

Sex, Politics, Health (POL3045)
Prof. Samuel R. Galloway
Tue. & Fri. 2.30. – 4.10
Office Hours: Tue. & Fri. 12.30. – 2.00.

Contents:

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Course Summary | 7. Discussion Board |
| 2. Course Objective | 8. Intellectual Honesty/Plagiarism |
| 3. Required and Supplemental Texts | 9. Attendance |
| 4. Grading | 10. Respectful Discourse and Conduct |
| 5. Writing Assignments | 11. Accessibility Statement |
| a. First Paper | 12. Proviso |
| b. Final Paper | 13. Course Schedule |
| 6. In-Class Presentation | |

1. Course Summary:

This course offers an examination of the intersections of sex and health in American political life. We will explore how issues of sex and health are treated as political matters shaped by public opinion, law, and institutional policy. In the process, we will consider various theories for understanding the politics of sex and health, specifically as it forges new forms of sociality and mobilizes political participation. We will consider both historical and contemporary examples of sex and health factoring into political affairs, from reproductive justice to vaccinations, to explore how life itself functions within American political power relations, legal rights regimes, and decision-making processes.

2. Course Objectives:

Completion of this course will secure an introduction to the dynamic relationship between sex, politics, and health in contemporary American political life. It will also provide a survey of interdisciplinary approaches to understanding the role of sex and health in political science, gender and sexuality studies, and law. Finally, skills such as critical reading, analytical writing, and collaborative discussion will be reinforced and expanded.

3. Required Texts:

All texts are available on Moodle.

Please be sure to come to class with the assigned texts and materials.

- = required readings.
- o = optional readings.

In addition to the assigned readings and resources on Moodle, it is expected that you will watch at least the headlines segment (the first 10 – 15 minutes) of the daily weekday broadcast of Democracy Now!, which begins live at 8am and is archived by 9am: www.DemocracyNow.org.

4. Grading:

Attendance: 20%.

Class Participation/Discussion Board: 20%.

Sex, Politics, Health (POL3045)
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Final Paper: 30% (see below for details).

In-Class Presentation: 15% (see below for details).

First Paper: 15% (see below for details).

5(a). First Paper—Critical Reconstruction of an Argument:

The first written assignment will be 750 – 1000 words in length (approximately 3-4 double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, **margins justified** pages). Papers either over or under this range will not receive full consideration. The goal of this essay is to reconstruct an argument encountered in the readings on ideology and to conclude with a critical evaluation of the argument thus reconstructed. The format of this essay is 75% reconstruction, 25% critical evaluation.

5(b). Final Paper—Critical Construction of an Original Argument:

The objective of the final paper assignment is to provide students with the opportunity to conduct original research about a topic of their choosing regarding the relationship between politics and the media using the resources provided by the course.

The final written assignment will 1750 – 2000 words in length (approximately 7 – 8 double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, and **margins justified** pages). Papers either over or under this range will not receive full consideration. The goal of this essay is to critically construct an original argument informed by engagement with readings in the class.

A specific grading rubric for the final paper will be circulated in advance of the assignment.

A paper proposal of 150-200 words must be submitted and approved in advance. A sample proposal will be provided.

6. In-Class Presentation:

One in-class presentation will be delivered over the course of the semester. The purpose of the in-class presentation is to allow students to lead the classroom discussion by framing the material under consideration. Like the first written assignment, successful presentations will reconstruct and critically evaluate an essential aspect of the reading by making it accessible to the class for further discussion. Each presentation should be about 5 – 7 minutes in duration (approximately 2.5 – 3.5 pages long, or 500 – 750 words). Presentations must be submitted for approval 48 hours in advance of the class. Thus, a presentation on Friday must be submitted by Tuesday (5pm) and a presentation on Tuesday must be submitted by Saturday (5pm) for approval and any required revisions.

7. Discussion Board

One discussion board post per week is expected, for a total of 13 discussion board posts. Six (6) of these posts can be replies to other posts. A discussion board post raises a question inspired by

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the reading and shares it with the class in advance of our meeting. A successful discussion board post poses possible answers to the question it raises and invites others to either help adjudicate or share additional possibilities. The discussion board post is factored into your class participation grade.

