GNDR_ST 374 • Lital Pascar

Technology and Modern Romance

The early 21st century seem to be a time in which romantic and sexual relationships are being revolutionized. However, what changes are actually taking place, and what role does technology play in them? How do smartphones, social media, dating websites such as OKCupid, and hookup apps such as Tinder and Grindr shape how we relate? How is technology facilitating our encounter with promiscuous or non-monogamous forms of relationality, such as hook-ups, threesomes, polyamory, and open relationship? How do practices such as ghosting, sexting, catfishing, and Facebook-stalking fit into this picture? And how does this relation between technology and relationships intersect with gender, race, and sexuality?

In this course, we will investigate how sex, romance, and relationships take shape in the early 21st century. The class will work across academic and popular texts (such as the television series *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* and *Easy*, the books *Modern Romance* by Ansari & Kleinenberg and *Dataclysm* by Christian Rudder, and Dan Savage's column, *The Stranger*) to confront a wide range of issues through the scholarly lens of gender, critical race, and sexuality studies. These include writings by Sherry Turkle, Lauren Berlant, Jessica Ringrose, Eva Illouz, Nancy K. Baym, Mary L. Gray, Shaka McGlotten, and others.

Kresge Hall 2-329 • MW 10:00-12:30pm
Summer Quarter