choices, Chapter 12.****

**Oct. 16: Health and Disability Effects. **RR: Choices, Chapter 13.****

**Oct. 21: Dysfunctions and Therapy. **RR: Choices, Chapter 14.****

**Oct. 23: Diseases and Social Impact. **RR: Choices, Chapter 15.****

**Oct. 30: Sexual deviances. **RR: Choices, Chapter 16****

**Nov. 4: Coercion and Rape—domination effects. **RR: Choices, Chapter 17.****

**Nov. 6: Commercialization—prostitution and pornography. **RR: Choices, Chapter 18.****

**Nov. 11 Veterans' Day Holiday (University Closed)**

**Nov. 13: FINAL TEST—in-class multiple choice based on Choices, Chapters 10-18.**

**Nov. 18-Dec. 4: Final Presentations. (20 points) (November 27 & 28 Thanksgiving Holiday University Closed).**

**Dec. 4: Last class all papers due.**