PHIL 306: Philosophy and Sexuality

A. Course Description

Credits: 4

Lab Hours/Weeks: Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/Week:

MnTC Goals: Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies, Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

This introductory course explores the most basic ideas about human sexuality and sexual identity: What does it mean to be a woman or a man? What does it mean to have a sexual identity? Is there such a thing as "normal" sex? How has sexuality been socially regulated in the past and how is it currently regulated? How can people evaluate such "regulations"? How do ideas about sexuality influence gender, ethnic, racial and other stereotypes? What sorts of ideas do people have about the nature of their bodies? Students develop basic philosophical skills in order to sort out these questions. Topics usually include: eroticism, desire, homophobia, sexual violence, pornography, prostitution, and sexual imagery in popular culture, love and romance.

B. Course Effective Dates: 08/01/1998 - 09/05/1999 09/06/1999 - 05/04/2002 05/04/2002 - 08/23/2002 08/24/2002 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Critically examine various aspects of sexual identity.
2. Compare and contrast multiple accounts of gender identity.
3. Develop communication skills necessary for displaying and acting on those beliefs and attitudes that facilitate living and working effectively as a citizen in a diverse society.
4. Focus most acutely on the centrality of justification for claims made in these accounts.
5. Identify and explain, at an advanced collegiate level, the particular social, economic, historical, political and discursive factors that influence the development of gender identity.
6. Use the work of the course to reflect on personal beliefs and attitudes about the nature of gender identity.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies
None

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
4. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.
G. Special Information

None