

Human Sexuality 120:208:B6
Rutgers University Newark
Conklin Hall 100
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 pm – 9.30 pm
Summer 2009

Instructor: Audacia Ray, MA
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Course Format: Classes will consist of lectures, discussions, guest speakers, and videos.

Course Objectives: To examine sexuality through the lenses of biology and culture. To encourage students to think critically about sexuality and gender and to question their own assumptions.

Ground Rules: Class members are free to express their personal opinions (especially in response papers) and reactions. However, hateful speech or expression of disgust will not be tolerated. Among other things, this means: don't say "ew" when we're discussing something not to your liking.

Course Materials: There is no text book for this course. We will utilize material in a variety of mediums and will attempt to be as green as possible (aka, read stuff on your computer and print it out only if you need to). When hard copies of handouts are needed they will be distributed in class and marked on the syllabus as handouts. All other readings and multimedia will be available online and are linked on the class blog. After each class session, information about videos along with lecture powerpoints and suggestions for further reading will be posted on the blog as well. Material will include graphic information about sexuality, bodies, and sexual functions.

<http://rutgershmsexsummer09.wordpress.com/>

Course Requirements:

- 1) **Papers (30% of grade)** – papers are due in class OR can be emailed prior to the start of class. Papers emailed after the class in which they are due (even later that day) will be marked late. Late papers are marked down by 1 point each day they are late. All papers are graded on the thought put into them, as well as grammar and structure. You can turn in a paper that fulfills any of the below requirements for any of these dates, you just have to do all three at some point throughout the course. Response papers are meant for you to reflect on and engage with what you are reading/viewing for class. A response paper is NOT a summary paper, I already know what the piece is about! Papers should be 2 pages, double-spaced. **Paper due dates are: June 4, June 18, July 2.**
 - a. **Reading Response**
 - b. **Video Response**
 - c. **Personal Perspective**
- 2) **Attendance and participation (40% of grade)** – Although the vast majority of the course material will be accessible online, it is important that you are present in class. We will do short writing exercises at the beginning of many classes that count toward the participation grade.

- 3) **Final Exam (30% of grade)** – The final exam is comprehensive and will include multiple question, true/false, short answer, and essay questions that will be based on readings, lectures, and supplemental materials.

CLASS TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

5/26 - I'd Hit That: A Short History of Sex and An Introduction to Studying Sexuality

Videos

- [“Sex Research, the Video.”](#) Slate Video, 2008. Mary Roach, author of the new book *Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex*, relates how she and her husband became the first couple to be filmed on 4-D ultrasound while having sex. 3 min 21 seconds.
- [“Naked on the Inside.”](#) Directed by Kim Farrant. Magic Real Picture Company, 2008. This fresh and unnerving feature-length documentary asks a simple, but audacious, question: Beyond our clothes and skin, who are we? Six extraordinary people from around the world reveal their bodies and share their secrets in a unique experiment in search of their inner selves. 82 mins.

Resources

- *Sex In History*. Reay Tannahill. Abacus: 1989.
- [Sex, Etc](#) feature on Body Image:
- [“Seven \(Mostly\) Scientific Devices for Measuring Sexual Arousal.”](#) Annalee Newitz. Io9.com, April 16, 2009.

5/28 - The Plumbing: Anatomy and Disorders of Sexual Development

Videos

- [“The Internal Clitoris.”](#) With Betty Dodson. 2007. Sketch and narration of internal structures of the clitoris.
- [“Footballers lesson in preventing erectile dysfunction.”](#) The Sex Education Show. Channel 4 UK: Season 1, Episode 3, September 23, 2008.
- [“XXXY.”](#) Directed by Porter Gale & Laleh Soomekh. Intersex Society of North America/PlanetOut, 2000.