8. Intellectual Honesty/Plagiarism:

Simply: *do not* plagiarize. If there are any questions whatsoever about the proper way to cite a source, please consult me in the final instance. Proven plagiarism will lead to automatic failure of the course and will be referred to the College administration for additional sanction.

9. Attendance:

Because of the importance of attendance, absences will be excused only in documented cases of illness, personal emergency, or religious observance. I expect *prior notification* of your absence (via email) and reserve the right to request additional documentation. After the second unexcused absence, each additional unexcused absence will result in a deduction of *one full letter grade* from your participation grade.

10. Unwavering Expectations for Respectful Discourse and Conduct:

Under no circumstances will disrespectful discourse or conduct be welcome in our classroom. We will treat one another with respect, patience, and understanding. Learning inherently involves the risk of allowing knowledge to change your life, and this requires courage. We will all exercise an unwavering commitment to encouraging one another in this process.

11. Accessibility Statement:

The Office of Disability Resources collaborates directly with students who identify with disabilities to create accommodation plans, including testing accommodations, in order for students to access course content and validly demonstrate learning. For students who may require accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Resources as soon as possible: 914-251-6035, ODR@purchase.edu (Student Services Building, #316A), www.purchase.edu/odr

12. Provisos:

Revision of Syllabus: This syllabus is subject to revision. Any changes will be announced in advanced in class and via email.

Emails Responses: I will do my best to reply to your email within 24 hours. If you have not heard back from me within 24 hours, please feel free to follow-up. Be sure to allow yourself enough time to receive a timely reply.

13. Class Schedule:

Introduction:

Week One

Sex, Politics, Health (POL3045)
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Tuesday, 9/1: Introduction: “The Intersecting and Intersectional Politics of Sex and Health.”

Situating the Politics of Sex and Health in Theory

Friday, 9/4: Positive and Negative Liberties

- Fahs, Breanne. “‘Freedom to’ and ‘freedom from’: A New Vision for Sex-Positive Politics.” *Sexualities* 17, no. 3 (March 2014): 267–290.

Week Two:

Tuesday, 9/8: Natural Law

- Thomson J.J. (1976) “A Defense of Abortion.” In: Humber J.M., Almeder R.F. (eds) *Biomedical Ethics and the Law*. Springer, Boston, MA, pp 39-54.

Friday, 9/11: Reproductive Justice

- Price, Kimala. “What Is Reproductive Justice? How Women of Color Activists Are Redefining the Pro-Choice Paradigm.” *Meridians* (Middletown, Conn.) 10, no. 2 (2010): 42–65.

Situating Sex in an Intersectional Framework

Week Three

Tuesday, 9/15: Designating Sex in the Law

- Siegel, Reva B. 2013. “Equality and Choice: Sex Equality Perspectives on Reproductive Rights in the Work of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.” *Columbia Journal of Gender & Law*, March, 63–80.

Friday, 9/18: Designating Sex Beyond Binaries

- Currah, Paisley, and Lisa Jean Moore. ““We Won't Know Who You Are”: Contesting Sex Designations in New York City Birth Certificates.” *Hypatia* 24, no. 3 (2009): 113-35.

Week Four

Tuesday, 9/22: Designating Deviance in the Law: the Case of Sodomy.

- Currah, Paisley. "Editor's Introduction." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44, no. 1 (2011): 13-16.
- Fischel, Joseph J. “Sodomy’s Penumbra.” *Journal of Homosexuality* 64, no. 14 (December 22, 2017): 2030–56.

Sex, Politics, Health (POL3045)
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Friday, 9/25:

- Dhamoon, Rita Kaur. "Considerations on Mainstreaming Intersectionality." *Political Research Quarterly* 64, no. 1 (2011): 230-43.

Institutions

Week Five

- **Grading Rubric and Prompts for First Written Assignment Out**
- **Week Five Snap-Shot Evaluation Out**

Tuesday, 9/29: Federal Agencies

- Steinbrook, Robert, M.D. "Science, Politics, and Federal Advisory Committees." *The New England Journal of Medicine* 350, no. 14 (Apr 01, 2004): 1454-60.

