

# Social Construction of Sexuality – SOCY 1006-010

## Recitation Syllabus – SPRING 2010

*\*This syllabus is intended as a supplement to Professor Brown's course syllabus. Please review his syllabus carefully for expected classroom behavior and other important information.*

---

Teaching Assistant: Tamara Williams  
Office Hours: M 11am-12 pm  
W 11 am- 12 pm  
R 2:45 pm- 3:15 pm

Contact info: [Tamara.Williams@colorado.edu](mailto:Tamara.Williams@colorado.edu)  
Location: Ketchum 35 (basement)

### **Recitation times and locations (please memorize your recitation!):**

Section 011: Monday 12:00-12:50pm (DUAN G131)  
Section 012: Wednesday 12:00-12:50pm (DUAN G2B47)  
Section 013: Friday 12:00-12:50pm (DUAN G131)

**Overview:** This course is designed to supplement SOCY 1006 lecture material. My responsibility as the recitation instructor is to provide greater clarity to the issues and/or material that is presented in the larger lecture classes, as well as to help you make sense of the assigned readings. My overarching objective is to help cultivate your sociological imagination, mainly by providing real-life applicability to the material we cover in class. Keeping with this aim, I will endeavor to tailor our class (1) to help you better understand the content of what is covered in class and (2) to have the material make sense in your everyday lives.

I will try, but cannot guarantee that we will cover every reading and lecture during recitation. Please plan your studying accordingly.

### **EVALUATION (Repeated from Course Syllabus, with comments)**

**Exams:** Three 50-question multiple-choice exams will be given during the semester. Each exam is worth 50 points. Rescheduling an exam will incur a five-point (10%) deduction from your original exam score, so plan accordingly.

**Group Presentation:** A final group presentation will be given at the end of the semester. You will be put into groups in lecture and are encouraged to rely upon group members for missed class notes and study partners. This presentation will be 15 minutes long and be worth 50 points. Attendance is mandatory during all presentations. For every presentation day missed you will incur a three-point deduction from your individual group score.

**Recitation Participation:** This semester you may earn 50 points in your recitation. Points are based on six (6) unannounced 10-point quizzes throughout the semester. I will take your five (5) best quiz scores from the semester, which means one "free" missed quiz/absence. Quizzes cannot be made up.

**Sexual Utopia Paper:** A four-page paper based on class themes presenting your vision of a sexual utopia. This paper will be worth 50 points. No late papers will be accepted, and I do not accept emailed work.

### **Point Distribution:**

Tests	150
Recitation	50
Utopia	50
Group Presentation	<u>50</u>
Total	<b>300</b>

**Save all graded work for this course. If you do not have the original graded copy of your work, you can not challenge your final course grade at the end of the semester.**

I encourage you all to be active participants in your learning experience. This means that within my schedule (because I am a student as well), I have an open door policy. Please feel free to discuss issues, questions, or problems with me AS THEY ARISE. It is very difficult to be flexible and fair to the rest of the class AFTER an issue occurs. Also, a few students resist coming to me or Dr. Brown; please do not perceive our efficiency or boundaries as an unwillingness to engage you around your specific concerns.

**Chain of command:** I work for Dr. Brown. All questions about readings, test dates, and course requirements should be directed to him. I will refer questions outside my authority to Dr. Brown. If you ever have specific questions regarding things *I* grade (quizzes/final paper), I will be happy to answer them.

**Attendance:** The nature of this class makes attendance *crucial*, for your own learning as well as other students'. Remember, this class has a (well-deserved) reputation for being extremely challenging. Although I will not take formal attendance in recitation (unless tardiness becomes an issue), you are responsible for all material covered in both lecture and recitation, and as the syllabus for lecture states, group presentation days are MANDATORY.

If you are absent on a recitation day **because of illness**, please conduct ALL of the following steps (to avoid missing quizzes):

- 1) Look for another recitation to attend (listed above). If there is one you can attend, please email me immediately to check for space.
- 2) If there is no recitation you can attend that week, email me immediately to schedule a make-up quiz during office hours.
- 3) If you can neither attend my office hours nor another recitation, email me immediately to let me know of your absence, AND let me know if you can take the quiz in Dr. Brown's office hours.
- 4) Finally, if NONE of these options work for you (and you must indicate this in your email), we can make an appointment to make up the quiz. In general, you will have one week (7 days) from your return to class to make up the quiz.