Readings

- [Embarrassing Bodies](#). Channel 4 UK. 2009. see breast, vulva, and penis galleries (WEB)
- “Just a Snip? A Social History of Male Circumcision.” Peter Aggleton. *Reproductive Health Matters* 2007;15(29):15–21. ([PDF](#))
- “Rites and Rights” from *The Means of Reproduction: Sex, Power, and the Future of the World*. Michelle Goldberg. Penguin Press, 2009. (HANDOUT)
- [“Secrets of the Phallus: Why Is the Penis Shaped Like That?”](#) Jesse Bering. *Scientific American*, April 27, 2009.
- [“How is Sex Determined?”](#) Rick Groleau. NOVA Online, 2001. (WEB)
- “What is Intersex?” Michelle O’Brien. Organisation Internationale des Intersexués, 2009. ([PDF](#))
- [“What if It’s \(Sort of\) a Boy and \(Sort of\) a Girl?”](#) Elizabeth Weil. *New York Times Magazine*: September 24, 2006. (WEB)

Personal Perspectives:

- “[My Life as an Intersexual](#)” Max Beck. *NOVA Sex:Unknown* series. (WEB)
- “[Proof That I Like Penises](#).” Alice Dreger. *Bioethics Forum*, March 10, 2006. (WEB)

Resources:

- [All About My Vagina](#)
- Anatomy: Man's Best Friend - [Male Sexual Anatomy](#)
- Anatomy: Pink Parts - [Female Sexual Anatomy](#)
- [Sex:Unknown](#) film and website:
- *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*, book by Thomas Lacquer
- [Australian Affiliate of Organisation Internationale des Intersexués](#)
- [Alice Dreger](#), prolific writer on intersex

6/2 - Knocked Up: Reproduction, Contraception, Unplanned Pregnancy, Pregnancy & Birth.

With guest speaker: [Nicole Heidbreder](#), birth and postpartum doula

Readings

- “[Why So Many Sperm?](#)” Jad Abumrad and Robert Krulwich. Radiolab/WNYC, November 21, 2008. (22 minutes, audio) (WEB)
- [Birth Control Comparison](#), Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (WEB)
- “[Testosterone Injections Work Like a Male Pill](#).” BMJ Group. *Guardian UK*, May 5, 2009. (WEB)
- “[The New Underground Railroad](#).” Debbie Nathan. *New York Magazine*: December 5, 2005. (WEB)
- “China’s excess males, sex selective abortion, and one child policy: analysis of data from 2005 national intercensus survey.” Wei Xing Zhu, Li Lu and Therese Hesketh. *BMJ* 2009;338;b1211 ([PDF](#))
- [Pictures of Your Growing Body and Baby](#) (WEB)
- “Ecstatic Birth: The Hormonal Blueprint of Labor.” Sarah J. Buckley. *Mothering*, Issue 111, March/April 2002. ([PDF](#))

Personal Perspectives

- “[Plan B Damned: The Quest for Emergency Contraception](#).” Nikol Hasler. *RH Reality Check*, August 12, 2008. (WEB)
- “[DJ's Homeless Mommy](#).” Dan Savage. *New York Times*, September 11, 2005. (WEB)
- [My Home Birth](#): A Graphic Memoir by Christen Clifford and David Heatley (WEB)
- “[My Late Term Abortion](#).” Gretchen Voss. *Boston Globe*, January 24, 2005. (WEB)

Resources:

- [How Pregnancy Happens](#) (short animation)
- Post-Abortion Counseling and Support: <http://www.pac-consortium.org> and <http://www.4exhale.org/>
- *The Means of Reproduction: Sex, Power, and the Future of the World*. Michelle Goldberg. Penguin Press, 2009.

6/4 – The Bad: HIV & Other Sexually Transmitted Infections

Videos:

- [“Our Reality: Women and HIV.”](#) RH Reality Check.
- [“Tongues Untied.”](#) Directed by Marlon Riggs. 1990.

Readings

- [The AIDS Timeline](#), Avert.org (WEB)
- [Sexually Transmitted Infection Risk Assessment](#), Scarleteen. (WEB)
- “The Moral Justification for a Compulsory Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Program.” Joseph E. Balog. *American Journal of Public Health*, April 2009, Vol 99, No. 4 ([PDF](#))
- “The Criminalization of HIV.” International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the World AIDS Campaign (WAC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Living Positively, a project of the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA). 2008. ([PDF](#))
- “Male Circumcision as an HIV Prevention Strategy in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Lawrence O. Gostin and Catherine A. Hankins. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, December 3, 2008—Vol 300, No. 21. ([PDF](#))
- [“The Macro of Microbicides.”](#) Alliance for Microbicide Development, 2008. (PDF)

