

**SOCIOLOGY 4GG3**  
**Special Topics in Deviance – Sexual Deviance - Tentative**  
**Winter 2019**

**Instructor: Dr. Rhona Shaw**

Lectures: Wednesday 11:30 – 2:20

Lecture Hall Location: KTH 104

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00–2:00pm

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**Course Description**

This course introduces students to a socio-historical understanding of sexual difference otherwise known as “sexual deviancy”, or as “the paraphilias”. The approach taken will differ significantly from biological and psychiatric approaches in which sexual difference is understood as pathology and/or perversion. By taking a socio-historical approach, we will be able to chart how certain sexual desires and behaviours have been conceptualized and categorized as unnatural, deviant and in need of regulation. Particular focus will be paid to sociological understandings of sodomy, masturbation, homosexuality, prostitution, BDSM and public sex.

**Course Learning Objectives**

This course addresses three University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (see, <http://ccl.mcmaster.ca/COU/pdf/Undergraduate%20Degree%20Level%20Expectations.pdf>).

First, sociological theories of deviant sexuality are multiple and diverse in their conceptualizations and truth claims. Acquiring knowledge of these diverse theories will expand students’ depth and breadth of knowledge of this field of inquiry. Second, there is no single theory (including sociological theories) that has been accepted as the final or best approach to explaining the complexities of how to study human sexuality and its manifestations. As such, this course requires that students consider and critically evaluate all competing theoretical approaches. In so doing, students will gain an awareness of the complexities and limits of knowledge regarding deviant sexuality. Finally, this course will encourage students to discuss theoretical and practical issues in class. Grading for this course will involve 3 projects (listed below) and class participation and regular attendance. In each case, the student’s communication skills will be challenged as well as enhanced.

**Required Readings:**

- (i) Links to course articles will be posted on AVE. Students are expected to read a *minimum of 2* of the weekly articles per week. These same articles will also be used as the presentation articles. Each student is to choose 1 article from this list to summarize and present in class.
- (ii) Additional weekly required readings may be made available on AVE.

**Evaluation:**

1. Weekly article summations and class regular attendance – 15%. Note: regular attendance in is course is **MANDATORY**.
2. Paper Proposal – 10% (**Due February 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning of class**)
3. Article summary and presentation – 25%
4. Major term paper – 50% (**Due April 3<sup>rd</sup>, beginning of class**)

## **Additional Information on Assignments**

### **Presentation:**

In an attempt to provide a broader understanding of sexual deviance, students are required to present in class a summary of an article from a list of weekly readings posted on AVE. You will have approximately 30mins to present your summary and may use any format you prefer – e.g. PowerPoint or lecture style. You will be required to submit to a copy of your presentation to me for grading. The intent of this exercise is to teach you how to properly summarize a scholarly article, as well as help you develop presentation skills that you will need for graduate school or the workplace.

### **Review of Marks**

I will be diligent in marking all assignments fairly and accurately. Nonetheless, on occasion, students disagree with the marks they receive. When this occurs, I will be happy to review the mark of any assignment or exam, if the procedure outlined below is followed. ***Please note that when a mark is reviewed, the new mark may be lower than the original.***

To request a review of a mark, write a 1-page memo (on paper, not email) describing in detail the nature of the perceived marking error. Submit this memo, with the original marked assignment to me. You may submit requests for review no sooner than one week and no later than one month after assignments/exams are handed back to the class.

**For late assignments without approved excuses, you must make arrangements directly with me to submit the assignment.** Assignments will be marked down **5 percentage points** for each day it is late, including weekend days and holidays. **I will NOT accept late papers that are 3 or more days late. If your paper is 3+ days late, you will be given a mark of 0 for the assignment.**

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at [www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. In assignments, complete citations are required for all quotes and paraphrases. Consult the required writing style guide for information on how to properly cite the work of others.
2. Improper collaboration in group work. In this course, I encourage students to work together to understand concepts, discuss ideas, study for exams, etc. Improper

collaboration would be defined as using the work of others to get out of doing your own work, claiming the work of others as your own, etc.

3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

Do NOT fax assignments. Please see your instructor for the most appropriate way to submit assignments. The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers. The McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation. If you are absent more than 3 days, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a reason other than medical, you MUST visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation. This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (e.g. class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### **Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code. Please review the RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences about how to request accommodation.

