Love, Sex, & Heartbreak

SOC/WMS F395 Summer 2014 May 27-July 2 410 Bunnell WGS CRN 52268 SOC CRN 52267



Course description

We will explore concepts from sociology and women's and gender studies by studying love, sex, and heartbreak and the social systems and structures that create and reproduce these phenomenon. The course will pay special attention to the messages popular culture gives through media, especially music and film.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students who have successfully completed all of the course activities will:

- be able to articulate and to apply over 100 concepts from sociology and women's and gender studies to the social phenomenon of love, sex, and heartbreak
- be able to apply three sociological paradigms to any topic related to love, sex, and heartbreak
- be able to describe the sociological imagination and apply it fruitfully to contemporary and historical news items about love, sex, and heartbreak
- be able to articulate how popular culture, ideologies, media, and other social phenomenon shape our ideas about love, sex, and heartbreak

Required prerequisites

No prerequisites, although SOC 100X, SOC 201, or WMS 201 are recommended.

Required texts

Required readings are available through googlesites at https://sites.google.com/a/alaska.edu/love-sex-heartbreak-class/readings. To access the readings: log into your university email (webmail). At the top right, click on sites, then click on love-sex-heartbreak-class. Click on "readings," and locate the reading you need. Note the dates that the readings are due. Readings will also be emailed to enrolled student via their university email address.

Professor contact info

Sine Anahita, Ph.D. *office:* 702C Gruening

email: sine.anahita@alaska.edu

office hours: MTWR 2:00-3:45 and by appointment (no Friday hours)



Grading and assignments

You can earn up to 100 points in this class.

Assignment	Points	Due date
Soc Nuggets—14 @ 5 pts each	70	daily
LSH Goes Hollywood	10	June 6
Song analysis	10	June 20
Socioke—lyrics & performance	10	June 30

Soc Nuggets: For 14 of the assigned readings, write a bulleted list of 5 to 8 sociological concepts—nuggets—from the reading. The Soc Nuggets should summarize the most important sociological ideas contained in the reading. Also write at least one sociological question that will stimulate class discussion. We will use your discussion questions to frame our activities in class, so invest sufficient time and intellectual energy into creating your discussion questions. Soc Nuggets must be typed and turned in at the end of class. Late Soc Nuggets will NOT be accepted. At the top of your Soc Nuggets, type your name, the full name of the reading, and the author of the reading. Some suggested best practices:

Grading scale
A+ = 97>
A = 93-96
A = 90-92
B + = 87-89
B = 83-86
B- = 80-82
C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76
C - = 70-72
D+ = 67-69
D = 63-66
D- = 60-62
F < 60

- as you read, underline key phrases and make notes in the margin; use these to create your bulleted list of the most important points
- do not quote verbatim from the readings; instead, summarize the main points in your own words
- define terms and concepts as needed to demonstrate your understanding
- ensure that your discussion questions are sociological
- think of the Soc Nuggets as your opportunity to demonstrate to me that you thoroughly read, studied, understood, and can apply ideas from the readings



http://highheelsandhitops.files.wordpress.com/2008/11/heartbreak.jpg

Song analysis: Choose a song about love, sex, and/or heartbreak and analyze it using terms and concepts from the course. Your analysis must be sociological. Some suggested best practices that will ensure your analysis is appropriately sociological:

- choose one of the three sociological paradigms and apply it to your chosen song lyrics
- describe how the sociological imagination might be applied to your song lyrics
- apply ideas, terms, concepts, and theories from the readings assigned in this class
- think and write using sociological terms, e.g. group, social structure, social system
- avoid non-sociological thinking and writing, e.g. "common sense", previously-held assumptions, pop psychology, religious or philosophical ideas, and/or stereotypes
- review the definitions of the discipline of sociology
- do NOT use wikipedia or any other online encyclopedia or dictionary
- do NOT use material from any website, even those claiming to be sociological, unless the website has been assigned for this class or approved by your instructor

At the top of your Song Analysis, type out the name of your song, its author, and the complete lyrics. If there is a youtube video of your song, I would appreciate the link, but this is not required. Your analysis must be typed, 12-point regular font, 2-3 pages, double-spaced, with one-inch margins all around. Do not insert extra spaces between paragraphs. Indent each paragraph by one tab (5 spaces). Staple your papers. Please use the Writing Center if you need help. They offer free assistance with writing from concept to finished paper, and even provide free printing! http://www.alaska.edu/english/studentresources/writing/

LSH Goes Hollywood

Working with your assigned group, make up and act out a scene from a movie about love, sex, and heartbreak. Have your characters act out the three sociological paradigms. Tell us enough of the plot so that we have some context for your performances. Your screenplay should have three characters who are involved with each other in some way. Make each character do and say things so we understand that hu analyzes society from the perspective of one of the sociological paradigms. On the assigned day, you will perform your screenplay. The class will guess which character comes from which paradigm. All three paradigms must be represented by your characters, and each character must be consistent. In other words, if you have a character, Monika, make sure that every set of dialogue that Monika engages in clearly demonstrates the paradigm that she comes from. Don't make Monika a Structural Functionalist in one scene, and then a Conflict Theorist in another. You will have one class period during which you may work on your project. Your individual performances will be graded by how accurately you represent the sociological paradigm of your character. Group members will also grade each other on group dynamics, including individual effort, participation, and reliability.

Socioke lyrics and performance: Working with your assigned group, write lyrics to go with the music from a popular song, using sociological terms and concepts from the course. You and your group will perform your song—karaoke style—in class. By June 23, your group must choose a song, and obtain a karaoke version of it. I am happy to help you obtain a karaoke version of your selected song if you arrange with me well in advance. Your group will have one full class period to work on your project, and you will perform your song on June 30. I encourage your group to use props, costumes, and other tools to jazz up your performance. You must provide 20 copies of the lyrics or arrange with the professor to have lyrics copied. Your lyrics must be sociological—they must clearly and accurately demonstrate concepts from the course.

You will be evaluated in three ways:

- the class will vote on each group's performance by secret ballot
- group members will grade each other on group dynamics, e.g. individual effort, participation, and reliability
- your professor will take these grades into consideration when determining individual grades

Course policies and professor's expectations

Contacting me

The best way to contact me is through email or by visiting my office hours. If my posted office hours don't work for you, email me to set an appointment. I try to answer emails within 24 hours, except for weekends. It is difficult to reach me by phone.



Reading

Study the readings carefully so that you can effectively participate in class activities. Plan to commit sufficient time to do the reading in a comprehensive manner. This is an upper-level course, so please, no whining about reading. Make sure you look up any words that you do not understand. Keep a dictionary handy for this purpose. If you experience technology problems accessing the readings, contact the OIT Help Desk at 450-8300 or helpdesk@alaska.edu

Participation

On discussion days, I welcome lively participation in class. However, you can only talk if you can demonstrate that you studied the assigned readings and if you stay on topic. I expect you to be respectful of others, including those who disagree with you. In this course, you do not have to agree with me, other students, or course material, but you <u>ARE</u> required to utilize sociological perspectives when talking or writing about your ideas.

Attendance

Regular and prompt attendance is required. You may miss three classes or partial classes without penalty. After you miss three classes, expect to lose five points per missed class regardless of the reason. I usually drop students who do not regularly attend class. Please consider the health of others; if you have a contagious illness, please do not attend class.

Assignments

Assignments are due in class as assigned. Late assignments will generally not be accepted. Always have a Plan B in mind in case of printer or computer problems. Group assignments generally cannot be



rescheduled. Unless you have a documented, legitimate excuse, missed group activities may not be made up.

In class behavior

No texting or laptop use in class. Please turn off your cellphone, iTouch, laptop, and other electronic toys during class. Please do not do craftwork in class or work on an assignment from another class. You are paying lots of money to take this class; please be an active participant by coming to class prepared to engage fully with the course material, with me, and with your student colleagues. Please do not attend class if you are ill.

Extra credit

There are no possibilities for extra credit assignments.

Incompletes

I will give an Incomplete grade (I) only in extremely rare circumstances, and then only if the student supplies documentation of need. If after reviewing your documentation I decide to give you an Incomplete, your extension will be for only 30 days. UAF policy dictates that unresolved Incompletes become permanent Fs.

Instructor-initiated withdrawal

I may do an instructor-initiated withdrawal for students who exhibit prohibited behaviors, including: chronic lateness; chronically absent; cannot demonstrate that they read the required reading; do not participate in class activities, including discussions; sleep in class; text or use laptops or other electronic toys inappropriately in class; are hostile or disruptive; are caught in an act of academic dishonesty.

Academic Honesty

Expect an F and instructor-initiated withdrawal from the course if you are caught in an act of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, or falsification.

Disability

UAF's Disability Services Office offers assistance, including academic accommodations, to students who have a documented disability. I will work with the Disabilities Services Office to make accommodations for students who have documented disabilities. Please contact DSO for more information: website: www.uaf.edu/chc/disability.html; phone: 907-474-7043; email: fydso@uaf.edu

Schedule

Торіс	Day	Date	Assignment (complete BEFORE class)	
Introduction	M	5-23	none	
Sociologically imagining love, sex, & heartbreak	Т	5-24	read soc perspect.pdf	
	W	5-25	no reading due	
	R	5-26	read sexuality.pdf	
	M	5-30	no class meeting today	
	Т	5-31	read intro soc of love.pdf	
Capitalism, consumerism, media	W	6-1	read othermed.pdf	
	R	6-2	read allconsum.pdf	
	M	6-6	read realman.pdf LSH Goes Hollywood performance in class	
New (and old) ways of doing love, sex, and heartbreak	T	6-7	read hegemony.pdf	
	W	6-8	read rules.pdf	
	R	6-9	read covmarriage.pdf	
	M	6-13	read popping.pdf	
	Т	6-14	read centrality.pdf	
	W	6-15	read queeranticap.pdf	
	R	6-16	read herecomes.pdf	
	M	6-20	read mailorderbr.pdf Song Analysis due	
Topic TBA depending on student interest and current events	T	6-21	reading TBA	
	W	6-22	reading TBA	
	R	6-23	reading TBA name of song for Socioke due to professor	
	M	6-27	reading TBA	
	Т	6-28	reading TBA	
Socioke	W	6-29	no reading—work with your Socioke group	
	R	6-30	Socioke performance and lyrics due	