This course will examine how society shapes sexuality, as well as how sexuality shapes society. Although many consider sexuality to be deeply personal, in fact social context greatly affects how individuals understand and experience sexuality. Questions this course will consider include: What is the relationship between individual identities and practices and broader social, cultural, and structural contexts? How has sexuality shaped political and economic processes? In what ways does sexuality intersect with gender, class, race/ethnicity, geographic location, and nationality? The course will also consider how sexuality is related to different types of social inequalities. At the end of the course students will be able to discuss how studying sexuality helps us better understand complex social processes.

Reading and participation are integral to the course. The final grade will also reflect performance on term papers, exams, and assignments.