

Course Outline – SOC 3385F Sexuality & Stigma

School of Behavioural and Social Sciences

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course moving away from in-person delivery, course content may be delivered online either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). There may also be changes to any remaining assessments at the discretion of the course instructor. In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence, detailed information about the impact on this course will be communicated by the Office of the Dean and by the course instructor.

General Information

Course #:	SOC 3385F
Section #:	530 001
Term:	Fall 2021-22
Delivery:	In-Person
Day and Time:	Thursdays 2:30-5:30pm
Room:	MRW - 152

Instructor Information

Name:	Dr. Nichole Edwards
E-mail:	nedwar7@uwo.ca
Office hours:	on Zoom, Fridays 11am – 1pm

PPE Requirements

Students will be expected to wear triple layer non-medical masks at all times in the classroom as per university policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons should seek accommodation through [Accessible Education](#).

Students are expected not to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Course Description

Sociologist Erving Goffman uses the term ‘spoiled identity’ to refer to characteristics, behaviours, and identities that causes one to experience stigma. Stigma 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 or ethnic minorities, body size, gender, or physical disabilities – in other words, attributes that may be visible – they also include things like mental health, religion, and sexuality – attributes that are *invisible*.

Therefore, this course specifically aims to navigate a variety of ‘spoiled identities’ as they relate to sexual behaviours, sexual subcultures, norms, and identities – stigmas that are, for the most part, invisible. 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 gender dynamics of hookup culture, the stigma of abortion, non-monogamous relationships, choosing to be childfree, and the use of social media in young people’s constructions of sexuality – to name a few.

Prerequisite(s)

Enrolment in third or fourth-year Sociology (unless special permission is granted by the instructor).

Required Course Materials

All required readings will be provided through EZProxy Library Link in OWL. I will upload all of the readings at the start of the semester for those who like to plan and/or read ahead.

All you need to do is click the reading link provided on OWL and you will be redirected to a downloadable copy via the Western libraries database. Remember to login using your UWO ID to access the full library database when off-campus.

Please note that if you click the reading link and it does not automatically open in a new window, you may have to allow your browser to accept pop-ups from OWL or update your browser.

You are required to complete each week’s reading *before* attending the lecture.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) apply theoretical concepts to a variety of sexual identities, sexual subcultures, norms, values, behaviours, and desires
- 2) discuss concepts like sexism, racism, and classism, as well as homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia by placing the voices and stories of marginalized, demonized, and oppressed sexual subjectivities at the centre of inquiry
- 3) appraise and evaluate both the information and research that is presented, from a methodological and empirical standpoint
- 4) assess their own value systems, perceptions, and prejudgements of various stigmatized sexualities, sexual subcultures, norms, values, behaviours, and desires

- 5) appreciate differing perspectives presented in the existing research as well as those of their classmates
- 6) positively reflect on the opportunity to engage in community and connection-based learning through informal and unassessed modes of learning

Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor.

Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, videorecording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited.

Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions

Evaluation

Component	Weight	Date	Learning Outcome	Brescia Competencies
Participation	10%	Ongoing	1,2,3,4,5,6	Communication, Self-Awareness and Development, Critical Thinking
Forum posts (5 to do, worth 4% each)	20%	Ongoing (see below)	4,5,6	Communication, Self-Awareness & Development, Critical Thinking
Midterm	20%	Oct 14	1,2,3,4	Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis
Essay	30%	Dec 2	1,2,3,4	Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis, Communication
Final Exam	20%	TBA	1,2,3,4	Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis

Evaluation Details

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
- I know speaking in front of a group is not everyone’s cup of tea; there are ways to participate and show me that you are engaged without feeling pressured to speak – being actively present is key
- **Brescia Competency: Communication, Self-Awareness and Development, Critical Thinking**

Forum Posts (20% - 5 to do, worth 4% each)

- Five times throughout the semester, you will complete a 500-700 word forum post based on the assigned reading or film for that week
- Your posts must be uploaded by 11:55pm on Wednesday night(s), the night before the lecture topic you are writing about. For instance, the lecture on “Sex Work in a Canadian Context” starts on Thursday at 2:30pm, your post must be uploaded the night before by 11:55pm - *before* attending the lecture on that topic
- A new thread will automatically open for each topic one week prior to its due date. This gives you ample time to do the reading, write your response, and post it online. This also gives you limited excuses for a late submission, barring any kind of official medical accommodation
- You are encouraged to upload your post any time after the thread opens, and I would encourage you not to leave it to the last minute
- Please write your post in Word before pasting into OWL. This saves you any chance of losing your post due to a glitch in the system
- The due dates can be found on the following page, in the Weekly Organizer
- A detailed FAQ is also available on OWL. Please read in detail before submitting your first post
- **Brescia Competency: Inquiry and Analysis, Critical Thinking, Communication, Self-Awareness and Development**

