



Course ATCM 6380.001
Course Title Histories of Emerging Media:
Technologies of Sex and Sexuality
Professor Dr. Josef Nguyen (he/him/his)
Term Spring 2023
Meetings Mondays, 4:00-6:45PM in ATC 2.901

Professor's Contact Information

Dr. Josef Nguyen (he/him/his)
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Please format and address all emails regarding the class professionally, include the course information in the subject line, and allow up to 24 hours for responses
Office Location ATC 3.617
Office Hours By email appointment, with in-office and online options
Office Phone 972.883.7552

General Course Information

Description This course examines histories of emerging media by foregrounding the relationship between new media in their historical contexts and cultural, social, political, economic, and epistemological transformations, focusing specifically on the development and use of technologies of and about sex and sexuality.

This class draws on diverse fields—including media studies, science and technology studies, feminist and queer theory, critical race and ethnic studies, and disability studies, among others—in order to examine how historic and emerging technologies shape and are shaped by our understandings of sex practice, sexual identities, sexual desires, and sex discourses as well as how social constructions of sex and sexuality are themselves technologies. Taking an intersectional approach, this course investigates technologies of sex and sexuality as co-constituted with cultural constructions of gender, race, class, ability, age, and other dimensions of social identity and difference. Assigned readings, projects, and media will cover shifting scientific and popular discourses of sex and sexuality, the monetization and commodification of sex, sex work and labor, reproduction and sexual healthcare, the politics of embodiment and sexual pleasure, sexual subcultures and sexual identities, and technological and consumer design for and about sex and sexuality.

Learning Outcomes Students will:

- Understand a range of theorizations and analyses of sex and sexuality as historically and culturally constructed and situated technologies
- Become familiar with critical and theoretical approaches to the relationship among media, technology, and power
- Integrate existing scholarship into their own original research and creative practice

Required Texts & Materials Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: The Will to Knowledge*
Bo Ruberg, *Sex Dolls at Sea: Imagined Histories of Sexual Technologies*
Lynn Comella, *Vibrator Nation: How Feminist Sex-Toy Stores Changed the Business of Pleasure*
Shaka McGlotten, *Virtual Intimacies: Media, Affect, and Queer Sociality*
Angela Jones, *Camming: Money, Power, and Pleasure in the Sex Work Industry*

All other readings and materials are available online through Box
Assignments are handled on Box.
Course announcements are handled on eLearning and email.

Course Policies

Grading	Thoughtful Class Engagement	50%
Criteria	Final Research Paper	50%

Accommodation Students with disabilities are encouraged to utilize the on-campus resources at the Office of Student AccessAbility. You can contact the office at 972-883-6104 or by email: studentaccessability@utdallas.edu. Their office is located in the Student Service Building (SSB), suite 3.200. They can provide documentation and details for accommodations to address your individual needs. If you need any special accommodations to complete this course successfully, please provide me with this information as soon as possible, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Classroom Conduct It is our responsibility to work together to produce a classroom environment where everyone can share, discuss, and question the materials at hand as well as contribute their own work respectfully and productively. Conflicting perspectives are unavoidable. To ensure that participants feel comfortable contributing a diverse set of thoughts, comments, and views, we will not use oppressive or harmful language, tolerate harassment, personal attacks, and other forms of actions that unduly distract from the educational mission and inflict emotional, physical, or psychological harm on those involved.

Part of the role of encouraging a diverse learning environment is acknowledging that individuals should feel safe and respected to contribute to the classroom in good faith. This involves not only allowing everyone opportunities to contribute their thoughts but to be mindful of how we recognize and address others. Do not assume things about others' identities, backgrounds, or experiences—whether that is age, race, gender, sexuality, ability, class, etc... Address people by their names, pronouns, and other identifiers that they disclose. Avoid insisting on imposing identity markers onto others. Allow people to self-identify as they feel comfortable.

What you share with and create for this class reflects not only you as both a student and a civic subject, but it also reflects on me as your instructor, the class as a learning community, and UT Dallas as an academic institution.

Please discuss with me any concerns you have regarding an unsafe or hostile classroom environment, particularly if something arises that causes distress.

Class Attendance Attend class regularly and in full. Any absences should include documentation of a valid excuse (family or medical emergency, for example). Unexcused absences may impact course grades. Discuss upcoming potential absences with me to make appropriate arrangements.

