



# GSWS 310: DISCIPLINING SEX: FEMINIST SCIENCE STUDIES AND SOCIOBIOLOGY

(BreadthHum/Social Sci/Science)

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COURSE TIME AND LOCATION: Thursdays 16:30-18:20; BLU 10021

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

How many sexes are there? Are sex differences determined by the brain, by hormones, by genes, by genitals, by social environment, by some combination of these factors, or by something else entirely? Is sexuality a product of nature, nurture, or both? Is biological sex fixed or can it change over time? What are the values, assumptions, and beliefs that shape these questions and what is at stake in the answers we provide?

This third-year course critically examines the social, material, political, and technological intersections of science and sex. It asks: What do we know about sex and sexuality, what don't we know, and how do we come to know (or not know) it?

Drawing together readings and media from biology, anthropology, philosophy, history, feminist and indigenous science studies, queer theory, critical race theory, and the literary and performing arts, we will explore a range of questions, including but not limited to: What is the biology as a scientific matter and as bodily matter of sex and gender? What can (or can't) animals such as promiscuous primates or monogamous voles tell us about human sex, gender, and sexuality? How are scientific values such as objectivity, discovery, or universality engaged in producing and naturalizing gendered, classed, or racialized differences? What other approaches to thinking and doing sex exist within and beyond the sciences and how might they alter, challenge or subvert dominant regimes of knowledge production about sexual difference? How do the social contexts and meanings of categories such as monogamy, masculinity, or asexuality shape scientific research questions and practices? In turn, how does scientific research influence our understandings and experiences of these categories and the people (or animals or plants or bacteria) who fall into with them? What role do technologies such as hormones, PET scans, or vibrators play in shaping our definitions and experiences of our bodies' sex?

## EDUCATIONAL GOALS:

For more detailed information please see the GSWS website:

- x Lab Notebook: 30% (5 entries @ 6 points each)
- x Implosion Project: 45% (15% maps, 30% prepared presentation recording, prezi, video, or powerpoint - live presentation not required)

## PREREQUISITES/COURSE NOTES

Prerequisite: 30 units. BreadthHum/Social Sci/Science.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.

IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW SFU'S ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICIES  
[HTTP://WWW.SFU.CA/STUDENTS/ACADEMICINTEGRITY.HTML](http://www.sfu.ca/students/academicintegrity.html)