Friday, 10/2: The American Medical Association

- Whooley, Owen. "Organization Formation as Epistemic Practice: The Early Epistemological Function of the American Medical Association." *Qualitative Sociology* 33, no. 4 (12, 2010): 491-511.

Week Six

- **Optional Writing Workshop during Office Hours**

Tuesday, 10/6: Pharmaceuticals

- Watkins, Elizabeth Siegel, PhD. "How the Pill Became a Lifestyle Drug: The Pharmaceutical Industry and Birth Control in the United States since 1960." *American Journal of Public Health* 102, no. 8 (08, 2012): 1462-72.
 - Preciado, Paul B. "Pharmaco-pornographic Politics: Towards a New Gender Ecology." *Parallax* (Leeds, England) 14, no. 1 (2008): 105–117.

Friday, 10/9: Sex and Health in Religious Institutions

- Holmes, K. G., & Garand, J. C. (2018). "The clash of rights: Explaining attitudes toward a religious exemption to the HHS contraception mandate." *PS, Political Science & Politics*, 51(2), 358-369.

Cases:

Week Seven: *Reproductive Justice*

- **First Written Assignment Due**

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Sex, Politics, Health (POL3045)
Prof. Samuel R. Galloway
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- Ross, Loretta and Ricki Solinger. *Reproductive Justice: an Introduction*. (Oakland: University of California Press, 2017), “Introduction” and Chapter 1. “A Reproductive Justice History”

Friday, 10/16:

- Ross, Loretta and Ricki Solinger. *Reproductive Justice: an Introduction*. (Oakland: University of California Press, 2017), Chapter 2. “Reproductive Justice in the Twenty-First Century.”

Week Eight: *Reproductive Justice, Continued.*

Tuesday, 10/20:

- Ross, Loretta and Ricki Solinger. *Reproductive Justice: an Introduction*. (Oakland: University of California Press, 2017), Chapter 3. Managing Fertility.

Friday, 10/23:

- Ross, Loretta and Ricki Solinger. *Reproductive Justice: an Introduction*. (Oakland: University of California Press, 2017), Chapter 4. “Reproductive Justice and the Right to Parent” and “Epilogue: Reproductive Justice on the Ground”.

Week Nine: *Cancer*

Tuesday, 10/27:

- Mamo, Laura, and Steven Epstein. “The *New* Sexual Politics of Cancer: Oncoviruses, Disease Prevention, and Sexual Health Promotion.” *BioSocieties* 12, no. 3 (September 2017): 367–391.

Friday, 10/30:

- McHenry, Kristen Abatsis. "Breast cancer activism in the United States and the politics of genes." *IJFAB: International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* 8, no. 1 (2015): 182-200.

Week Ten: *AIDS & STI*

Tuesday 11/3: ELECTION DAY: VOTE!

Join live Zoom coverage of election night results for extra-credit.

Friday, 11/6: HPV.

Sex, Politics, Health (POL3045)
Prof. Samuel R. Galloway
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- Casper, Monica J., and Laura M. Carpenter. “Sex, Drugs, and Politics: The HPV Vaccine for Cervical Cancer.” *Sociology of Health & Illness* 30, no. 6 (September 2008): 886–99.

Week Eleven: *AIDS & STI Continued.*

○ **Grading Rubric & Prompts for Final Written Assignment Out**

Tuesday, 11/10: Affect and activism

- Herold, Lauren. “Televisual Emotional Pedagogy: AIDS, Affect, and Activism on Vito Russo’s *Our Time*.” *Television & New Media* 21, no. 1 (January 2020): 25–40.
- Russo, Vito. *Our Time* (1983), WNYC-TV. *YouTube.com*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_O5Vwyj4OOg (accessed Aug. 20, 2020).

Friday, 11/13: Criminalization.

- Hoppe, Trevor Alexander. “Disparate Risks of Conviction under Michigan’s Felony HIV Disclosure Law: An Observational Analysis of Convictions and HIV Diagnoses, 1992–2010.” *Punishment & Society* 17, no. 1 (January 2015): 73–93.

Week Twelve: *Sex Work*

Tuesday, 11/17:

- Williams, Linda. “A Provoking Agent: The Pornography and Performance Art of Annie Sprinkle.” *Social Text*, no. 37 (1993): 117–33.