### **Email**

Please consider email equivalent to any other form of written communication. Students who write to their professors and teaching assistants are expected to follow rules of spelling, grammar

and punctuation. In addition, please include a proper greeting, such as "**Dear Dr. Shaw,**" and a closing that includes your full name, such as "**Sincerely, Anita Koctail.**" Emails failing to meet these standards may be returned unanswered. Email containing questions that can be answered by referring to this syllabus or to Avenue to Learn may not be answered. I do check the separate Avenue to Learn email, but only intermittently. *All email communication must come from your mcmaster.ca email account.*

<b>Week No. Date</b>	<b>WEEKLY READINGS</b>
<b>Week 1</b> Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Overview of course &amp; Assigning of readings for presentations</b> <b>Readings:</b> (i) "The sociologist as Voyeur": Social Theory and Sexuality Research. (ii) Three Models of Sexuality: Drives, Identities, and Practices. Sociological Theory
<b>Week 2</b> Jan 16 <sup>th</sup> <b>Proposal &amp; Term Paper discussion</b>	<b>Sociological Research on Sexual Deviance</b> <b>Readings:</b> (i) Sexual Deviance in Contemporary America. (ii) History of Sexual Perversion.
<b>Week 3</b> Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup> (3) <b>Presentations begin</b>	<b>Sexological, Medical and Psychiatric Understanding of Sexual Deviance</b> <b>Readings:</b> (i) Sexual modernity in the works of Richard von Krafft-Ebing and Albert Moll. (ii) Pathologizing Sexual Deviance: A History. (iii) American Physicians and Sex Research and Expertise, 1900 – 1990.
<b>Week4</b> Jan 30 <sup>th</sup> (3)	<b>Sodomy</b> <b>Readings:</b> (i) "Things too fearful to name." Sodomy and buggery in 17 <sup>th</sup> C New England. (ii) Defining the crime against nature: Sodomy in the US Appeals Courts 1810-1940. (iii) "The cry of Sodom": Discourse, intercourse, and desire in colonial New England.
<b>Week 5</b> Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> (3)	<b>Masturbation</b> (i) Masturbation. A Historical Overview. (ii) Masturbation madness and the modern concept of childhood and adolescence. (iii) Rethinking the history of female circumcision and clitoridectomy: American medicine and female sexuality in the late nineteenth century.
<b>Week 6</b> Feb 13 <sup>th</sup> (3) <b>Proposals due</b>	<b>Medicalisation of Sexuality</b> (i) Sex and the medical model. (iii) The medical construction of homosexuality and its relation to the law in 19 <sup>th</sup> C England (iii) Nymphomania: The Historical Construction of Female Sexuality.
<b>Week 7</b> Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>READING WEEK- NO CLASSES</b>

<b>Week 8</b> Feb 27 <sup>th</sup> (3)	<b>Female Sexuality &amp; Prostitution</b> (i) Passionlessness: An Interpretation of Victorian Sexual Ideology, 1790 - 1850 (ii) Sexologists examine lesbians and prostitute in the US, 1940 - 1940 (iii) Male vice and feminist virtue: feminism and the politics of Prostitution in 19 <sup>th</sup> C Britain
<b>Week 9</b> Mar 6 <sup>th</sup> (3)	<b>Male Prostitution &amp; Homosexuality</b> Readings: (i) Inverts, Perverts and Mary Annes. Male prostitution and the regulation of homosexuality in England in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> Cs. (ii) The transformation of sodomy from the Renaissance to the modern world and its general sexual consequences. (iii) London’s sodomites: homosexual behaviour and western culture in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>Week 10</b> Mar 13 <sup>th</sup> (3)	<b>Lesbianism</b> (i) “They wonder to which sex I belong”: the historical roots of the modern Lesbian Identity. (ii) The prison lesbian: Race, class and the construction of the aggressive female homosexual, 1915-1965. (iii) The return of butch and femme: A phenomenon in lesbian sexuality of the 1980s and 1990s.
<b>Week 11</b> Mar 20 <sup>th</sup> (3)	<b>Sadomasochism</b> <b>Readings:</b> (i) The State of Our Knowledge on SM. (ii) BDSM: a subcultural analysis of sacrifices and delights. (iii) Layers of Leather: The identity formation of Leathermen as a process of transforming meanings of masculinity.
<b>Week 12</b> Mar 27 <sup>th</sup> (3)	<b>Contemporary Sex Work</b> (i) Reinforcing gender roles at the male strip show: a qualitative analysis of men who dance for women (MDW). (ii) “It’s just a fantasy for a couple of hours”: ethnography of a nude male show bar. (iii) A Constellation of Stigmas: Intersectional Stigma Management and the Professional Dominatrix.
<b>Week 13</b> Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup> (3) Term papers due	<b>Sex in Public Places</b> (i) Tearoom Trade: A Research Update. (ii) Glory holes and the men who use them. (iii) The history of gay bathhouses. (iv) Everyone reads - Spontaneous pleasures: sex between women in public places.