Midterm (20%)

- On October 14, you will have 2 hours to write the midterm in class
- The midterm will include short answer questions and one short essay
- If you are accommodated through Accessible Education, you will complete the midterm in a different location with the extra time you are allotted
- More details to come in the first few weeks of the semester
- **Brescia Competency: Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Inquiry and Analysis**

Essay (30%)

- As this is an essay (F) course, you are responsible for writing a 2000-word essay (*not* including the bibliography) on a topic of your choice
- The topic you select must fall under the umbrella of one of the themes of this course, but you are invited to choose something of interest to you!
- Topics must be approved by Mid November
- The essay is due on Dec 2nd in class
- You must also upload an electronic copy so that your essay can run through plagiarism software
- Marking guidelines and writing tips will be made available closer to the due date
- **You must pass the essay component to pass this course**
- **Brescia Competency: Critical Thinking, Inquiry and Analysis, Communication**

Final Exam (20%)

- The exam is *not* cumulative and will only cover topics from the midterm onwards

- On Dec 2 (last day of class), you will receive several potential essay questions, two of which will appear on the actual exam.
- You should prepare for all questions provided as you will not know which two you are writing on until you arrive at the exam
- The exam will be written during the formal exam period
- **Brescia Competency: Critical Thinking, Inquiry and Analysis**

Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% (or more) of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar.

For course components worth *less* than 10% of the total course grade, documentation is not required. Whenever possible students should provide notification in advance of due dates or absence. If advance notification is not possible, the course instructor should be contacted within two business days.

Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 5% per day.

Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report.

Weekly Organizer

Date	Topic	Readings	Assessment
Sept 9	Self-Presentation and Stigma	Bullingham, L. and Vasconcelos, A. 2013. "The presentation of self in the online world': Goffman and the study of online identities." <i>Journal of Information Science</i> , 39(1), pp. 101-112.	
Sept 16	Social Construction of Sexuality	Christiansen, L. and Fischer, N. 2016. "Working in the (social) construction zone." In (eds) Seideman et al. <i>New Sexuality Studies: Third Edition</i> . Pp.19-28.	
Sept 23	(Queer) Youth and Sex Education	Formby, E. 2015. "Limitations of focusing on homophobic, biphobic and transphobic 'bullying' to understand and address LGBT young people's experiences within and beyond school." <i>Sex Education</i> , 15(6), pp. 626-640	Forum Post #1 due before class – by Wed 22 nd at 11:55pm

Sept 30	Sex Work in a Canadian Context	Watch: Buying Sex via National Film Board of Canada (it's free to stream, you just need to set up an account.) Be prepared to discuss in class	Forum Post #2 due before class – by Wed Sept 29 at 11:55pm
Oct 7	Two-Spirit, Bisexuality, and Sexual Fluidity	Robinson, M. 2017. "Two-Spirit and Bisexual People: Different Umbrella, Same Rain." <i>Journal of Bisexuality</i> , 17(1), pp.7-29.	
Oct 14	MIDTERM		
Oct 21	Sexual Health in a Global Context	Malavé S, et al. 2014. "Differences in testing, stigma, and perceived consequences of stigmatization among heterosexual men and women living with HIV in Bengaluru, India" <i>AIDS Care</i> , 26(3), pp. 396-403	Forum Post #3 due before class - by Wed Oct 20 th at 11:55pm
Oct 28	Reproductive Rights and Stigma	Reading TBA Podcast: The Abortion Diary . Listen to any episode that catches your attention. Be prepared to discuss in class.	Forum Post #4 due before class – by Wed Oct 27 at 11:55pm
Nov 1-7	READING WEEK		
Nov 11	Sexual Violence and #MeToo Era	Mendes, K. et al. 2018. "MeToo and the promises and pitfalls of challenging rape culture through digital feminist activism." <i>European Journal of Women's Studies</i> , 25(2), Pp. 236-246.	
Nov 18	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." <i>Theory & Psychology</i> , 27(2), pp. 183-197	Forum Post #5 due before class – by Wed Nov 17 at 11:55pm
Nov 25	Meanings of Wife and Motherhood	Watch: original Stepford Wives (1975) – if this link does not work, I will provide another. Be prepared to discuss in class.	
Dec 2	ESSAY HAND IN EXAM REVIEW		Essays are due! You must also submit a copy on OWL.

2021-22 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12.

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services (https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

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.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form** to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

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 their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) 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. An SMC can be downloaded from http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf ;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](#) can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge 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 are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor (https://www.brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/index.php). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

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.*

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.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

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 and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic 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://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

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

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. 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 Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, 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.

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. PROCEDURED 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 is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

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.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the 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/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

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 obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia** (https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

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 https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php.

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.