Friday, 11/20:

- Berg, Heather. “Working for Love, Loving for Work: Discourses of Labor in Feminist Sex-Work Activism.” *Feminist Studies* 40, no. 3 (2014): 693–721.
 - Middleweek, Belinda. “Pussy Power Not Pity Porn: Embodied Protest in the #FacesOfProstitution Twitter Network.” *Sexualities* 23, no. 3 (March 2020): 342–60.

Week Thirteen: *Anti-Vaccination*

Tuesday, 11/24:

- Goldberg, Zachary J., and Sean Richey. “Anti-Vaccination Beliefs and Unrelated Conspiracy Theories.” *World Affairs* 183, no. 2 (June 2020): 105–24.

Friday, 11/27: Remember and pay tribute to the Wappinger people who were dispossessed of

Sex, Politics, Health (POL3045)
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their land, called Quarropas, upon which Purchase College was built. What tribes are indigenous to where you live? How has settler colonialism shaped your community? Learn more about the Wappinger here:

<https://www.purchase.edu/live/news/4160-the-native-voice>

Week Fourteen: **Disability**

- **Office Hours Writing Workshop**
- **Paper Proposal Due.**

Tuesday, 12/1: Politics of Disability

- Kim, J.B. (2020). "Disability in an Age of Fascism." *American Quarterly* 72(1), 265-276.

Friday, 12/4: ADA and Beyond

- Attoh, Kafui. "Public transportation and the idiocy of urban life." *Urban studies* 54, no. 1 (2017): 196-213.

Week Fifteen: **Pandemics—COVID19**

Tuesday, 12/8: Trust in Institutions of Health

- Kowitt, Sarah D, Allison M Schmidt, Anika Hannan, and Adam O Goldstein. "Awareness and Trust of the FDA and CDC: Results from a National Sample of US Adults and Adolescents." *PloS one* 12, no. 5 (2017)

Friday, 12/11: Media Coverage of COVID-19

- Motta, Matt, Dominik Stecula, and Christina Farhart. "How Right-Leaning Media Coverage of COVID-19 Facilitated the Spread of Misinformation in the Early Stages of the Pandemic in the U.S." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 53, no. 2 (06, 2020): 335-342.

Week Sixteen

Tuesday, 12/15: The Costs of COVID19.

- Bernard-Donals, Michael. "On Violence and Vulnerability in a Pandemic." *Philosophy & Rhetoric* 53, no. 3 (2020): 225-231.

Friday, 12/18: Pandemic Politics.

Sex, Politics, Health (POL3045)
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- *The Quarantine Files: Thinkers in Self-Isolation*, curated by Brad Evans. *The Los Angeles Review of Books* (2020).
 - Language:
 - Enloe, Cynthia. “Pulling My Covid-19 Language Out of the Trenches,” 22 – 24.
 - Reid, Julian. “Our Big War,” 57 – 58.
 - Massumi, Brian. “The American Virus,” 42 – 44.
 - Biopolitics
 - Esposito, Roberto. “Instituting Life,” 25 – 26.
 - Forti, Simona. “Pan-Demic: All People in One or Pandemonium?” 29 – 31.
 - Hartman, Saidiya. “The Death Toll,” 40 – 41.
 - Thacker, Eugene. “Pathological Life,” 59 – 60.
 - Yancy, George. “Bodies without Edges: Rethinking Borders of Invulnerability,” 66 – 68.
 - Capitalism
 - Giroux, Henry. “The Plague of Neoliberalism and the Politics of Pandemics,” 33 – 35.
 - Goldberg, David Theo. “Tracking Capitalism and COVID-19,” 35 – 36.
 - Local and Global Geographies
 - Andrews, Kehinde. “The Other Pandemic,” 6 – 7.
 - Mirzoff, Nicholas. “Notes from the Necropolis,” 51 – 53.
 - Affect
 - Berlant, Lauren. “In the Morning I Yell,” 8 – 9.
 - Halberstam, Jack. “Frantic,” 37 – 39.
 - Meza, Chantal. “Viral Ecologies: a Litany for our Times,” 47 – 50.
 - Wark, McKenzie. “She’s not There,” 61 – 62.

Week Seventeen:

Tuesday, 12/22: **Final Written Assignment Due.**