

Current Debates about Sexuality, Spring 2013
Phil 340-02 CRN 32855
T&Th 1-2:50 Bldg 66, Rm 201
Lherr@csupomona.edu

Dr. Lowell Herr
Ofc: Bldg 1-319, Hrs: Tu/Th 10-12:00

Text: Reader (purchase at Ask Copy & Printing)¹

Course Objective: The term “sex” is used in many ways. A person is a sex, can have sex, and can be sexy. Sex and sexiness seem to all around us, and are powerful instruments of marketers of all kinds. Sexuality is a battleground of competing values. This class aims to clarify the power of things sexual over us. Students will learn about the influence of some philosophers on our culturally imbedded ideas about sex, and how these ideas made their way—for better or worse-- into religious dogma and practice up to the present. We will examine sex related practices and controversies from the standpoint point of morality and ethics. Students will be exposed to scholarly work from many disciplines, and will further their skills of critical thinking and articulating ideas orally and in writing.

Course Description: We will study classical, medieval and modern philosophers as well as contemporary scholars from philosophy and social science. Students will contribute presentations. Topics will include sex and eastern and western religions, sex and psychology, sex and gender, the nature of masculinity and the femininity, sex and reproductive justice, sex and feminism, gay marriage, sex and the media, pornography, prostitution, and several others.

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CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS

4/2: Introduction:

4/4: Sex in Greek and Chinese Philosophy. Assignment: Reader Chapter 1

4/9: Groups meet with Instructor. Read chapter corresponding to your group’s topic. Read the Presentation Guidelines (“presentation” link in BB)

4/11: Sex and Christian Philosophy. Read Chapter 2

4/16: Celibacy and Spirituality. Read Chapter 3. *Presentation: Celibacy and the*

¹ Ask Copy and Printing, 3530 W. Temple Ave. #D, Pomona (909) 594-9490

Sexual Abuse Crisis

4/18: Marriage, Monogamy and Adultery. Chapter 4. *Pres. The Marriage Ideal.*

4/23: Casual Sex. Chapter 5. *Pres: Is Casual Sex Good for You?*

4/25: Homosexuality. Chapter 6. No presentation. Exercise: How Credible Survey

4/30: Same-Sex Marriage and Non-Traditional Families. Chapter 7. *Pres: Gay and Lesbian Parenting Rights*

5/2: Sex, Women and Justice. Chapter 8. *Pres: Are Today's Women Oppressed?*

5/7: Masculinity. Chapter 9. *Pres: Is Masculinity Toxic?* Exercise: Masculinity and Femininity Surveys

5/9: Sex and Evolutionary Psychology. Chapter 10. No presentation. Exercise: How Credible Survey. (This session will include review for the midterm exam)

5/14: MIDTERM EXAM

5/16: Gender. Chapter 11. *Pres: Do we Learn our Genders?*

5/21: Strip Clubs: Chapter 12. *Pres: Stripping and Empowerment* . Exercise: How Credible Survey

5/23: Porno-chic and Pop Culture. Reader Chapter 13. *Pres: Super-Sexy Pop Culture*

5/28: Pornography. Chapter 14. *Pres: Is Pornography harmful to women's equality?*

5/30: Prostitution. Chapter 15. *Pres: Is Prostitution a valuable Service to Society?*

6/4: Rape and Sexual Harassment. Chapter 16. *Pres: Seduction & Rape, Flirtation & Harassment: The Boundaries* Exercise: Sexual Harassment Survey

6/6: Epilogue: Sexual, Gender, and Reproductive Justice. Chapter 17 :

At this session you'll receive a copy of the take-home final, find out whether you have to take it, and if you don't take it, what your grade will be.