

SOC3385F - Sexuality & Stigma

Department of Sociology

Tuesdays 11:30-2:30 – Fall 2017

Room: BR-204

Instructor: Dr. Nichole Edwards

Contact Information: nedwar7@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:20 AM

Office: _____

Course Description

Sociologist Erving Goffman uses the term ‘spoiled identity’ to refer to an identity that causes one to experience stigma. Stigma, in turn, describes an attribute that is socially constructed as deeply discrediting or potentially discreditable. While ‘spoiled identities’, and the ensuing stigma one experiences may relate to racial, ethnic, or sexual minorities, body size, gender, or physical disabilities – in other words, attributes that are visible – they also include things like mental health, religion, and sexuality – attributes that are *invisible*.

This course specifically aims to navigate a variety of ‘spoiled identities’ as they relate to sex and sexuality. By first establishing the understanding that stigma and sexuality are themselves social constructs, students will engage with both theoretical and empirical texts in order to more fully understand who experiences stigma as a result of sexual orientations, practices, identities and relationships, and how those stigmas are managed, experienced, and perceived.

Taught through an intersectional lens where elements of race, class, gender, age, and culture are often considered *alongside* sexuality, some of the specific topics we cover in this course include: the stigma around sex work; the gendered stigma in experiences of hookup culture; the morality-based stigma involved in abortion and reproductive debates; the stigma associated with young parenthood, and, for instance, the stigma effecting the everyday rights of sexual minorities around the world.

Prerequisite(s): Enrolment in third or fourth year Sociology.

Textbook

A custom course pack is available for purchase at the UWO bookstore. Additional links and articles will be made available throughout the semester on the class OWL website.

Assessments and Weighting

Participation (10%) – By this time in your undergraduate degree, you know that being actively present can significantly increase your grade. Learning is not a spectator sport and this course has been designed so that there is ample opportunity for discussion in both small and larger groups. Brescia Competency: Communication, Self-Awareness and Development, Critical Thinking

Five Online Discussion Posts (15% - worth 3% each) – Five times throughout the semester, you will complete a 500 word online discussion post based on the assigned reading. The due dates can be found on the following pages, and details on how to complete the posts will be outlined at the start of the semester. A detailed FAQ is also available under the Resources tab. Brescia Competency: Inquiry and Analysis, Critical Thinking, Communication, Self-Awareness and Development

Midterm (20%) – On **October 31st**, there will be an in-class midterm lasting 2hrs. The midterm will include three sections: 1) T/F, multiple choice, fill in the blank. 2) Short answer - definitions and terminology, and 3) Short Essay. Brescia Competency: Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Inquiry and Analysis

2,500 word Essay (30%) – You are responsible for writing a 2,500 word essay on a topic of your choosing. This topic must fall under the umbrella of one of the themes of this course, however you are free to choose something of interest to you! You must have your topic approved by me. The essay is due, and must be submitted to Turnitin by 11:59pm on **November 28th**. **You must pass the essay component to pass the course.** Brescia Competency: Critical Thinking, Inquiry and Analysis, Communication

Final Exam (25%) – On the last day of class you will receive four potential essay questions, two of which will appear on the actual exam. The exam only covers topics from the midterm onwards. Brescia Competency: Critical Thinking, Inquiry and Analysis

Weekly Schedule

You will note that there are ** next to five different lecture titles. This means you must write an online discussion post for that topic, based on the assigned reading(s). That said, all readings will be testable and part of in-class discussions so **please do not fall behind in your readings** even if there is no online post for that week!

Date	Lecture Topic
Sept. 12	The Social Construction of Stigma and Sexuality
Sept. 19	Second Wave Feminism and Sexual Politics
Sept. 26	**Selling Sex and Buying Sex
Oct. 3	**Bisexuality and Sexual Fluidity
Oct. 10	FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASS
Oct. 17	Sexuality and Citizenship: A Global Perspective
Oct. 24	**Abortion Rights and Stigma
Oct. 31	IN-CLASS MIDTERM
Nov. 7	**Class, Sexuality, and Parenthood
Nov. 14	20 th Century Constructions of Wife and Mother
Nov. 21	**Girls and Sex
Nov. 28	Toxic Masculinity and Rape Culture
Dec. 5	Exploring Non-Monogamies

Detailed Schedule and Readings

Sept. 12th - The Social Construction of Stigma and Sexuality

- No reading for first class

Sept. 19th - Second Wave Feminism and Sexual Politics

- De Beauvoir, S. 1949. "Introduction". *The Second Sex*. Paris: Editions Gallimard. Pp.1-17.

Sept. 26th - Selling Sex, Buying Sex

- O'Doherty, T. 2011. "Criminalization and Off-Street Sex Workers in Canada." *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 53(2), pp. 217-245.

Oct. 3rd - Sexuality and Citizenship: A Global Perspective

- Brown, K. and Nash, C. 2014. "Resisting LGBT Rights Where 'We Have Won': Canada and Great Britain." *Journal of Human Rights*, 13, pp. 322-336.

Oct 9th - 13th - FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASS

Oct 17th - Bisexuality and Sexual Fluidity

- Delvoye, M. and Tasker, F. 2016. "Narrating Self-Identity in Bisexual Motherhood." *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*. 12(1), pp. 5-23.

Oct. 24th – Abortion Rights and Stigma

- Pollitt, K. 2014. "Are Women People?" *Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights*. New York: Picador. Pp. 101-128.

Oct. 31st - IN-CLASS MIDTERM

Nov. 7th - Class, Sexuality, and Parenthood

- Martins, N. and Jensen, R. 2014. "The relationship between 'Teen Mom' reality programming and teenagers beliefs about teen parenthood." *Mass Communication and Society*, 17, pp. 830-852.

Nov. 14th - 20th Century Constructions of Wife and Mother

- Friedan, B. 1963. "The Problem that Has No Name." *The Feminine Mystique*. New York: Dell Publishing. Pp. 1-27.

Nov. 21st - Girls and Sex

- Orenstein, P. 2016. "Hookups and Hang-Ups." *Girls & Sex: Navigating the Complicated New Landscape*. New York: HarperCollins. Pp. 103-140.

Nov. 28th - Toxic Masculinity and Rape Culture

- Kimmel, M. 2008. "Predatory Sex and Party Rape." *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men*. New York: Harper Collins. Pp. 217-241.

Dec. 5th - Exploring Non-Monogamies

- Enciso Dominquez, G., Pujol, J., Motzkau, J., and Popper, M. 2017. "Suspended transitions and affective orderings: From troubled monogamy to liminal polyamory." *Theory & Psychology*, 27(2), pp. 183-197.

2017-18 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html>). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html>)

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department

Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices (http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf and http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf).

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental_Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.