Arriving more than 30 minutes late or leaving more than 30 minutes early, without prior clearance, may be grounds for marking that day as an absence. Failure to prepare for class participation (such as not having done the necessary reading) will also be regarded as conditions for an absence.

Technology in the Classroom Laptops and computers can be used in the classroom solely for purposes directly pertinent to the activities and discussions at-hand. Excessive misuse of technology in the classroom will result in an absence for the day.

Class Materials The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Late Work Late work will be penalized 10% (a full letter grade) for each 24-hour period beyond the deadline and will not receive written feedback by default. For written feedback on a late assignment, please send an email request. If you need an extension, let me know in advance so we can make arrangements.

Academic Honesty All work must be original for this class. Plagiarism is using the words and materials of others as if they were your own. It is a serious offense with consequences. Use proper citation to indicate the use of other people's work to strengthen your own. All suspicions of plagiarism will be investigated. Please consult [utdallas.edu/dept/graddean/gspolDishonesty.htm].

Comet Creed *This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: "As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."*

Academic Support Resources *The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students. Please go to [go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources].*

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures *The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) grading option and withdrawal from class. Please go to [go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies] for these policies.*

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Week 01: Tuesday, 17 January 2023
Spring 2023 Semester Begins
NO CLASS MEETING WEEK 01

Week 02: Monday, 23 January 2023
History of Sexuality BEFORE CLASS:
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: The Will to Knowledge*

IN CLASS:
Overview of Syllabus
Class Introductions

Week 03: Monday, 30 January 2023
Histories of Sexuality BEFORE CLASS:
Siobhan B. Somerville, "Scientific Racism and the Invention of the Homosexual Body," *Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture*
Vrushali Patil, "The Special Oriental Vice, the Savage Vice, and the Sexual Furor: Racial-Imperial Webs and the Invention of 'Modern' Sexuality," *Webbed Connectivities: The Imperial Sociology of Sex, Gender, and Sexuality*
James Russell Kincaid, "Inventing the Child—and Sexuality," *Erotic Innocence: The Culture of Child Molesting*
Michael Gill, "Introduction: Sexual Ableism Exposed," *Already Doing It: Intellectual Disability and Sexual Agency*

Week 04: Monday, 6 February 2023
Reproductive and Sexual Health in Science and Medicine BEFORE CLASS:
Emily Martin, "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles"
Margarete Sandelowski, "'This Most Dangerous Instrument': Propriety, Power, and the Vaginal Speculum"
Steven Epstein, "Activism, Drug Regulation, and the Politics of Therapeutic Evaluation in the AIDS Era"
Barbara L Marshall, "The New Virility: Viagra, Male Aging and Sexual Function"

Week 05: Monday, 13 February 2023
Reproductive and Sexual Health in Cultural Life BEFORE CLASS:
Elizabeth Siegel Watkins, “How the Pill Became a Lifestyle Drug: The Pharmaceutical Industry and Birth Control in the United States Since 1960”
Michelle Murphy, “Immodest Witnessing: The Epistemology of Vaginal Self-Examination in the US Feminist Self-Help Movement”
Neil Beecham and Clio Unger, “Designing the Female Orgasm: Situating the Sexual Entrepreneur in the Online Sex-Education Platform OMGYes”
Alberto Edeza, Omar Galárraga, E. Karina Santamaria, Sandra Sosa-Rubí, Don Operario, and Katie B. Biello, “‘I Do Try To Use Condoms, But...’: Knowledge and Interest in PrEP Among Male Sex Workers in Mexico City”

Week 06: Monday, 20 February 2023
Imagining Sex Technologies BEFORE CLASS:
Bo Ruberg, *Sex Dolls at Sea: Imagined Histories of Sexual Technologies*

Week 07: Monday, 27 February 2023
Designing and Using Sex Technologies BEFORE CLASS:
Jeffrey Bardzell and Shaowen Bardzell, “Pleasure Is Your Birthright: Digitally Enabled Designer Sex Toys as a Case of Third-wave HCI”
Ariane Cruz, “Techno-Kink: Fucking Machines and Gendered, Racialized Technologies of Desire,” *The Color of Kink: Black Women, BDSM, and Pornography*
Teddy Pozo, “Counter gaming's Porn Parodies, Hard Core and Soft,” *Rated M for Mature: Sex and Sexuality in Video Games* (eds. Matthew Wysocki and Evan W. Lauteria)
Neda Atanasoski and Kalindi Vora, “Why the Sex Robot Becomes the Killer Robot – Reproduction, Care, and the Limits of Refusal,” [\[spheres-journal.org/contribution/why-the-sex-robot-becomes-the-killer-robot-reproduction-care-and-the-limits-of-refusal/\]](https://spheres-journal.org/contribution/why-the-sex-robot-becomes-the-killer-robot-reproduction-care-and-the-limits-of-refusal/)