Personal Perspectives

- [“The Most Amazing Guy.”](#) Kristen. *Sexual Health Buzz*, March 26, 2009. (WEB)
- [“Stories Written by HIV Positive Youth.”](#) The Media Project. (WEB)
- [“To Be Young, Smart and HIV-Infected: Living a Positive Life.”](#) Ben Cogswell. *Sex Etc*, Jan 20, 2006. (WEB)

6/9 – The Good: Sexual Arousal, Pleasure, & Response

Videos

- [“Ten Things You Didn’t Know About Orgasm.”](#) Mary Roach. TED Talk, February 2009.

Readings

- [“Affairs of the Lips: Why We Kiss.”](#) Chip Walter. *Scientific American*, February 2008. (WEB)
- “I’m So Excited and I Just Can’t Hide It” from *How Sex Works: Why We Look, Smell, Taste, Feel, and Act the Way We Do*. Dr. Sharon Moalem. Harper, 2009. (HANDOUT)
- [“Neurobiology of Sexual Response in Men and Women.”](#) By David L. Rowland, PhD. *CNS Spectr.* 2006;11:8(Suppl 9):6-12 (WEB)
- [“Science of the Orgasm,”](#) Regina Nuzzo. *Los Angeles Times*: February 11, 2008. (WEB)
- [“The Orgasmic Mind: The Neurological Roots of Sexual Pleasure.”](#) Martin Portner. *Scientific American*, April 2008. (WEB)
- [Guide to Sex Toys](#) (WEB)

Personal Perspectives

- [“The 30 Year Old Orgasm Virgin.”](#) Maura Kelly. *The Daily Beast*, May 13, 2009. (WEB)

6/11 – Gender, Orientation, and Identity

With guest speaker: [Sinclair Sexsmith](#).

Readings

- “Confessions of An Identity Junkie.” Cheryl Dobinson. *Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity*, Vol. 4, No 3, 1999. ([PDF](#))
- “[FAQ on cissexual, cisgender, and cis privilege](#).” Julia Serrano. (WEB)
- “[Letter to my Mother](#),” a poem by Sarah Dopp (video) (WEB)
- “[Asexuals Unite](#).” Tracy Hukill. *Alternet*, April 24, 2006. (WEB)
- “[Double Lives on the Down Low](#).” Benoit Denizet-Lewis. *New York Times Magazine*, August 3, 2003. (WEB)
- “[A Boy’s Life](#).” Hanna Rosin. *The Atlantic*, November 2008. (WEB)

Personal Perspectives

- Genderfork <http://genderfork.com>
- My Right Self <http://www.myrightself.org/>

Resources

- [Sexual Identity and Gender Identity Glossary](#)
- [Trans 101](#)

6/16 – Relationships and Love. With guest speaker TBA.

Readings

- *Mating in Captivity: Unlocking Erotic Intelligence*. (excerpt). Esther Perel. Harper, 2007. (HANDOUT) and [Mating in Captivity](#) (WEB)
- “[Love’s Labors](#).” Laura Kipnis. Excerpted from *Against Love: A Polemic*. Vintage Books, 2003. (WEB)
- “[A conversation with Laura Kipnis](#)” (WEB)
- “[Helen Fisher on Why We Love and Cheat](#).” TED Talks (video), filmed February 2006, posted September 2006. (WEB)

Personal Perspectives

- “[Fiona and Sam](#)” from *Opening Up*. Tristan Taormino. Cleis Press, 2008. (WEB)

Resources

- *Opening Up: A Guide to Creating and Sustaining Open Relationships*. Tristan Taormino. Cleis Press, 2008.
- “Polyamory Weekly.” Audio podcast. <http://polyweekly.com/>

6/18 - Sexual Dysfunction and Treatment; Consent and Assault; Laws, Morals and Sexual Behavior

Videos

- “[Consumer Reports Takes on Erectile Dysfunction Ads](#).” Consumer Reports, June 2008.
- “[Overruled!](#)” Lambda Legal, 2008.

