

SOCI 394 ST: Love, Intimacy, and Power
St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Peter Mallory

Office Hours: Tues. 12:00-1:00;

Wed. 2:30-4:30; Thurs. 12:00-1:00

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Lecture Schedule

N2 Block, Tuesday 7:00 to 9:30 PM

Course Description

Major transformations have occurred in the realm of intimacy and in the way people connect and disconnect in their personal lives. But what is intimacy and what forms can it take today? Are intimate relations only personal and private, or do they have broader social significance? In developing a sociological perspective on intimate relations, this course takes as its starting point that intimacy has no single relational form or institutional home in our society. In other words, intimacy can develop not only between romantic partners, family members, and friends, but also in less personal bonds between strangers and acquaintances. Likewise, just as intimacy exceeds any single type of relational form, so it also manifests in and through various social institutions and contexts. To study intimate relations sociologically, we must therefore study how intimate social bonds both shape and are shaped by broad aspects social life, such as: 1) politics, law, and citizenship; 2) expert and scientific discourses; 3) mass media, social media, and new communication technologies; 4) cultural beliefs, representations, and norms; and 5) capitalist economies and consumer culture. Our aim in the course will be to draw on contemporary critical theory and feminist theoretical perspectives to understand how power, inequalities, and social structures continue to shape the possibilities for how people connect and disconnect today.

Required Texts

1. Foucault, Michel. 1990 [original 1976]. *The History of Sexuality*, Volume 1. New York: Vintage Books
2. Illouz, Eva. 2012. *Why Love Hurts*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
3. Turkle, Sherry. 2015. *Recovering Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*. New York: Penguin Books.
4. Other readings are on reserve at the library or posted on Moodle.

Course Evaluation

- 25% Short Analytical Papers (5 at 5% each)
- 20% Midterm Exam
- 20% Essay
- 10% Participation
- 25% Final Exam

Essay:

There will be one essay assignment. A handout will be distributed during class with possible topics. Completed papers will be around 8 pages in length (250 words per page, 12 point standard font, double spaced). It will be due no later than **the last day of class**.

Mid-term Test:

There will be an in-class test on **October 17**. The purpose of the quiz is to give you feedback on your progress in the course.

Exam:

An exam will be scheduled during the regular examination period. It will be closed book and consist of essay questions.

Class Participation:

Active participation is an important part of this course. Participation comprises attendance, active listening, giving other students an opportunity to speak, raising and answering questions, and providing relevant comments on the material discussed in lecture. Please bring the readings to class and be prepared to offer your questions and insights.

Weekly Reading Analyses

There is a template posted to Moodle that you will use to submit a short analytical discussion of the week's readings **five times** throughout the term. Each time you submit, you should fill out the template and print it with your responses to the three questions. In total, your analysis should not exceed 2 double-spaced pages. You must submit your first reading analysis in the first three weeks of class; the rest of the submission dates are up to you, but I encourage you not to leave them to the end of term.

The main purpose of the reading analyses is to help you prepare for lectures and class discussions. For this reason, you will receive comments on your first submission, but after that, only a grade will appear (although you may see check marks to indicate good points or question marks to indicate unclear sections). However, if you have concerns about how you are doing on these assignments, please do not hesitate to see me in my office.

Reading analyses are due at the start of class. You may only hand in an analysis on whatever the current week's readings are, and you can only hand in one in any given week. If there are three required readings in a week, your reading analysis should cover two of the week's assigned readings. Late submissions will not be accepted. It is up to you to organize your submission dates so that you don't run out of weeks.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Late Policy

Late papers submitted without prior permission will incur a late penalty of 5% of the total assignment per day, including weekends.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Since this course requires you to complete a written assignment, you should familiarize yourself with standards for proper referencing of all materials cited (i.e. books, journals, newspaper articles, internet resources etc.). Students who attempt to pass off someone else's work as their own (plagiarism) will be dealt with through the university policy on academic honesty. Please ensure that you fully understand this policy (see section 3.8 in the calendar).

Special Accommodations

If you develop a prolonged illness or encounter a personal crisis that will impact your progress in the course, please contact me as soon as the problem becomes apparent. If you contact me early, we will have a better chance of developing a plan to help you complete the course in a way that is satisfactory to you.

Other Accommodations

If you are a student with physical, learning, or psychiatric disabilities that require reasonable accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, you should speak with me early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Sept 5 **Introductions – Why study love and intimacy?**

Sept 12 **Intimacy, Equality, and the “Pure Relationship”**

Giddens, Anthony. 1992. “Love, Commitment, and the Pure Relationship.” Pp. 49-64 in *The Transformation of Intimacy*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Jamieson, Lynn. 1999. “Intimacy Transformed? A Critical Look at the ‘Pure Relationship’.” *Sociology* 33 (3): 477–94.

Sept 19 **Intimacy beyond the Heterosexual Couple**

Roseneil, Sasha and Shelley Budgeon. 2004. “Cultures of Intimacy and Care beyond ‘the Family’: Personal Life and Social Change in the Early 21st Century.” *Current Sociology* 52 (2): 135–59.

Weeks, Jeffrey, Brian Heaphy, and Catherine Donovan. 2001. *Same Sex Intimacies: Families of Choice and Other Life Experiments*. New York: Routledge Pp. 28-50.

Foucault, Michel. 1997. “Friendship as a Way of Life.” Pp. 135-40 in *Michel Foucault: Ethics, Subjectivity, and Truth*, edited by Paul Rabinow. New York: The Free Press.

Sept 26 **Authenticity and Intimacy in Public and Private**

Hochschild, Arlie. 2012 [original 1983]. *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Pp. 35-55, 185-198.

Taylor, Charles. 1991. “The Sources of Authenticity.” Pp 25-29 in *The Malaise of Modernity*. Toronto: Anansi Press.

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. 1997 [original 1761]. *Julie, or the New Heloise: Letters of Two Lovers Who Live in a Small Town at the Foot of the Alps*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England. [Selections]

Oct 3 **Love and Digital Technology**

Turkle, Sherry. 2016. *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*. New York: Penguin. Pp 3-56

Oct 10 **Love and Digital Technology**

Turkle, Sherry. 2016. *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*. New York: Penguin. Pp. 177-207, 293-333.

Oct 17 **Mid-term Test**

Oct 24 **The Commercialization of Intimate Life**

Hochschild, Arlie Russell. 2003. "The Commercial Spirit of Intimate Life and the Abduction of Feminism: Signs from Women's Advice Books" Pp. 13-29 In *The Commercialization of Intimate Life: Notes from Home and Work*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Bauman, Zygmunt. 2003. *Liquid Love*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [selections]

Oct 31* **Discourse, Power, and Sexuality**

Foucault, Michel. *History of Sexuality* Vol. 1. New York: Vintage Books. Pp. 1-35.

*Friday, Nov 3: Last day to drop course

Nov 7 **Discourse, Power, and Sexuality**

Foucault, Michel. *History of Sexuality*, Vol. 1. Pp. 36-74

Nov 14 **Why Love Hurts -- Marriage Markets and Modern Love**

Illouz, Eva. 2012. *Why Love Hurts*. Cambridge: Polity Press. Pp. 1-58.

Nov 21 **Why Love Hurts -- Choice and Commitment**

Illouz. Pp. 60-109.

Nov 28* **Why Love Hurts -- Love and Recognition**

Illouz. Pp. 109 - 155

*Essay due in Class