Week 08: Monday, 6 March 2023
Selling Sex Technologies BEFORE CLASS:
Lynn Comella, *Vibrator Nation: How Feminist Sex-Toy Stores Changed the Business of Pleasure*

SPRING BREAK Monday, 13 March 2023
NO CLASS MEETING

Week 09: Monday, 20 March 2023
Mediating Sex BEFORE CLASS:
Shaka McGlotten, *Virtual Intimacies: Media, Affect, and Queer Sociality*

IN CLASS:
Introduce Final Research Paper

Week 10: Monday, 27 March 2023
Networked Sex and Sexuality BEFORE CLASS:
José Esteban Muñoz, “Pedro Zamora’s Real World of Counterpublicity: Performing an Ethics of the Self,” *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*
Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, “Introduction,” *Control and Freedom: Power and Paranoia in the Age of Fiber Optics*
Cait McKinney, “Crisis Infrastructures: AIDS Activism Meets Internet Regulation,” *AIDS and the Distribution of Crises* (eds. Jih-Fei Cheng, Alexandra Juhasz, and Nishant Shahani)
Marika Cifor, “Going Viral: Mobilizing AIDS Archives in Digital Culture,” *Viral Cultures: Activist Archiving in the Age of AIDS*

Week 11: Monday, 3 April 2023
Sex on Screen BEFORE CLASS:
Linda Williams, “Make Love, Not War: Jane Fonda Comes Home (1968–1978),” *Screening Sex*
Jennifer C. Nash, “Strange Bedfellows: Black Feminism and Antipornography Feminism”
Nguyen Tan Hoang, “The Rise, and Fall, of a Gay Asian American Porn Star,” *A View from the Bottom: Asian American Masculinity and Sexual Representation*
Brandon Arroyo, “Confessions of a Masked Pornographer: Reorienting Gay Male Identity via Bodily Confession,” *I Confess!/: Constructing the Sexual Self in the Internet Age* (eds. Thomas Waugh and Brandon Arroyo)

Week 12: Monday, 10 April 2023
Sex Work, Part I BEFORE CLASS:
Elizabeth Bernstein, “Sexual Commerce in Postindustrial Culture,” *Temporarily Yours: Intimacy, Authenticity, and the Commerce of Sex*
Rachel Salazar Parreñas, “Cultures of Flirtation: Sex and the Moral Boundaries of Filipina Migrant Hostesses in Tokyo,” *Intimate Labors: Cultures, Technologies, and the Politics of Care* (eds. Eileen Boris and Rachel Salazar Parreñas)
Michele White, “Too Close to See, Too Intimate a Screen: Men, Women, and Webcams,” *The Body and the Screen: Theories of Internet Spectatorship*
Heather Berg, “Porn Work, Feminist Critique, and the Market for Authenticity”

Week 13: Monday, 17 April 2023
Sex Work, Part II BEFORE CLASS:
Angela Jones, *Camming: Money, Power, and Pleasure in the Sex Work Industry*

Week 14: Monday, 26 April 2023
Consent BEFORE CLASS:
Joseph F. Fischel, "Introduction: When Consent Isn't Sexy," *Screw Consent: A Better Politics of Sexual Justice*
Rana M. Jaleel, "Two Title IXs: Empire and the Transnational Production of 'Welcomeness' on Campus," *The Work of Rape*
Nicholas Furlo, Jacob Gleason, Karen Feun, and Douglas Zytko, "Rethinking Dating Apps as Sexual Consent Apps: A New Use Case for AI-Mediated Communication"
Josef Nguyen, "Scripting Consenting Fictions in Sex Technology Imaginaries"

Week 15: Monday, 1 May 2023
Work on Research Paper **NO CLASS MEETING**

FINALS WEEK **Research Paper due Friday, 12 May 2022 by 11:59PM**

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.