Readings

- *Sexual Dysfunction and Treatment*
 - “The marketing of a disease: female sexual dysfunction.” Ray Moynihan. *BMJ* 2005;330;192-194. ([PDF](#))
 - “ABC of Sexual Health: Assessing and managing male sexual problems.” Alan Gregoire. *BMJ* 1999;318;315-317. ([PDF](#))

- *Consent and Assault*
 - [Antioch College Sexual Consent Policy](#) (WEB)
 - [“How You Guys Can Prevent Rape.”](#) Heather Corinna. *Scarleteen*, 2008. (WEB)
 - [Effects of Sexual Assault](#) (WEB)
- *Laws, Morals, and Sexual Behavior*
 - [“Sex and Civil Liberties.”](#) Tom Head. About.com. (WEB)
 - [“Texas Mom Faces Trial for Selling Sex Toys.”](#) CNN.com: February 11, 2004. (WEB)
 - [“Lawrence v. Texas: States may not prohibit private homosexual activity between consenting adults.”](#) (WEB)

6/23 – Kink and Beyond: Atypical Sexual Behavior

Video

- “Kinky: Black Sexuality and Kink.” Directed by A. Benjamin. 2008.

Readings

- “Issues for DSM-V: Sexual Dysfunction, Disorder, or Variation Along Normal Distribution: Toward Rethinking DSM Criteria of Sexual Dysfunctions,” Editorial in *American Journal of Psychiatry* ([PDF](#))
- [“The Pleasure of Pain - Why Some People Need S&M.”](#) *Psychology Today*, September/October 1999. (WEB)
- “Slap Happy.” Jessica Wakeman. *Bitch*, Issue 39. ([PDF](#))
- [“Paraphilias.”](#) Guy E Brannon. *eMedicine*, February 14, 2008. (WEB)

6/25 – The Sex Industry. *With guest speakers TBA.*

Readings

- [What is a sex worker?](#) (WEB)
- [What is the sex industry?](#) (WEB)
- [Sex Work, Trafficking – Understanding the Difference](#) Melissa Ditmore. RH Reality Check. (WEB)
- [“The New Face of Porn.”](#) Alison Lee. *This Magazine*, November-December 2008. (WEB)
- [Ask a Ho: Legal Issues for Dommies](#) – \$pread Magazine (WEB)
- [Modern Hooker on Carnal Nation](#), web comic (WEB)
- Beyond Vice and Victimhood ([PDF](#))

Personal Perspectives

- [“The Rumpus Oral History Project— Lorelei Lee, Porn Performer.”](#) *The Rumpus*, February 19, 2009. (WEB)

Resources

- [\\$pread Magazine](#)
- [Sex Workers Outreach Project](#)
- [Sex Workers Project](#)
- [Sex Work Awareness](#)
- [Sex Work 101](#)
- [Bound, Not Gagged](#)

6/30 – Controversial Topics: Kids, Old People, People With Disabilities, Sex Ed.

Videos

- *Abstinence Comes to Albuquerque*. Directed by Charles C. Stuart. 2007.
- "[The Midwest Teen Sex Show](#)." Nikol Hasler and Guy Clark.
- "[Christen Clifford: What I Know About My Parent's Sex Life](#)." Naked City TV, 2008.
- "Doin' It: Sex, Disability, and Videotape." The Empowered Fe Fes. Beyond Media, 2007. <http://www.beyondmedia.org/>

Readings

- *Kids and Sex*
 - "Child sexuality and sexual behavior." IngBeth Larsson. Translated by Kate Lambert and Stuart Tudball. *Socialstyrelsen*, 2000. ([PDF](#))
 - "[When kids make their own porn, who's being exploited?](#)" Violet Blue. *SF Gate*, January 29, 2009. (WEB)
- *Old People and Sex*
 - "[Too Sexy for Her Rocker](#)." Michael Castleman. *Salon*. (WEB)
 - "[What Are HIV Prevention Needs of Adults Over 50?](#)" Center for AIDS Prevention Studies. University of California San Francisco, 1997. (WEB)
- *People With Disabilities*
 - "[Sexuality and Disability Myths and Facts](#)." Corey Silverberg. *About.com: Sexuality*, December 15, 2006. (WEB)
- *Sex Education*
 - "[Sex Education in America](#)." NPR Feature. (WEB)