COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Sexuality, Ideology, Power	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: dr. Rasa Navickaitė **Other:**	Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University, Vokiečių str. 10, LT-01130, Vilnius

Study cycle	Type of the course unit

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	Spring semester	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites:	**Co-requisites (if relevant):**

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
	145	32	113

Purpose of the course unit		
The course introduces students to the topics of reproduction, sexuality and gender in the realm of politics from historical, theoretical and contemporary perspectives. Students will understand how and why the modern state came to see the wellbeing and proliferation of its population as one of its main goals, and how this relates to nationalist, imperialist, racist, antisemitic, androcentric, feminist, socialist and other prominent modern belief systems, ideas and ideologies. They will learn how to critically interrogate the politicization of various issues of reproduction and control of female and male bodies, examine how sexual morality is employed for political goals, as well as investigate the gendered and sexualized subtexts of radicalization, war and political conflict.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	**Teaching and learning methods**	**Assessment methods**
Students will be able to define the key concepts, related to sexuality and its political uses, covered in this course, and apply them in relation to relevant academic, social and policy issues.	Problem oriented lectures, active participation in seminars and engagement with assigned readings, independent search for information for the final paper.	Participation in the seminars; Mid-term test; Final paper.
Students will be able to critically assess scholarly and non-scholarly texts (media, policy texts) on the issues of sexuality in politics and understand various theoretical and ideological perspectives they are based on.	Active participation in seminars and engagement with assigned readings, independent work with additional literature and sources for the final paper.	Participation in the seminars; Mid-term test; Final paper.
Students will become familiar with the complexity of the issues of sexuality and gender as they play out in various	Problem oriented lectures, active participation in seminars and engagement with assigned readings,	Participation in the seminars; Mid-term test;

ideological and political circumstances, from historical, sociological, critical theory (feminist and queer), as well as international and political science approaches.	independent search for information for the final paper.	Final paper.
Students will learn how to formulate a critical and nuanced opinion on the various ways that issues surrounding sexuality, reproduction and gender become a part of ideological and political agendas.	Active participation in seminars and engagement with assigned readings, independent work with additional literature for the final paper.	Participation in the seminars; Mid-term test; Final paper.

Content	**Contact hours**							**Individual work: time and assignments**	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	**Contact hours, total**	**Individual work**	**Tasks for individual work**
1. Introduction to the course. What is sexuality? Why is it political?	1		1				**2**	**6**	Reading and analysis of: Jeffrey Weeks, 2003, *Sexuality*, Taylor & Francis Group. Chapter 5, „Sexuality, Intimacy and Politics," 100-123
2. Sexuality and the modern state: biopolitics	1		1				**2**	**6**	Reading and analysis of: Michel Foucault, M., 2003, *"Society must be defended": Lectures at the Collège de France, 1975–1976* (D. Macey, Trans.). Picador. (Original lecture delivered March 17, 1976).
3. Fascism: policing respectability	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of: George L. Mosse, 2020, *Nationalism and sexuality: Middle-class morality and sexual norms in modern Europe,* University of Wisconsin Press. Chapter "Fascism and sexuality", pp 158-183. Recommended: Herzog, Dagmar, 2005, *Sex after Fascism: Memory and Desire in Twentieth-Century Germany*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1, „Sex and the Third Reich," pp. 10-63.

4. Imperialism, family and racial purity	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of: Stoler, Ann Laura. 1991. "Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Gender, Race, and Morality in Colonial Asia." In *Gender at the Crossroads of Knowledge: Feminist Anthropology in the Postmodern Era*, edited by Micaela di Leonardo, 51–101. Berkeley: University of California Press.
5. Stalinism: an enemy within	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of: Irina Roldugina, "The Cold War and the Soviet KGB's Same-Sex Entrapment Operations in the 1950s and 1960s: The Perpetrator in Focus.", *Journal of Cold War Studies,* Vol. 27, Issue 4, 106–135. Recommended: Healey, Dan. 2017. "Stalinist Homophobia." In *Russian Homophobia from Stalin to Sochi*, 119–134. London: Bloomsbury Academic
6. Feminist approaches to state, nationalism and reproduction	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of: MacKinnon, Catharine A. (1989). *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Chapter 7, "Sexuality". Pp 126-154. Recommended: Nira Yuval-Davis, „Women and the Biological Reproduction of the Nation," In *Gender and Nation*, Sage, 1997, 26-38.
7. Sociological approaches: why is abortion a political issue?	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of:

									Ziad Munson, 2018, *Abortion Politics*, New York: Polity, "Chapter 5: The Impact of Abortion on American Politics". Recommended: Radosław Nawojski, Magdalena Pluta, Katarzyna Zielinska, 2019, The Black Protests: a Struggle for (Re)Definition of Intimate Citizenship. *Praktyka Teoretyczna* (30), 4, 51-74.
8. Queer approaches: moral panic and sexual normativity	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of: Rubin, Gayle (1984). "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality." In Carole Vance (Ed.), *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality.* Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul., pp. 267–319 Recommended: Sarah Ahmed, 2014, *The Cultural Politics of Emotion,* Edinburgh University Press, Chapter 7 "Queer Feelings", pp 144-167 Discussion of selected news articles on various moral crimes and ensuing "moral panics".
9. International approaches: bodies within global politics	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of: Jonneke Koomen, 2014, „Global governance and the politics of culture: campaigns against female circumcision in East Africa". *Gender, Place & Culture*, *21*(2), 244–261. Recommended: Inderpal Grewal, Caren Kaplan, 2001, „Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality", *GLQ: A*

									Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies, Volume 7, Number 4, 2001, pp. 663-679
10. Mid-term test			2				2	**10**	Closed book test (two open questions) from the literature discussed in class so far.
11. Homonationalism and pink washing	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of: Michael J. Bosia, 2015, "To love or to loath: modernity, homophobia, and LGBT rights", in (eds.) Manuela Lavinas Picq, Markus Thiel, 2015, *Sexualities in World Politics: How LGBTQ claims shape International Relations,* London, New York: Routledge. 92-107 Recommended: Jasbir K. Puar, 2007, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times.* Durham: Duke University Press. Chapter 1, "The Sexuality of Terrorism", 37-78.
12. Migration, border and sexuality	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of: Fassin, Éric. 2008. "Sexual Violence as the Language of Border Control: Where French Feminist and Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric Meet." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 33 (4): 863–889. Discussion of selected news articles on migration and sexual violence.
13. Anti-gender mobilization	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of: Emil Edenborg (2023) Anti-Gender Politics as Discourse Coalitions: Russia's Domestic and International Promotion

									of "Traditional Values", Problems of Post-Communism, 70:2, 175-184. Recommended: Graff, Agnieszka, & Korolczuk, Elżbieta (2021). *Anti-Gender Politics in the Populist Era.* London: Routledge. Chapter 2. „Mapping the anti-gender campaigns as a global movement: from religious trend to political struggle", pp. 38-66
14. Sexuality and violence at war	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of: Jelke Boesten, Lurgio Gavilán, 2023, „Military Intimacies: Peruvian Veterans and Narratives about Sex and Violence", *Latin American Research Review,* 58 (4):762-778. Recommended: Goldstein, Joshua S., 2001, *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 6. "Conquests: Sex rape and exploitation in wartime".
15. Extremism and gender	1		1				2	**6**	Reading and analysis of: Elizabeth Pearson, Extremism and toxic masculinity: the man question re-posed, *International Affairs*, Volume 95, Issue 6, November 2019, Pages 1251–1270. Loken M, Zelenz A. Explaining extremism: Western women in Daesh. *European Journal of International Security*. 2018;3(1):45-68.

16. Course reflection and final paper preparation			2				2	**19**	Discussion of the final paper topics and preparation for writing. Reflection of the course.

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Participation in seminars	30	During the semester	Students are expected to engage with and critically reflect upon the assigned readings, be able to come up with relevant real-world examples, present well-argued ideas, and engage in a meaningful and respectful discussion with their peers (responding to their colleagues, developing the argument further, introducing new relevant ideas, etc.). Twice during the semester students will have to bring to class examples of media framing of certain issues (weeks 8 and 12) and discuss them with peers.
Mid-term test	30	During the semester	Students will select two questions out of four to answer from the exam sheet. Questions will be directly related to the readings discussed in previous seminars. In answering each question, students will be expected to use concepts from the course and demonstrate the knowledge of and critical reflection towards the chosen authors and ideas. The assessment will be based on the student's capability: - to demonstrate knowledge of the author/text, which was discussed during the seminar (40% of grade); - to formulate a clear, critical and scholarly sound argument, rooted in the academic literature (40% of grade); - write in a clear, well-structured and logical manner (20% of grade); Further guidance will be provided throughout the course.
Final paper	40	At the end of the semester	Students are expected to independently write an analytical essay, which utilizes at least tree texts from the course (including recommended literature) and engages with a real-world problem. No AI usage allowed in facilitating the writing process. The assessment will be based on the student's capability: - to demonstrate knowledge of the chosen authors and texts, as well as of the empirical problem (40% of grade); - to formulate clear, critical and scholarly sound arguments, rooted in academic literature, both discussed during the course and independently researched (40% of grade); - write in a clear, well-structured and logical manner (20% of grade); Further guidance will be provided throughout the course.

