

WGST 448: Sexuality in American Culture

Mode of Instruction: Online (Asynchronous)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

<i>Instructor:</i>	Dr. Kelly Watson, she/her
<i>Contact Information:</i>	kelly.watson@mail.wvu.edu
<i>Office Location:</i>	Hodges Hall, Room 505H
<i>Personal Zoom Room:</i>	https://wvu.zoom.us/my/watsonwgst
<i>Office Hours (on-campus and Zoom):</i>	Tuesdays from 1:30pm - 3:00pm Wednesdays from 10:00am - 11:30pm

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Explores changes in sexuality in the United States from the seventeenth century to the present, examining social and cultural struggles and debates over the meaning of sexuality and sexual orientation in American society.

Required Course Materials

1. D'Emilio, John and Estelle B. Freedman. *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*. 3rd edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.
 - a. ISBN: 978-0226923802
2. Foster, Thomas ed. *Documenting Intimate Matters: Primary Sources for a History of Sexuality in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.
 - a. ISBN: 978-0226257471
3. Additional readings will be available on eCampus

GENERAL INFORMATION

Academic Integrity and Honesty

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, instructors will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of their courses. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the West Virginia University [Academic Standards Policy](#). Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see your instructor before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Email Communication and eCampus

E-mail is a useful and convenient medium for us to communicate with one

another; however, I have found that it can also be a source of confusion. With that in mind, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- It is important to be professional in email communication with your instructor and fellow classmates. This means that you should include a proper greeting with my name and title as well as your full name and the course you are in. Be sure to write in complete sentences with proper grammar and spelling. I should not have to decode your message. I reserve the right to ignore emails that are not addressed properly, unclear, confusing, or disrespectful.
- I am always willing to respond to your questions over email, and I will try to respond within 24 hours. Although I strive to make myself available to students whenever possible, I am not accessible 24/7; keep this in mind when it comes time to take an exam or turn in a paper!
- Lastly, if you email me with a question that is clearly answered on the syllabus, I reserve the right to ignore or message or simply respond that you should check the syllabus on your own.

I will use eCampus to post assignment sheets, general announcements, etc., so please check it regularly.

Attendance Policy

Since this is an asynchronous online class, there is no expectation that you meet with your classmates at a specific time. That does not mean, however, that you can simply engage with the course at your discretion. It is essential for your success that you log-in to the course several times a week and keep up with the reading and assignment schedule. While you can decide to post on the discussion board at 3am if you choose to, you must still complete the assignment by the due date.

Asynchronous online classes allow students a lot of freedom to choose what time of the day they devote to the class, but with great freedom, comes great responsibility. It can be very easy to lose track of things in an asynchronous course and miss deadlines. In order to be successful in this course, you have to be organized and diligent so that things do not pile up. Since you don't have to be anywhere at a specific time, that means that you are expected to complete the coursework even if you are in Aruba!

tl:dr – you don't have to show up at a specific time, but you still have to follow the schedule for the course

Office Hours

My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. These are the times that I am guaranteed to be in my office on the 5th floor of Hodges Hall. You don't have to make an appointment; just drop by (a heads up is always welcome, but not required). But as many of you may not be local, or don't want to come to campus, I will also be available at these times on zoom. Just click the link for my personal

zoom room (under “Instructor Information” on eCampus)

Inclusivity at WVU

The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in your classes, please advise your instructors and make appropriate arrangements with [the Office of Accessibility Services](https://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/). (<https://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/>)

More information is available at the [Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](https://diversity.wvu.edu/) (<https://diversity.wvu.edu/>) as well.

Late Work, Make-up and Extra Credit Policy

I will NOT accept late work unless you have obtained prior approval from me or provide proof of the emergency in a timely fashion. If you are having difficulty, please talk to me BEFORE the assignment is due. If you miss class on a day in which we have an in-class assignment, a quiz, or a test, and cannot provide documentation of an emergency I will NOT allow you to make up the work. However, if you communicate to me ahead of time, we may be able to work something out.

It is highly unlikely that I will offer extra credit opportunities, so do not rely on extra credit to achieve your desired grade

Names and Pronouns

I expect all of you to be considerate with your language and to respect the preferences of others. Students will be referred to by the name they prefer, using the appropriate pronouns, and with the correct pronunciation by everyone in this course. Feel free to make me aware by email if your name and/or pronouns differ from what the official WVU registration records indicate to avoid any confusion or awkwardness.

Sexual Misconduct and Resources

West Virginia University does not tolerate sexual misconduct, including harassment, stalking, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or relationship violence [[BOG Rule 1.6](#)]. It is important for you to know that there are resources available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to a member of university administration, faculty, or staff; keep in mind that they have an obligation to report the incident to the [Title IX Coordinator](#).

