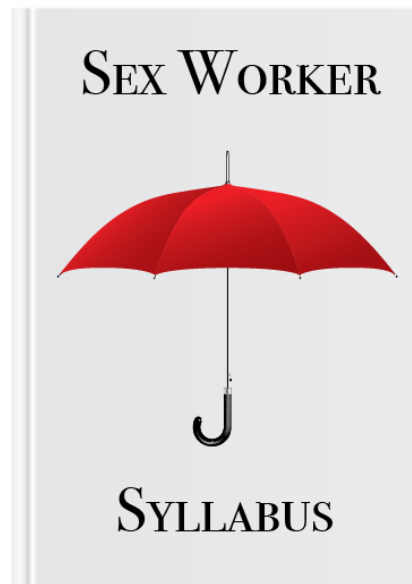




***As of January 2024, the syllabus is closed to submissions.**

Sex Worker Syllabus and Toolkit for Academics

Toolkit and readings originally curated by Angela Jones, PJ Patella-Rey, and Heather Berg

In crafting this syllabus, we stand on the shoulders of giants. Sex workers have been curating and circulating community education resources (including syllabi and reading lists) for decades. These community resources were crucial to our educations, and we encourage readers to support the organizers working to create them. Some of these resources are internal, but many are already doing the public work of challenging academic practices: In 1997, when the [International Sex Worker Foundation for Art, Culture, and Education](#) was founded, they wrote up a curriculum for online classes that could be made available to colleges and universities worldwide. More recently, the Chicago and New York City-based Support Ho(s)e Collective has shared a [Sex Work Syllabus](#) generated from community reading groups and also created a [Sex Work Centered Guide for Academics](#). Sex worker activist Lorelei Lee [curated a reading list](#) for the Law and Political Economy Project, and moses moon (aka thotscholar) created a [Proheauxism 101 Syllabus](#). In Canada, The Safe Harbour Outreach program published a [Sex Worker Rights Reading List](#). These are only a few examples of the many community-led education efforts. In our initial draft of this document, we failed to appropriately acknowledge these efforts and thank members of the sex worker community for calling this out. As we continue to revise our

current project, we hope to do so in a way that extends and amplifies these efforts. Please contact us if there is missing community work that we should be highlighting.

As current academics with attachments to the sex worker communities, we hope to help create a bridge between classroom and community. We called this “The Sex Worker Syllabus” to highlight that its goal is not to focus on academic research *about* sex workers but on work produced directly *by* sex workers. This is important because, chief among our goals is to demonstrate that classroom discussions about sex work can and should center the voices of sex workers—a project we’ve all undertaken in our own classrooms. Our syllabus shows that there is ample sex-worker-produced writing and other media to support this. (We also share a list of volunteer speakers and their fees.) We hope that these resources will, in turn, also promote ethical citational practices and more meaningful community engagement in research. We hope that our syllabus will also serve sex worker communities as a supplement to existing resources.

The sex worker syllabus has three main aims: First, we hope that instructors designing sex work syllabi will use the document to integrate sex worker-produced writing and digital media as assigned texts. Second, we aim to encourage scholars of sex work, especially those who do not come to scholarship with sex working experience, to cite and engage sex worker knowledge production. Both aims are informed by the core principle: “nothing about us without us,” which urges the inclusion of sex worker voices in policymaking, scholarship, and teaching about sexual labor. Finally, we hope to support sex worker thinkers and organizers inside and outside the academy as we/they engage each other’s work.

A note on terminology and organization: This document uses the broad term sex work to encompass a range of erotic labors. Following many of the thinkers included here, we do not view work language as necessarily connoting consent, favorable working conditions, or uniformly positive experiences of sexual labor. Thus, while we include a section explicitly focused on trafficking, this document’s organization is not meant to imply a hard distinction between consensual work and trafficking. We acknowledge that it is common for people to experience a mixture of choice, economic necessity, and coercion while working in the sex trades. In fact, many of the authors included throughout this syllabus describe personal experiences that fall along a consent continuum.

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Disability and Sex Work

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Technology and Online Sex Work

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Survival

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Preface: The Creation of the Syllabus

This syllabus is a living document and will continue to be revised. This document was born out of Twitter threads, online conversations, and through engagement with sex workers inside and outside of the academy. The process was designed to maximize current sex workers' input while also minimizing requests for their unpaid labor. To that end, we invite workers to continue to contribute feedback and suggested resources, while we will continue to do the work of formatting, organizing thematically, and hosting the document.

Critically, we need to trouble the insider/outsider binary. Some sex workers are academics; some academics have a background in sex work. In both scenarios, due to whorephobia and stigma it may not be safe to be out. Thus, sex working academics may be cautious of how much they share publicly. For example, someone might write about experiences working as a stripper but not discuss their full service work history. Also, we are also cautious about adding the writing of academics we know do sex work, but who may not be out, and have only added such authors with their permission. Please see the reading in the syllabus on being an out sex work in academia. If you are a sex worker, just as we invite you to continue to submit your work for inclusion, please do not hesitate to contact us about removing your work at any time.

Designing a comprehensive syllabus compiling sex-worker-produced media only comes with challenges we want to call out and recognize here. Given rampant whorephobia, stigma, and criminalization, many sex workers are disinclined to share their work history and experiences publicly. In some instances doing so could affect one's housing, parents' risk state inventions regarding their children, and a wide range of other adverse unjust consequences. Given these conditions, there are sex workers' voices around the world that are not captured in this syllabus. It is critical that we acknowledge that while we can strive towards the broadest inclusion possible, we can only ever achieve partial representation of such a vast and diverse community.

An additional note on inclusion: We respect people's self-identification and do not believe it is our place to determine who counts as a sex worker and who does not. In this syllabus, we added

sources from sex workers currently working in erotic labor and writing by authors who are currently retired. We encourage users of the syllabus to consider the positionality of writers when discussing these materials with students and when citing sources in their academic writing. As many sex workers have said in spaces such as Twitter, does a quick trip around the pole, make one an authority on sex work? If professors are teaching classes about current sex industries, those with current work experience may be best poised to speak about such markets. However, those with past experiences can offer important insights into sex industries as well, but differences in positionality should be considered and unpacked.

Instructors might consider encouraging students to [purchase course texts from Bluestockings](#), a sex worker-owned bookstore with significant sex worker leadership.

The Toolkit: How to Use This Syllabus

First, as a primer before preparing your syllabus, we suggest reading the following (these will also be valuable to students):

D'Adamo, Kate. 2017. [Sex \(Work\) in the Classroom: How Academia Can Support the Sex Workers' Rights Movement](#). In *Challenging Perspectives on Street-Based Sex Work*. eds. Katie Hail-Jares, Corey S. Shdaimah, and Chrysanthi S. Leon.

Corado, Ruby. 2017. Nothing about Us without Us: The Trans Response to Survival Sex Work. In *Challenging Perspectives on Street-Based Sex Work*. eds. Katie Hail-Jares, Corey S. Shdaimah, and Chrysanthi S. Leon.

babylon, femi (aka Moses Moon). 2020. [85 Ways to Make Sex Workers' Lives a Little Easier](#). *VICE*.

Waring, Camille Melissa. 2021. [Out in Academia](#).

Heineman, Jenny. [Pussy Patrols in Academia: Towards a Disobedient, Sex-Worker Inclusive Feminist Praxis](#). *Feminist Formations*.

Mistress Snow. 2019. [I Told My Mentor I Was a Dominatrix](#). The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Bee, Victoria. 2021. [Vital Statistics](#).

Support Ho(s)e. 2021. [Sex Work Centered Guide for Academics](#).

Second, when you select readings we suggest professors do so with the decolonization of classroom in mind and seeking to challenge systems of oppression such as white supremacy, ableism, cisgenderism, and transmisogyny, we encourage anyone using this syllabus to ensure that they are including and centering marginalized voices such as Indigenous, Black, and other folks of color, trans, non-binary people, disabled sex workers, and those experiencing poverty.

Third, in conjunction with this syllabus, we also suggest that, when possible, professors invite sex workers to give guest lectures in class. However, we encourage educators to do so only when they can offer an honorarium. When professors do invite sex workers to speak, they should also be transparent about how long the bureaucratic machine will take to process the payment. Academics may be asked to do unpaid labor as part of their professorial work, but it is unethical to ask sex workers to speak for free. We are inspired here by sex workers' commitments to mutual aid and compensating each other for labor, even when resources are sparse. If your institution does not offer honorarium support, please consider self-funding, or use the various digital media here to bring sex worker perspectives into class time. Please see the last section of the syllabus for a list of sex worker speakers, which we will continue to update.

Fourth, if using news or other mainstream articles about sex workers, please be sure to include sex worker journalists— list of sex worker news outlets and journalists is at the end of the syllabus.

Fifth, if referencing and discussing platforms, please ensure to highlight sex worker created and run platforms. For example, Tryst is a sex worker created and run ad site and blog.

Finally, considering the different learning styles of students, and that sex workers often speak through forms of media that are different from those conventionally found in an academic setting, please consider adding podcast episodes, youtube videos, sex worker conference panels, which can be found in Part III of the syllabus as well as in the thematic sections of the syllabus.

Part I: Books for Adoption

Anthologies

Aimee, Rachel Eliyanna Kaiser & Audacia Ray. 2015. *\$Pread: The Best of the Magazine that Illuminated the Sex Industry and Started a Media Revolution*. The Feminist Press.

Dawn, Amber and Justin Ducharme. *Hustling Verse: An Anthology of Sex Workers' Poetry*. British Columbia: Arsenal Pulp Press.

Delacoste, Frédérique and Pricilla Alexander. 1987/1998. *Sex Work: Writings by Women in the Sex Industry*, 2nd ed., New Jersey: Cleis Press.

Lee, Jiz. 2015. *Coming out like a porn star: Essays on pornography, protection, and privacy*. Berkeley: ThreeL Media.

Nagle, Jill. 1997. *Whores and Other Feminists*. New York: Routledge.

West, Natalie and Tina Horn, eds, *We Too: Essays on Sex Work and Survival*. The Feminist Press.

Monographs

Berg, Heather. 2021. *Porn Work: Sex, Labor, and Late Capitalism*. UNC Press.

Bowen, Raven. 2021. *Work, Money and Duality: Trading Sex as a Side Hustle*. UK: Policy Press.

Davina, Lola. 2017. *Thriving in Sex Work: Heartfelt Advice for Staying Sane in the Sex Industry: A Self-Help Book for Sex Workers*. Erotic as Power Press.

Egan, Danielle. 2006. *Dancing for Dollars and Paying for Love: The Relationships between Exotic Dancers and Their Regulars*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

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Burns, Tara. 2014. *Whore Diaries: My First Two Weeks As An Escort*

Calloway, Marie. 2013. *What Purpose Did I Serve in Your Life*. Tyrant Books

Crabapple, Molly. 2015. *Drawing Blood: A Memoir*. Harper.

Crane, Antonia. 2017. *Spent: A Memoir*. Rare Bird Books.

Daniels, Christopher. 2013. *Money's On the Dresser: Escorting, Porn, and Promiscuity in Las Vegas*. Ctopherdaniels.

Dawn, Amber. 2013. *How Poetry Saved My Life: A Hustler's Memoir*. Arsenal Pulp Press

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Hollibaugh, Amber. 2000. *My Dangerous Desires: A Queer Girl Dreaming Her Way Home*. