

**ANTH 165: Sexuality & Culture**  
CRN: 10295 (ONLINE COURSE)  
Fall 2018

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines sexuality with an emphasis on understanding the historical, cultural, economic, and political factors that contribute to the construction of sexual identities, relationships, and institutions. The course relies on cases and examples that defy assumptions of “norms” in gender and sexuality. And this course encourages students to move beyond their own experience and reflect on the wide range of variations, found in the expression of genders and sexualities, in human cultures across time and space.

**This course will:**

- ★ explore the range of human sexual beliefs and behavior
  - ★ examine culture’s impact on shaping and defining human sexuality
  - ★ encourage students to consider their own cultural assumptions about sex, sexuality, and gender
- To accomplish this, each student is asked to approach the course content with an open mind. The goal of this course is not to compel you to agree with everything we study, but rather to engage the course with a scholarly attitude so you can discover where specific notions of gender and sexuality fit, within cultural contexts they are found in.

Please note: This course covers controversial topics such as sexual violence. I will do my best to alert you if assigned films, readings, or lectures contain any potential triggers.

**There is NO Required text for this course: All readings will be posted on Canvas under ‘Modules.’**

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**HOW TO SUCCEED IN AN ONLINE COURSE**

To succeed in an online course, you need to be motivated and self-disciplined. I will provide the materials and resources to guide you through the course. It is up to YOU to learn the course materials by keeping up with the assigned readings, watching films, and reviewing weekly synopses. You should also take all assignments seriously and submit them on time. Assignments have been designed to test your knowledge of the course material and to build your skills as a student. To get the most out of each assignment be sure you study before completing them and submit thoughtful and analytical writing.

To have a less stressful experience with an online course, you will need to have access to high-speed Internet in order to take timed quizzes, review lectures and to watch assigned films. You must have access to such resources at home or on campus. If you cannot access these resources, consider taking the course in a traditional classroom setting.

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## **CHECK YOUR UNIVERSITY EMAILS AND CANVAS FREQUENTLY**

I am here to facilitate your learning and to provide you with guidance, insight, and feedback. To do so we need to be in good communication. Good communication means both you and I check our university emails and Canvas frequently. These are the two and ONLY methods of communication we have. I will use email and Canvas announcements to keep you informed of various course-related information. Nikki and I will attempt to respond to emails within 48 hours. Over the weekend it may take longer. If we do not respond, please follow up with a second email.

### **When you email me and Nikki, please do the following:**

1. In the subject line include the course number (ANTH 165) and a subject that summarizes the purpose of the email. Doing so will make sure your email does not get lost in my inbox.
2. Always include a salutation (e.g. “Dear Rucha” or “Dear Rucha and Nikki”) and a closing that identifies who you are (e.g. “Sincerely, ‘Your Name’”).

\*\*Please get into the habit of composing an email in this manner. This is a skill that will be useful in the future when applying for jobs and graduate/professional school. \*\*

### **Video Chat with Instructor by Appointment:**

Sometimes there are limits to email exchanges and a face to face conversation is necessary. At any time in the course if you would like to talk with me face to face about the course content or clarifications in assignments you may email me to set up a video chat. We will use the Conference feature on Canvas to do a video chat.

### **Cultivating a Safe Learning Environment Online:**

In this course, we will be discussing controversial and important issues in relation to sexuality. I expect students to show respect and consideration to themselves and other members of the learning community. All perspectives are welcome in this course if presented with civility and scholarly rigor.

Two standards of expectations regulate student responsibility in this course—these standards are non-negotiable.

1. Respect yourself and others: a diversity of views should be expected and protected. You are expected to engage the issues in a mature, reasonable, and respectful manner, and to show respect for other students and the instructor at all times.
2. Bring your minds: This course is an intellectual, not an experiential, endeavor. Therefore, an informed discussion of the issues addressed in this course is required.

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### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Each assignment is designed to assess your knowledge and understanding of the course content and to improve your writing and thinking. Your grade is comprised of five types of assignments:

- |                          |                      |            |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| 1. Personal Introduction | 3. Film Reflection   | 5. Quizzes |
| 2. Journal Posts         | 4. Reading Responses |            |

**It is your responsibility to complete these assignments on time.  
NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. NO INCOMPLETES.**

**Personal Introduction (5%)**

You will post a personal introduction in week 1 on the assignment box titled “Introductions.” This introduction is for me to know a little more about you. A prompt to help you compose your introduction is available on Canvas.

**Journal Posts (10%)**

You will write a weekly journal post. This means that you will write a total of TEN journals posts in the term. The goal of this assignment is to help you learn to critically read articles and take notes based on your reading. This assignment will also help you stay up-to-date with the course material. Detailed instructions for this assignment are available on Canvas.