If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the [Carruth Center](#), 304-293-9355 or 304-293-4431 (24-hour hotline), and locally within the community at the [Rape](#)

[and Domestic Violence Information Center \(RDVIC\)](#), 304- 292-5100 or 304-292-4431 (24-hour hotline).

For more information, please consult [WVU's Title IX Office](#) (<https://titleix.wvu.edu/resources-offices>).

Title IX / Mandated Reporting:

Please be advised that WVU instructors are mandated reporters. Students are welcome to meet with the instructor regarding course or campus issues, problems, or concerns, but depending on the nature of what students disclose to the instructor, the instructor may be required to report the issue to Title IX in accordance with WVU's Title IX policy. For more information, please consult with WVU's Title IX office/website

Withdrawing from the Course:

If you drop this class, you are responsible for withdrawing and verifying your withdrawal. If you do not follow proper withdrawal procedures and you stop attending and/or completing the work, you may receive a failing grade.

Mid-Term Grades

It is WVU policy that all students will receive a mid-term grade to help them gauge their progress in their courses. Your midterm grade will be comprised of all assignments submitted between weeks 1 and 7. This includes: 7 discussion boards and 5 quizzes. The mid-term grade will represent roughly 355 (36%) of the possible points in this course (but may vary slightly depending upon individual circumstances).

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

Readings, Lectures, etc.

You are expected to carefully read all assigned texts as well as watch any videos that are posted in the folder for each week. This is necessary in order for you to be successful in this course. (My college success tip to you: your instructors, if they choose to, can see whether or not you ever clicked on a course link/reading/assignment etc. I don't plan on acting as Big Brother, but the knowledge about how engaged you are with the course can occasionally come in handy. . .).

As this is an online asynchronous course, it is essential that you keep up with the material and don't lose track of things. This is a readings intensive course and you should plan accordingly.

Weekly(ish) Quizzes (10 quizzes x 50 points each = 500 points)

At the end of most weeks, you will complete a brief (20-30 minute) quiz on eCampus that will ask you to reflect on the readings and concepts that we

discussed the last few classes. Only ten of your quizzes will count towards your final grade (in other words, your lowest 2 scores will be dropped). These quizzes are intended to ensure that you are keeping up with the material and not falling behind. Think of it like completing a mid-term examination and a final examination one question at a time.

Weekly Discussion Board Engagement (15 discussions x 20 points each = 300 points)

The class will be subdivided into smaller Discussion Groups, and you are required to engage in conversation with this group each week. I will post discussion prompts that will jumpstart the conversation (Something like: “What connections do you see between this reading/topic and current issues?”). Each student must craft a response to this prompt by Wednesday at 11:59pm and then post at least two engaging (meaning more than something like “I agree with you. That was interesting!”) responses to you classmates no later than Sunday at 11:59pm. While there are minimum requirements (1 primary response and 2 secondary responses), there are no maximums, so feel free to post as often as you would like. As there are 16 discussion board weeks, your lowest score will be dropped.

Final Essay

Each student will complete a final written project in this course. More information will be provided on a separate assignment sheet.

Assessment Breakdown

A:	1000 – 900	(100% - 90%)
B:	899 – 800	(89.9% - 80%)
C:	799 – 700	(79.9% - 70%)
D:	699 – 600	(69.9% - 60%)
F:	599 – 0	(59.9% - 0%)

	<u>POINTS POSSIBLE</u>
Weekly quizzes (10 x 50 points each)	500 points
Discussion Board (15 x 20 points each)	300 points
Final Essay	200 points

	1000 points

SCHEDULE

Assignments & schedule may be adjusted at the discretion of the Instructor
[EC] indicates that the reading is available on eCampus

Readings/Assignments must be completed by the date listed

TASKS (Readings and Videos)	ASSIGNMENTS
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WEEK 1

Wednesday August 18 – Sunday August 22

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Syllabus and Requirements• Watch Intro Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post Introduction on Week 1 Discussion Board by Saturday at 11:59pm
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WEEK 2

Monday August 23 – Sunday August 29

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: chapter 1 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D'Emilio & Freedman• <u>Read</u>: Selection from Roscoe <i>Changing Ones</i> [EC]• <u>Watch</u>: Week 2 Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 2 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm)• Take Quiz 1 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm)
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WEEK 3

Monday August 30 – Sunday September 5

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: chapter 2 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D'Emilio & Freedman• <u>Read</u>: pages 7-22 (Part 1, Documents 1-7) of <i>Documenting Intimate Matters</i> by Foster• <u>Watch</u>: Week 3 Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 3 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm)• Take Quiz 2 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm)
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WEEK 4

