

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2020

Sex, culture and society 210 (APL 210)

Qualification Undergraduate

Faculty [Faculty of Humanities](#)

Module credits 20.00

Programmes [BA](#)

[BA Languages](#)

[BA Law](#)

[BA Visual Studies](#)

[BPolSci International Studies](#)

[BPolSci Political Studies](#)

[BSocSci Heritage and Cultural Tourism](#)

[BSocSci Industrial Sociology and Labour Studies](#)

[BSW](#)

Prerequisites APL 110 GS

Contact time 1 tutorial per week, 2 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Anthropology and Archaeology

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

Cultural constructions of sex and sexuality are the primary building blocks of social organisation. Anthropological discussions of sexuality tend to revolve around the various aspects of social organisation, such as the lifecycle, gendered identities, and personhood. These discussions are informed by the cultural meanings we impute to differences in biological sex and reproduction, and the ways in which these meanings influence social organisation, personhood, and power. In this module, we will consider cultural constructions of sex and sexuality as these inform certain aspects of social organisation such as kinship and marriage. We will attempt to develop an anthropological perspective on the interplay between sex, culture and society. To this end, we will examine the physiology of sexuality, and then consider different theoretical perspectives on human sexuality as reflected in cross-cultural ethnographic case studies.

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