SYG 4060.U01–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.


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 one research project: an oral presentation (group or individual) on a sociological theme (20 points for the oral presentation, 15 points for the paper summary with a one page (minimum) research bibliography. Each person will turn in his or her individual contribution summary/biblio.). Five points will be given for attendance (each class missed marks off 1/2 point). Total of 100 possible points. 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

May 7–9: Introductions. What does sociology offer the study of sexuality? 1). The concepts of personal choice, sex versus gender; 2). the methods for sex studies. Required Reading (RR): Choices, Chapters 1, 2 and 5.

May 14: Sexual literacy: knowing the biology of behaviors. RR: Choices, Chapters 3 and 4.

May 16: Emotional literacy: communication and its problems RR: Choices, Chapters 6 and 7. Research topic DUE.

May 21: Behavioral Diversity RR: Choices, Chapters 8 and 9

May 23: MIDTERM EXAM (Chapters 1–9)

May 28: MEMORIAL DAY—No class

June 4: Sexuality and the Life Course, Health/Disability Issues, Dysfunctionality
RR: Choices, Chapters 12, 13, 14

June 6: Dysfunction, Disease, Deviance
RR: Choices, Chapters 15, 16

June 11: Coercion and Commercialization
RR: Choices, Chapter 16, 18

June 13: Research Presentations

June 18: Research Presentations and Final Review

June 20: FINAL EXAM (Chapters 10-18)