Tuesday September 7 – Sunday September 12
(LABOR DAY – Monday September 6)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: chapter 3 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman • <u>Read</u>: pages 23-38 (Part 1, Documents 8-14) of <i>Documenting Intimate Matters</i> by Foster • <u>Watch</u>: Week 4 Lecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 4 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm) • NO QUIZ!
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<p><u>WEEK 5</u> Monday September 13 – Sunday September 19</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: “Taking the Trade: Abortion & Gender Relations . . .” by Hughes Dayton [EC] • <u>Read</u>: chapter 4 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman • <u>Watch</u>: Week 5 Lecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 5 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm) • Take Quiz 3 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm)

<p><u>WEEK 6</u> Monday September 20 – Sunday September 26</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: chapter 5 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman • <u>Read</u>: pages 39-57 (Part 2, Documents 1-7) of <i>Documenting Intimate Matters</i> by Foster • <u>Watch</u>: Week 6 Lecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 6 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm) • Take Quiz 4 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm)

<p><u>WEEK 7</u> Monday September 27 – Sunday October 3</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: chapter 6 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman • <u>Read</u>: “The Late Victorians and the Spermatic Political Economy” by Melody and Peterson [EC] • <u>Watch</u>: Week 7 Lecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 7 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm) • Take Quiz 5 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm)

WEEK 8

Monday October 4 – Sunday October 10

FALL BREAK October 7-8

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: chapter 7 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman• <u>Read</u>: pages 65-76 (Part 2, Documents 8-14) of <i>Documenting Intimate Matters</i> by Foster• <u>Watch</u>: Week 8 Lecture | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 8 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm)• NO QUIZ! |
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WEEK 9

Monday October 11 – Sunday October 17

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: chapter 8 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman• <u>Read</u>: pages 78-101 (Part 3, Documents 1-7) of <i>Documenting Intimate Matters</i> by Foster• <u>Watch</u>: Week 9 Lecture | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 9 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm)• Take Quiz 6 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm) |
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WEEK 10

Monday October 18 – Sunday October 24

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: chapter 9 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman• <u>Read</u>: pages 102-125 (Part 3, Documents 8-14) of <i>Documenting Intimate Matters</i> by Foster• <u>Watch</u>: Week 10 Lecture | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 10 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm)• Take Quiz 7 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm) |
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WEEK 11

Monday October 25 – Sunday October 31

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: chapter 10 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman• <u>Read</u>: chapter 11 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman• <u>Watch</u>: Week 11 Lecture | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 11 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm)• Take Quiz 8 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm) |
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WEEK 12

Monday November 1 – Sunday November 7

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: chapter 12 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman• <u>Read</u>: pages 144-165 (Part 4, Documents 6-11) of <i>Documenting Intimate Matters</i> by Foster• <u>Watch</u>: Week 12 Lecture | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 12 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm)• Take Quiz 9 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm) |
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WEEK 13

Monday November 8 – Sunday November 14

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: chapter 13 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman• <u>Read</u>: “‘Who is A Homosexual?’ . . .” by Canady [EC]• <u>Watch</u>: Week 13 Lecture | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 13 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm)• Take Quiz 10 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm) |
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WEEK 14

**Monday November 15 – Sunday November 21
(FALL BREAK: Saturday November 20 – 28)**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Read</u>: chapter 14 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman• <u>Read</u>: chapter 15 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman• <u>Watch</u>: Week 14 Lecture | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 14 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm)• Take Quiz 11 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm) |
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WEEK 15

FALL BREAK: Saturday November 20 - 28

WEEK 16

Monday November 29 – Sunday December 5

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: chapter 16 of <i>Intimate Matters</i> by D’Emilio & Freedman • <u>Watch</u>: <i>Paris is Burning</i> (https://libwvu.on.worldcat.org/v2/oclc/1230158219) • <u>Read</u>: selection from <i>Understanding Asexuality</i> by Bogaert [EC] • <u>Watch</u>: Week 16 Lecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 16 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by Saturday at 11:59pm) • Take Quiz 12 (opens on Thursday at 5pm and closes Sunday at 11:59pm)
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<p><u>WEEK 17</u> Monday December 6 – Thursday December 9</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: pages 204-226 (Part 5, Documents 8-15) of <i>Documenting Intimate Matters</i> by Foster • <u>Watch</u>: <i>Virgin Tales</i> (https://wvu.kanopy.com/video/virgin-ales) and/or <i>Sexy Baby</i> (https://wvu.kanopy.com/video/sexy-baby) • <u>Watch</u>: Week 17 Lecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 17 Discussion Board (post primary response by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Secondary posts by <u>Thursday</u> at 11:59pm) • NO QUIZ!

<p><u>FINALS WEEK</u> Monday December 13 – Friday December 17</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Student Evaluation of Instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Essay Due no later than Wednesday Dec. 15 at 11:59 PM