**Class etiquette:** Recitations are intimate spaces, and it is extremely easy to accidentally distract others. For that reason, I request that during recitation, *all* cell phones and laptops are put away. If there is a compelling reason for having a laptop, please let me know and I will make case-by-case decisions.

**Sensitivity:** We will cover a number of potentially sensitive subject areas throughout this course, and while I encourage everyone to think independently and critically, we have to maintain a courteous and respectful classroom environment. Remember that we critique ideas and not people. I want to reiterate that when it comes to sexuality, I want you to feel free and comfortable. If speaking up in class is a problem, you are free to email me with questions and concerns, or submit anonymous comments in my office in Ketchum 35 (slide under the door or place on my desk). Just make sure you indicate your recitation number on anything you submit.

I answer all emails once daily, so please allow at least 24 hours to receive a response, and I take weekends off. If you have a pressing question regarding an assignment, allow at least 48 hours before it is due to make an appointment or send me an email. Lack of planning is no excuse for late work, or asking me to disrupt or neglect my schoolwork to assist/accommodate your "emergency."

Finally, Dr. Brown and I have worked hard to provide most of the information you need for this class in hard copy, as well as online, with verbal reminders. I reserve the right to ignore all emails with questions that can be answered by the syllabus, writing guidelines, or some other resource we have already provided.

In general, the best order for getting your questions answered is:

- 1) Your syllabi
- 2) CULearn
- 3) Your classmates/group members
- 4) Myself (for non-Matt things)
- 5) Matt (for non-me things)

**Office Hours:** Office hours are for your drop-in use. If I must cancel or amend office hours, I will provide notice via email. I will try to provide that notice at least 24 hours in advance. I highly recommend seeking help earlier rather than later during the semester. If you cannot make office hours because of another class, you **MUST** email me at least 48 hours in advance with three (3) specific times that **YOU** are available, as well as a summary of your concerns. I will try to adjust my schedule to fit these requests, but cannot guarantee my availability outside office hours. Dr. Brown and your classmates are excellent supplements to attending my office hours.

**Schedule:** Make sure that you stay current with the readings listed on Professor Brown's syllabus (available on CULearn). The readings are to be completed **before** you come to recitation. Believe me, you want to read before recitation.

<b>Important Dates:</b>	Jan. 25:	Course Agreement Due (you will be dropped otherwise!)
	Feb. 3:	Constructionism Paper Due
	Feb. 15:	Exam 1
	Mar. 17:	Exam 2
	Apr. 19:	Exam 3
	Apr. 26:	Utopian Vision Paper
	May 1:	Final Group Presentations, 1:30 – 4:00 PM

**Disclaimers:** Once I hand work back to you, please keep all of it in a folder or a safe place of your choosing. If by chance something happens and you need to dispute a grade, it is **your** responsibility to provide the work that was graded. This is consistent with University policy.

**Grades:** I cannot, and will not, give specific grade information to you in any online forum. You must come to me in office hours if you have concerns about specific grades or grading. All information shared online is **public** information, and grades are very private.

ETC: A few final messages:

- 1) Reading is not the same as studying. Simply reading is not enough to do well in this class. You must study and understand the information *from a sociological perspective*. This means:
- 2) Answer questions as a sociologist would. Although you may have a major in a different discipline, the sociological imagination requires a specific manner of thinking about and answering questions. Do not forget that when choosing between questions that seem equally correct.
- 3) It helps if you include the course name and your recitation in any email you send. It is difficult for us to remember every student equally.
- 4) Rubric: Please, please, please- remember that in the grading rubric, a "C" is average. It indicates that you followed directions and did what was asked of you. In subjectively graded work, an "A" is an indicator that the student has gone above and beyond the assignment.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### Honor Code

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid that constitutes academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening or intimidating behavior. All

incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council and those students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member involved and non-academic sanctions given by the Honor Code Council (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Please refer to [www.colorado.edu/honorcode](http://www.colorado.edu/honorcode) to view the specific guidelines. If you have any questions related to this policy, contact the Honor Code Council at [honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu). Honor code violations will result in a 0 for the assignment at a minimum and may also result in failing this course, probation, or expulsion.

### Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to disciplinary measures. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion, and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, nationalities, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, and gender variance (a major part of this class).

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code).

### Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

### Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, you should notify me at least two weeks ahead of time to request special accommodation if you have a conflict. See full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html).

### Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)).