**Film Reflection (15%)**

You will complete ONE film reflection. This assignment is a short writing exercise designed to guide your engagement with the films assigned in the course. You must choose ONE of the four films assigned in the course to do your reflection paper. Note that you are required to watch all the films, but complete only ONE film reflection on the film of your choice. Detailed instructions for this assignment are available on Canvas. Prompts/questions for each film will be available on Canvas as well.

**Reading Responses (30%)**

In this course, you will submit TWO reading response, each is 15% of the overall course grade. The goal of this assignment is to learn how to critically read and analyze an article on its own and in comparison, to other course material. The best responses combine a short summary of a reading, connection to one other course reading, film, or topic, and a short personal exploration of the topic. Detailed instructions for this assignment are available on Canvas.

**Quizzes (40%):**

Quizzes will be administered on Canvas covering each unit. There will be a total of 4 quizzes in this course, each is 10% of the overall course grade. Each quiz will be available from Friday at 12:00pm PST until Sunday @ 10:00pm PST. You will have the weekend to complete the quiz. Each quiz will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and matching terms. Each quiz will take approximately 30 minutes and have around 15 to 25 questions.

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**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS DUE DATES**
**Week 1**

Friday 9/28 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Personal Introduction
2. Journal Post #1

**Week 2**

Friday 10/5 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Journal Post #2

Sunday 10/7 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Film Reflection Option #1

**Week 3**

Friday 10/12 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Journal Post #3

Sunday 10/14 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Quiz #1

**Week 4**

Friday 10/19 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Journal Post #4

Sunday 10/21 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Film Reflection Option #2

**Week 5**

Friday 10/26 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Journal Post #5

Sunday 10/28 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Quiz #2

**Week 6**

Friday 11/2 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Journal Post #6

Sunday 11/4 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Reading Response #1

**Week 7**

Friday 11/9 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Journal Post #7

Sunday 11/11 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Film Reflection Option #3
2. Quiz #3

**Week 8**

Friday 11/16 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Journal Post #8

Sunday 11/18 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Film Reflection Option #4

**Week 9**

Friday 11/23 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Journal Post #9

**Week 10**

Friday 11/30 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Journal Post #10

Sunday 12/2 @ 10:00pm PST

1. Reading Response #2
2. Quiz #4

Remember you turn in ONE film reflection, but have 4 options.

**Grades:**

Personal Introduction (5%) + Weekly Journal Posts (10%) + 1 Film Reflection (15%) + 2 Reading Responses (30%) + 4 Quizzes (40%) = 100%

**Scale for the course grade:**

100-96% A+

89-86% B+

79-76% C+

95-93% A

85-83% B

75-70% C

92-90% A-

82-80% B-

69-0% F

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES  
ABSOLUTELY NO INCOMPLETES WILL BE GIVEN IN THIS COURSE**

**Academic honesty and plagiarism:**

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (for ideas, quotations, and paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. Please review the University's policies at: <https://policies.uoregon.edu/vol-3-administration-student-affairs/ch-1-conduct/student-conduct-code>

## COURSE SCHEDULE

All articles are available on Canvas. All readings and films listed in the syllabus are **REQUIRED** unless stated otherwise. Optional films, news articles, readings will be posted on Canvas under the title 'optional'.

On Monday of each week, I will post 'Weekly Synopsis' which will be a short, written document outlining key ideas in the week's module, a brief introduction to the readings, and any additional information pertinent to the week's module.

\*\*Please note that I reserve the right to change this schedule to engage recent events or to accommodate educational needs. You are responsible for knowing these changes announced ahead of time through Canvas and over email\*\*

\*\*Every day in the media, you will encounter articles and news stories related to themes of this course. Watch and read the news in some form daily. Also, consider how the music, movies, and TV shows you listen/watch represent sexuality and culture. \*\*

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### UNIT ONE: The Cultural Construction of Gender and Sexuality

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#### Week One - Why Study Sexuality and What is it?

Module 1      What is Anthropology & Why Study Sexuality

Readings:

- ★ Syllabus

Module 2      Social Construction of Gender

Readings:

- ★ Judith Lorber's "The Social Construction of Gender"  
\*\*FYI: Lorber uses the terms *transsexual* and *transvestite*. These terms are considered outdated, but this article still offers a good beginning point for understanding gender.

