

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Gender and Sexuality Studies
Course Code	51112
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	GSPS-05/A
Language	English
Degree Course	Bachelor in Social Work
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	dr. Marina Della Rocca, Marina.DellaRocca2@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/home/research/competence-centre-social-work-social-pedagogy-social-policy/team-and-body/person/35104
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
Course Year/s	3 (L-39 Social Work) 2 (L-19 Social Education)
CP	4
Teaching Hours	30
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	70
Planned Office Hours	12
Contents Summary	<p>The course explores how gender and sexuality are defined, perceived, and negotiated and how categories of gender and sexuality inform and shape our understanding of the world. We will also explore the origins and forms of women's oppression, and the meanings and social implications of patriarchy and gender-based violence. We will also look at how gender and sexuality intersect with other categories such as race, class and ethnicity through a decolonial lens, and examine how discourses of gender and sexuality are linked to power and inequality applying an intersectional perspective. Finally, we will explore studies and</p>

	approaches to gender and sexuality in the field of social work.
Course Topics	The course is divided into three parts. The first part focuses on the most prominent theories in the fields of gender and sexuality, as well as on understanding the social construction of women's oppression and gender-based violence. The second part considers these issues from an intersectional perspective, exploring how different forms of oppression interact with each other in relation to gender and sexuality. The third part examines social work's approach to issues related to gender and sexuality, including the discrimination and violence that arise from them. The course concludes exploring some narratives of women and LGBTQ+ individuals that address various forms of oppression. Throughout the course, writing and reflection activities related to the topics discussed are provided, along with supplementary materials for further exploration.
Keywords	gender, sexuality, gender-based violence, intersectionality, LGBTQI+
Recommended Prerequisites	
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	The optional course takes place online in a synchronous mode.
Mandatory Attendance	In accordance with the regulation
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	<p>This is an introductory course that aims to provide a general overview and insight into scientific content on gender and sexuality. Specifically, it focuses on how issues related to gender, and sexuality shape social behaviors, influencing our perceptions of the self and others, and impacting lived experiences. By the end of the course, students will have acquired the tools to navigate the spectrum of gender and sexuality and have an overview of their application in the studies of social work.</p> <p>Following the Dublin Descriptors, the learning outcomes are the following:</p> <p>Knowledge and Understanding: Demonstrate a broad understanding of the various tools and approaches for analysing gender, sex, and sexuality; develop a critical understanding of the intersections between gender and sexuality with race, class, and ethnicity; gain a deep comprehension of both feminist and queer perspectives on the social and cultural construction of gender, sex,</p>

	<p>and sexuality; develop a critical understanding of intersectionality and adopt a decolonial perspective on issues related to gender, sexuality and gender-based violence; acquire a fundamental understanding of the social work approach to addressing the oppression of women and discrimination against LGBTQI+ individuals.</p> <p>Applying knowledge and understanding: To examine the implications of gender and sexuality in relation to the oppression of women, gender-based violence, and heteronormativity, as well as their intersections with race, class, and ethnicity. The course will explore societal and institutional systems of power, privilege, oppression, and marginalization. Students will be required to demonstrate their ability to apply the knowledge gained from the theoretical perspectives presented during the course to issues related to the oppression of women and LGBTQI+ people, and to understand the implications for social work.</p> <p>Making judgments: To develop consciousness about the gendered construction of the self and the others through a deepened understanding of how social, cultural, and biological categories shape our lives and our understandings of the world; students need to demonstrate a critical view of what they have learned and show the ability to think differently on the topics of gender and sexuality.</p> <p>Communication skills: To cultivate a language framework for thoughtfully articulating the critical vocabulary in the field of gender, sexuality, and feminist studies; students need to articulate in a clear, understandable, and linear way all the knowledge they have acquired, using the specific vocabulary of the discipline appropriately.</p> <p>Learning skills: To understand and be able to use the feminist and intersectional perspectives as tools for self-reflection, as well as frameworks for discussing and comprehending narratives related to the experiences of oppressed women, survivors of gender-based discrimination and violence, and the discriminations faced by LGBTQI+ people. Students are expected to make critical and relevant use of the concepts learned, applying appropriate categories for analyzing specific social phenomena related to gender and sexuality</p>
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning	

Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	<p>Written and Oral</p> <p>Written Exam:</p> <p>For attending students: a written essay (3.000 words) The date of delivery will be set during the course. For non-attending students: a written essay (5.000 words).</p> <p>The date of delivery will be set during the course.</p> <p>Oral exam:</p> <p>For attending and non-attending students: the final oral exam consists of a discussion about the written essay, the course contents and the selected bibliography.</p> <p>Non-attending students are advised to contact the teacher.</p> <p>Attending students who participate actively in discussions will receive extra credit in the final evaluation. It will be assessed the capacity to express and argue an opinion utilizing appropriate course instruments, and the accuracy of their contributions.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Written exam 70%. Relevant to the essay is the ability to argue and describe the phenomena analyzed, logical structure, accuracy, and ability to reflect and to think critically.</p> <p>Oral Exam 30%. Relevant for the oral exam is the ability to argue and to summarize in one's own words, reflection, and critical analysis skills.</p>
Required Readings	<p>Attending students:</p> <p>1. Select one of the following articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Butler, J. (2015). <i>Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity</i> Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. Pp. 8-22 (Chapter 1, Sections II, III, IV) · Ortner, S. B. (2022). Patriarchy. <i>Feminist Anthropology</i>, 3(2), 307–314. <p>2. Crenshaw, K. (1991). Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color. <i>Stanford Law Review</i>, 43(6), 1241-1299 (from p. 1241 to p. 1265)</p> <p>3. Select one of the following articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Collins C.C. (2011). Child welfare and domestic violence worker's

cultural models of domestic Violence: an ethnographic examination. In J. Wies, H.J. Haldane (eds.), *Anthropology at the front lines of gender-based violence* (pp. 107-128). Vanderbilt University Press.

· Monaco, S. (2022). Different in Diversity: An Intersectional Reading of LGBT Parenting. *Culture e Studi del Sociale*, vol. 7(2), 234-252.

· Tecu E. (2025). Reframing sexual violence against Indigenous women as genocide: Mayan women's experiences of sexual offenses during Guatemala's Armed Conflict. *Culture and Organization*, 31(2), 123–142.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/14759551.2024.2388130>

4. Select one of the following readings:

· Fazlalizadeh, T. (2019). Introduction. In T. Fazlalizadeh, *Stop Telling Women to Smile. Stories of Street Harassment and How We're taking Back Our Power* (pp. VII-XXIII), New York: Seal Press.

· Lamia H. (2023). Allah, In *Hijab butch blues: A memoir* (pp. 52-65). Random House Publishing Group.

Non attending students:

1. Butler, J. (2015). *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. Pp. 8-22.

2.Ortner, S. B. (2022). Patriarchy. *Feminist Anthropology*, 3(2), 307–314.

3.Crenshaw, K. (1991). Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color. *Stanford Law Review*, 43(6), 1241-1299. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1229039> (from p. 1241 to p. 1265)

4. Nothdurfter, U., & Nagy, A. (2017). Yet another minority issue or good news for all? Approaching LGBT issues in European social

	<p>work education. <i>European Journal of Social Work</i>, 20(3), 374–386.</p> <p>5. Select one of the following articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Collins C.C. (2011). Child welfare and domestic violence worker's cultural models of domestic violence: an ethnographic examination. In J. Wies, H.J. Haldane (eds.), <i>Anthropology at the front lines of gender-based violence</i> (pp. 107-128). Vanderbilt University Press. · Monaco, S. (2022). Different in Diversity: An Intersectional Reading of LGBT Parenting. <i>Culture e Studi del Sociale</i>, vol. 7(2), 234-252. · Tecu E. (2025). Reframing sexual violence against Indigenous women as genocide: Mayan women's experiences of sexual offenses during Guatemala's Armed Conflict. <i>Culture and Organization</i>, 31(2), 123–142. https://doi.org/10.1080/14759551.2024.2388130 <p>6. Select one of the following readings:</p> <p>Fazlalizadeh, T. (2019). Introduction. In T. Fazlalizadeh, <i>Stop Telling Women to Smile. Stories of Street Harassment and How We're taking Back Our Power</i> (pp. VII-XXIII), New York: Seal Press.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Lamia H. (2023). Allah, In <i>Hijab butch blues: A memoir</i> (pp. 52-65). Random House Publishing Group.
Supplementary Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abu-Lughod, L. (2002). Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others. <i>American Anthropologist</i>, 104(3), 783–790. • Butler, J. (2015). <i>Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity</i>. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group (pp. 175-193) • Della Rocca, M., & Zinn, D. L. (2019). Othering Honor-Based Violence: The Perspective of Antiviolence Operators in Northern Italy. <i>Human Organization</i>, 78(4), 325–334.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamia H. (2023). Musa, In <i>Hijab butch blues: A memoir</i> (pp. 68-87). Random House Publishing Group • Lorde, A. (1997). The Uses of Anger. <i>Women's Studies Quarterly</i>, 25(1/2), 278–285. • Nothdurfter, U., & Nagy, A. (2017). Yet another minority issue or good news for all? Approaching LGBT issues in European social work education. <i>European Journal of Social Work</i>, 20(3), 374–386. https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2017.1314933 • Rubin, G. S. (1999). Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality. In <i>In Richard Parker, & Peter Aggleton, Culture, Society and Sexuality: A Reader</i> (pp. 143–178). Routledge. • The Combahee River Collective, A black feminist Statement (pp.116-122) + Feinberg L., Transgender liberation: a movement whose time has come (pp. 148-158). In C. McCann & K. Seung-Kyung, <i>Feminist theory reader. Local and global perspectives</i>. Routledge <p>Additional texts or changes will be communicated during the course.</p>
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Gender equality