

| **Georgetown University, Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies**  **BLHV-1035: Sex & Society**  **Spring 2024** |
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**Credits:** 3

**Dates:** January 10, 2024 - April 30, 2024

**Location**: Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies (SCS) utilizes the Coursera platform for this course. As an online course, all course content will be provided and exchanged on the Coursera platform.

**Instructo**r: Dr. Michelle Ohnona

**Contact Information:** [bls-support@georgetown.edu](mailto:bls-support@georgetown.edu)

*Note: This mailbox is monitored on a frequent and ongoing basis. Please use this email address for all technology and course-related questions, and your inquiry will be directed to the appropriate person.*

**Office Hours:** By appointment

| **Course Description** |
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This course provides an introduction to the vibrant and interdisciplinary field of sexuality studies, and investigates the ways in which sex and sexuality are shaped by society, and the ways in which they are connected to power and inequality in our world. We will begin the course by exploring some key theories and concepts within the field, and situate them alongside the history of LGBTQ activism in the United States and elsewhere. We will then consider how these concepts can be applied to a variety of contemporary issues such as sexual identity and the state, same-sex marriage, representations of sexuality in popular culture and the media, transnational sexualities and sexual identities, and consumerism. Throughout the course, we will examine how sexuality intersects with other social categories such as gender, race, class, nationality, age and ability/disability.

| **Course Learning Objectives** |
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By the end of this course, you will be able to:

* Differentiate between the concepts of sex, gender and sexuality as socially produced, historically contingent phenomena;
* Analyze the legal, religious, social and economic frameworks in which these phenomena are produced;
* Participate in debate and discussion on the assigned reading materials for the course;
* Prepare a final research paper involving the conducting of independent research, the articulation of a research question and the application of concepts learned in class.
* Understand how different aspects of identity can combine to form specific experiences of marginalization and oppression.

| **Required Materials for Purchase** |
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[Naples, N. A. (2020). Companion to women’s and gender studies (N. A. Naples, Ed.). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.](https://wrlc-gu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=01WRLC_GUNIV:01WRLC_GUNIV&search_scope=MyInstitution&tab=LibraryCatalog&docid=alma991037484999704111) (Available for free through GU library)

| **Course Structure** |
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This course consists of **13 modules** plus the orientation module which are taken over a **15-week term**. Each module length is either one week or multiple weeks as designated in this syllabus.

| **Assignments** |
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Your course grade will be based on your completion of the following activities and assignments. You will read full details about each of them in the Coursera course. Each assignment category will be weighted according to the percentages below.

| **Assessments** | **Percent of Grade** |
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| Time-Use Survey Assignment | 25% |
| Peer-review of Survey Framework | 5% |
| Reading Discussion (10 assignments) | 20% |
| Final Project Proposal and Annotated Bibliography | 20% |
| Final Paper | 30% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

## **Submission Policy**

Submit all assignments to the Coursera course site. **Assignments submitted through email are not acceptable** and will be considered missing/and or late. Please also retain a personal copy of all assignments submitted until the end of this course is complete and you’ve received your final grade.

#### **Late Work Policy**

Students are expected to submit their assignments by the time on the date indicated on Coursera and the syllabus. Please contact the instructor at least 3 business days in advance if you know that you are going to be late or miss an assignment due date. The instructor will review late submission requests and circumstances on a case-by-case basis and will make a determination if an extension is warranted. Prior notice will provide time for discussing and identifying an alternative due date (if the extension is warranted). If the extension is granted, the instructor can deduct up to 10% of the grade of the assignments submitted late and limit the extension to a maximum of 7 days. If an assignment that has been given an extension is not handed in by the time the allotted extension time has elapsed, it will receive a zero.

#### **Instructor Feedback/Turnaround**

If you have a concern and send me a message, you can expect a response to your email within 3 business days. Please allow 4-7 business days for assessment submission feedback.

| **Grading** |
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Each type of assignment has a detailed grading rubric that you will reference as you complete your assignments. I will grade all of your work using these rubrics.

A: 93% to 100%

A-: 90% to 92%

B+: 87% to 89%

B: 83% to 86%

B-: 80% to 82%

C+: 77% to 79%

C: 73% to 76%

C-: 70% to 72%

D+: 67% to 69%

D: 63% to 66%

F: 62% and below

| **Time Commitment** |
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Online courses meet the same academic standards as on-campus courses. Each week is equal to the same level of participation, commitment, and academic rigor as a face-to-face class. For a 15-week, 3-credit course, you should allocate *6-10 hours per week*. For a 13-week, 3-credit course, you should allocate *8-12 hours per week*.

| **Course Schedule** |
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| **Dates** | **Module & Topic** | **Assignments Due** |
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| 01/10 - 01/21 | **Module 1:** Introduction to the Course | 1. Conditions for Success (ungraded) 2. Introductory Discussion Post ungraded) 3. Response Posts due Sunday |
| 01/15 | **MLK Day** | |
| 01/22 - 01/28 | **Module 2:** Constructions of Sex and Gender | 1. Original Discussion 2 Posts due Friday 2. Response Posts due Sunday |
| 01/29 - 02/04 | **Module 3:** Sex and Science | 1. Original Discussion 3 Posts due Friday 2. Response Posts due Sunday |
| 02/05 - 02/11 | **Module 4:** Sexuality and the Law | 1. Original Discussion 4 Posts due Friday 2. Response Posts due Sunday |
| 02/12 - 02/18 | **Module 5:** Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality | 1. Original Discussion 5 Posts due Friday 2. Response Posts due Sunday |
| 02/19 | **President’s Day** | |
| 02/20 - 02/25 | **Module 6:** Sexuality and Individual Freedom | 1. Original Discussion 6 Posts due Friday 2. Response Posts due Sunday 3. Time-Use Survey due |
| 02/26 - 03/01 | **Module 7:** Sex, Gender, and Education | * Time-Use Survey Peer Review due |
| 03/02 - 03/10 | **Spring Break** | |
| 03/11 - 03/17 | **Module 8:** Sex, Gender, and Relationships | * Time-Use Survey Analysis due |
| 03/18 - 03/27 | **Module 9:** Sex, Gender, and Popular Culture | 1. Original Discussion 9 Posts due Friday 2. Response Posts due Sunday |
| 03/28 - 04/02 | **Easter Break** | |
| 04/03 - 04/07 | **Module 10:** Sex, Morality and Controversy | 1. Original Discussion 10 Posts due Friday 2. Response Posts due Sunday |
| 04/08 - 04/14 | **Module 11:** Repression, Speech, and Silence | 1. Original Discussion 11 Posts due Sunday 2. Response Posts due Tuesday 3. Final Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography due |
| 04/15 - 04/21 | **Module 12:** Reproduction, Parenthood, and Family | 1. Original Discussion 12 Posts due Friday 2. Response Posts due Sunday |
| 04/22 - 04/30 | **Module 13:** Presentations and Workshopping | * Final Paper due |

| **Course Policies** |
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The course will follow SCS Course Policies in the following areas:

* Attendance Policy
* Citation Policy
* Communication Policies
* The Honor Pledge
* Netiquette And Classroom Guidelines
* Incomplete and Withdrawal Policies
* Accommodation Policy
* Technical Requirements
* Student Support and Help

You can review these policies and other student resources in the Orientation Course.