**Introduce Yourself; Due Friday 9/28 @ 10:00 pm PST**

**Journal Post #1; Due Friday 9/28 @ 10:00pm PST**

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#### Week Two - Sex and Science

Module 3      Researching Sexualities

Readings:

- ★ Jennifer Harding's "Investigating Sex: Essentialism and Constructionism"
- ★ Anne Fausto-Sterling's "Sexing the Body: How Biologists Construct Human Sexuality"
- ★ Emily Martin's "The Egg and the Sperm: How science has Constructed a Romance based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles"

**Journal Post #2; Due Friday 10/5 @ 10:00pm PST**

**Film Reflection Option #1: *How We Got Gay* (2015); Due Sunday 10/7 @ 10:00pm PST**

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### Week Three - Early Ethnographies on Sexuality

Module 4 Anthropology and the Cultural Construction of Sexuality

Readings:

- ★ E.E. Evans-Pritchard's "Sexual Inversion Among the Azande"
- ★ Ruth Benedict's "Sex in Primitive Society"  
\*\*FYI: Benedict uses the term *primitive*. This is an outdated term to describe non-industrial societies, but this article still offers a good case study on the cultural construction of sexuality. \*\*

**Journal Post #3 Due; Friday 10/12 @ 10:00pm PST**

**\*\*\*UNIT ONE QUIZ\*\*\***

**Open: Friday 10/12 12:00pm to Sunday 10/14 10:00pm PST**

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### UNIT TWO: Beyond Binaries

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#### Week Four Understanding "Trans"

Module 5 The Politics of Naming

Readings:

- ★ Elizabeth Reis' "Divergence or Disorder"
- ★ Susann Kessler and Wendy McKenna's "Who Put the 'Trans' in Transgender? Gender Theory and Everyday Life"

**Journal Post #4 Due; Friday 10/19 @ 10:00pm PST**

**Film Reflection Option #2: *Southern Comfort* (2001); Due Sunday 10/21 @ 10:00pm PST**

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#### Week Five Gender Variance Across Culture

Module 6 Beyond Female and Male

Readings:

- ★ Serena Nanda's "Hijra and Sadhin: Neither man nor woman in India"
- ★ Don Kulick's "The gender of Brazilian transgendered prostitutes"

**Journal Post #5 Due; Friday 10/26 @ 10:00pm PST**

**\*\*\*UNIT TWO QUIZ\*\*\***

**Open: Friday 10/26 12:00pm to Sunday 10/28 10:00pm PST**

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## UNIT THREE: RITES OF PASSAGE & MARRIAGE

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### Week Six Rites of Passage

#### Module 7 Rites of Passage

Readings:

- ★ Gilbert Herdt's "Sambia Sexual Culture"
- ★ R.M. Abusharaf's "Unmasking Tradition: A Sudanese anthropologist confronts female 'circumcision' and its terrible tenacity"

**Journal Post #6 Due; Friday 11/2 @ 10:00pm PST**

**Reading Response #1: Due Sunday 11/4 @ 10:00pm PST**

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### Week Seven Marriage

#### Module 8 Who Can Get Married?

Readings:

- ★ Martha Nussbaum's "A right to marry?"
- ★ Judith Stacey's "Unhitching the Horse from the Carriage: Love without Marriage among the Mosuo (only read 152-160, 167-172, & 176-187)"

**Journal Post #7 Due; Friday 11/9 @ 10:00pm PST**

**Film Reflection Option #3: *The Loving Story* (2011); Due Sunday 11/11 @ 10:00pm PST**

**\*\*\*UNIT THREE QUIZ\*\*\***

**Open: Friday 11/9 12:00pm to Sunday 11/11 10:00pm PST**

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## UNIT FOUR: MASCULINITY & SEX AND POWER

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### Week Eight Masculinity

#### Module 9 What is Masculinity?

Readings:

- ★ C.J. Pascoe's "Notes on a Sociology of Bullying"

**Journal Post #8 Due; Friday 11/16 @ 10:00pm PST**

**Film Reflection Option #4: *The Bro Code* (2011); Due Sunday 11/18 @ 10:00pm PST**

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**Week Nine                      Sex and Violence**

Module 10    Rape Culture

Readings:

- ★ Michael Flood's "Engaging Men in Ending Men's Violence Against Women"
- ★ Luoluo Hong's "Breaking the silence, making laughter: testimony of an Asian-American sister"

**Journal Post #9 Due; Friday 11/23 @ 10:00pm PST**

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**Week Ten    Money, Sex, & Love**

Module 11    Prostitution, Sex Tourism & Sex Trafficking

Readings:

- ★ Debra Pruitt and Suzanne LaFont's "For Love and Money: Romance Tourism in Jamaica"
- ★ Jo Doezema's "Forced to Choose"

**Journal Post #10 Due; Friday 11/30 @ 10:00pm PST**

**Reading Response #2: Due Sunday 12/2 @ 10 :00pm PST**

**\*\*\*UNIT FOUR QUIZ\*\*\***

**Open: Friday 11/30 12:00pm to Sunday 12/2 10:00pm PST**

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