

## **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 Texts: 1). Susan McCammon and David Knox, *Choices in Sexuality*, Third Edition, Atomic Dog Publishing 2007; 2). Kristen Luker, *When Sex Goes to School*, Norton 2006.

Requirements for your grade: Your grade will be based on the successful completion of two quantitative (multiple choice) exams—a midterm and final based on the readings (30 points each, 60 points total), and two qualitative projects—a short essay exam on the Luker book (20 points) and one research project-oral presentation (group or individual) on a sociological theme (10 points for the oral presentation, 10 points for the one-page summary with a one-page research bibliography—NOTE: each person will turn in his/her individual contribution summary/biblio —20 points total.). Total is 100 possible points for all coursework.

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

### **Course Outline**

January 8: Introductions. What does sociology offer the study of sexuality?

Concepts of personal/sexual choice in society.

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

Jan. 10: Definitions and conceptual problems: Sex vs. gender

RR: *Choices*, Chapter 5.

Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Holiday No Class.

Jan 17: Sex Research and Theory

RR: Choices Chapter 2.

Jan. 22-24: Sexual literacy: knowing the biology of behaviors.

RR: Choices, Chapters 3 and 4.

Jan 29-31: Emotional literacy: communication and its problems

RR: Choices, Chapters 6 and 7.

February 5: Behavioral Diversity I

RR: Choices, Chapter 8.

Feb. 7: Behavioral Diversity II

RR: Choices, Chapter 9

Feb. 12: MIDTERM EXAM—in-class, multiple-choice questions

Feb. 14-26: Sex Education: Luker book in-class discussions.

RR: Luker book—all. Take-home ESSAY EXAM on book due Feb. 28.

Feb. 28-March 5: Sexual Reproduction

RR: Choices, Chapters 10 and 11.

March 7: Sexuality and the Life Course

RR: Choices Chap. 12.

March 12: Health and Disability Effects

RR: Choices Chap. 13

March 14: Dysfunction and Therapy

RR: Choice Chap. 14

March 19-25: Spring Break

March 26: Diseases and social impact

RR: Choices Chap. 15

March 28: Sexual deviance

RR: Choices Chap. 16

April 2: Coercion and Rape—male domination effects

RR: Choices Chap. 17

April 4-9: Commercialization—prostitution, porn—domination effects continued

RR: Choices, Chap. 18

April 11: Class Presentations

April 16: Class Presentations

April 18: Class Presentations—Presentation papers due

April 23: FINAL EXAM—in-class, multiple-choice questions