

Sex & Gender Diversity 3845A/B

Instructor: Dr. Paul L. Vasey

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Office Hours: after class or by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Doug VanderLaan (doug.vanderlaan@uleth.ca)

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Lectures: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Section A: 13:40-14:55
Section B: 16:30-17:45

Classrooms: Section A: L 1050
Section B: W 561

Course Description:

In this course, we will explore issues related to sex, gender and sexuality from a bio-social, comparative perspective. As such, both biological and social processes will be discussed. In addition, cross-species, cross-cultural examples will be highlighted in class. We will examine processes that are common to all humans such as universal patterns of sexual attraction and sexual arousal. However, *diversity* is a common theme that runs throughout this course. As such, some of the topics that we will examine in this course include: intersexuality, “third” genders in non-western cultures, transexuality, alternative sexual relationships, masturbation, homosexuality, and sexual paraphilias.

The lectures, readings, and films will deal frankly with controversial issues pertaining to biological sex, gender diversity and sexuality. Some of the course content is sexually explicit. This content may make some people uncomfortable and, as such, unable to follow lectures, complete assignments or attend even classes. Such individuals should seriously consider this possibility before they commit to taking this course.

Required Readings:

- (1) LeVay, S. & S.M. Valente (2006). Human Sexuality. 2nd Edition. Sunderland, Mass.: Sinauer Associates, Inc., Publishers.
- (2) Additional short readings may be placed on reserve in the library.

Course Assessment:

Tests: Three tests will consist of short answer, multiple choice, and/or fill in the blank on the lecture material, the reading material, the films and classroom discussion. The tests are not factually cumulative, but they are conceptually cumulative. In the unlikely event that changes to the test schedule are necessary, students will be notified in advance.

Test 1 (February 14): 35%

Test 2 (March 20): 20%

Test 3 (April 10): 20%

Short Written Assignments (25%):

There will be five short written assignments worth 5% each. In each case, the students will be required to respond to some critical thinking question that related to an assigned film we watch in class, an assigned article that will be read outside of class or some aspect of classroom discussion. Students will be required to write a response to the critical thinking question provided. Responses must be typed, double-spaced, and must not exceed two pages. At the top of each page list your name and the name of the film or the assigned reading. Responses are due in class, one week after they are assigned.

Course Policies:

(1) The following ranges will be employed in assigning grades in this course:

A+	≥ 89.5	B-	69.5-73.4	D	50-56.4
A	84.5-89.4	C+	66.5-69.4	F	≤ 49.9
A-	79.5-84.4	C	63.5-66.4		
B+	76.5-79.4	C-	59.5-63.4		
B	73.5-76.4	D+	56.5-59.4		

In accordance with the University of Lethbridge Calendar,

A = Excellent

B = Good

C = Satisfactory

D = Poor

F = Fail

- (1) If you miss the films, they cannot be borrowed from the instructor and there will not be a second screening.
- (2) My course notes will not be provided to students.
- (3) I will not provide study guides for tests.
- (4) Additional work will not be assigned for those who wish to improve their grades.
- (5) The lectures compliment the material presented in the text book. Some lectures will follow the material in the text book closely, other lectures will focus on material not present in the text book. In some instances, material presented in the text book will not be dealt with in the lectures to any great extent. Regardless, students are responsible for all the assigned reading material and all the material presented in lectures whether or not one overlaps with the other.
- (8) Students can write missed tests if they provide documentation from a doctor stating that they were ill and that their test performance would have been seriously affected on the day of their illness. The documentation must have the doctor's name, address and phone number. Non-medical reasons for missed exams (i.e., a death in the family) must also be supported with appropriate documentation.

- (8) Given the controversial nature of the course material, a diversity of viewpoints will inevitably exist in the classroom. Voicing well-reasoned disagreement with others viewpoints is perfectly fine (even encouraged!); being disrespectful towards others is not.
- (9) If students need to talk about some sexual or gender related issues that are troubling them I strongly recommend they make an appointment with the councilors at the student-counseling center. The Student Counseling Office can be found in TH 218. The number at the counseling center is 317-2845. The website is:
<<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/counselling/index.html>>.