

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	Prof. Giuseppe Sciortino, Giuseppe.Sciortino@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/45074
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
Course Year/s	2 (L-39 Social Work)
CP	4
Teaching Hours	24
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	76
Planned Office Hours	12
Contents Summary	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 approaches to gender and sexuality in the field of social work.

Course Topics	The course explores the ways in which gender and sexuality are defined, perceived, and negotiated in various social settings. A related topic will be to understand if, and how, categories of gender and sexuality inform and shape our understanding of the world. We will focus on how gender and sexuality have been defined in different social periods and different regions of the world. We will explore studies and approaches to gender and sexuality in the field of social work.
Keywords	gender sexuality sexual orientation personal identity
Recommended Prerequisites	The course may be attended by anyone interested. A preliminary reading of the required texts may facilitate the participation in class and the quality of the debate
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	The course takes place online in a synchronous mode. It will be a mix of frontal teaching and (hopefully) debate. No recording is allowed in whatever form.
Mandatory Attendance	In accordance with the regulation
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	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. Following the Dublin Descriptors, the learning outcomes are the following: 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, 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. 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. 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. 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. 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
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	A related goal is to make the student able to choose for himself/herself the theoretical stances on the key debates on gender and sexuality. To 'choose' in this context implies having a

	sufficient understanding of the stakes involved, sufficient knowledge of the main positions in the debate, and the ability to justify one's theoretical preferences in the light of alternatives.
Assessment	The exam will be written and in physical co-presence. The student will have to pass a written exam, made of 4 open questions, in 90 minutes. All questions will be related to the required readings. Students who have participate actively in the (virtual) classrom discussion will receive up to 5 additional points in the final evaluation.
Evaluation Criteria	In all cases, the assessment wil employ the following criteria : (a) the detailed knowledge of the required readings; (b) the capacity to express and argue an opinion utilizing appropriate course instruments, and (c) the accuracy of their contributions.
Required Readings	Brubaker, Rogers. "Gender identity: The career of a category." <i>Theory and Social Inquiry</i> 1.1 (2025). Brubaker, Rogers. "The Dolezal affair: race, gender, and the micropolitics of identity." <i>Ethnic and racial studies</i> 39.3 (2016): 414-448. Marks, Jonathan, <i>Men and women are both from Earth</i>, chapter 7 of Jonathan Marks, <i>Understanding Human Diversity</i>, Cambridge UP. Hacking, Ian. "Making up people." <i>Forms of desire</i>. Routledge, 2013. 69-88 (also https://www.icesi.edu.co/blogs/antro_conocimiento/files/2012/02/Hacking_making-up-people.pdf)
Supplementary Readings	Moeller, Hans-Georg. <i>The Enigma of Gender: Why Identity Is Neither Individual Nor Essential</i>. Columbia University Press, 2026. 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 Additional texts or changes will be suggested during the course.
Further Information	Non-attending students are advised, if they find it useful, to

	contact the teacher early in the course to prepare a personalized preparation plan.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Good health and well-being, Reduced inequalities, Gender equality