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
Jeffrey Weeks	2003	*Sexuality*		Taylor & Francis Group
Michel Foucault, M.	2003	*"Society must be defended": Lectures at*		Picador

		the Collège de France, 1975–1976		
George L., Mosse	2020	*Nationalism and sexuality: Middle-class morality and sexual norms in modern Europe*		University of Wisconsin Press
Ann Laura Stoler	1991	"Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Gender, Race, and Morality in Colonial Asia."	*Gender at the Crossroads of Knowledge: Feminist Anthropology in the Postmodern Era*, (edited by Micaela di Leonardo)	Berkeley: University of California
Irina Roldugina	2026	The Cold War and the Soviet KGB's Same-Sex Entrapment Operations in the 1950s and 1960s: The Perpetrator in Focus."	*Journal of Cold War Studies,* Vol. 27, Issue 4,	
Catharine A. MacKinnon	1989	*Toward a Feminist Theory of the State.*		Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press
Ziad Munson	2018	*Abortion Politics*		New York: Polity
Gayle Rubin	1984	"Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality."	*Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality,* (edited by Carole Vance)	Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul
Jonneke Koomen	2014	„Global governance and the politics of culture: campaigns against female circumcision in East Africa."	*Gender, Place & Culture*, *21*(2)	
Michael J. Bosia, , in	2015	"To love or to loath: modernity, homophobia, and LGBT rights"	(*Sexualities in World Politics: How LGBTQ claims shape International Relations,* (edited by Manuela Lavinas Picq, Markus Thiel)	London, New York: Routledge
Éric Fassin	2008	"Sexual Violence as the Language of Border Control: Where French Feminist and Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric Meet."	*Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 33 (4)	
Emil Edenborg	2023	"Anti-Gender Politics as Discourse Coalitions: Russia's Domestic and International Promotion of "Traditional Values""	*Problems of Post-Communism,* 70:2	
Jelke Boesten, Lurgio Gavilán	2023	„Military Intimacies: Peruvian Veterans and Narratives about Sex and Violence",	*Latin American Research Review,* 58 (4)	

Elizabeth Pearson	2019	"Extremism and toxic masculinity: the man question re-posed"	*International Affairs*, 95 (6)	
Meredith Loken, Anna Zelenz	2018	"Explaining extremism: Western women in Daesh"	*European Journal of International Security*, 3(1):	
Recommended reading				
Dagmar Herzog	2005	*Sex after Fascism: Memory and Desire in Twentieth-Century Germany*		Princeton: Princeton University Press
Dan Healey 119–134.	2017	*Russian Homophobia from Stalin to Sochi*,		London: Bloomsbury Academic
Nira Yuval-Davis	1997	*Gender and Nation*		Sage
Radosław Nawojski, Magdalena Pluta, Katarzyna Zielinska	2019	The Black Protests: a Struggle for (Re)Definition of Intimate Citizenship	*Praktyka Teoretyczna* (30), 4.	
Inderpal Grewal, Caren Kaplan	2001	„Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality"	*GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies, 7 (4)*	
Sarah Ahmed	2014	*The Cultural Politics of Emotion*		Edinburgh University Press
Jasbir K. Puar	2007	*Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times.*		Durham: Duke University Press
Agnieszka Graff & Elżbieta Korolczuk	2021	*Anti-Gender Politics in the Populist Era*		London: Routledge
Joshua S. Goldstein	2001	*War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Vers*		Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
Waylen, Georgina, and others (eds.)	2013	*The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Politics*,		Oxford University Press
Bosia, M. J., McEvoy, S. M., & Rahman, M. (Eds.)	2020	*The Oxford handbook of global LGBT and sexual diversity politics*.		Oxford University Press

NOTE: *Including Open Educational Resources in the reading list is recommended*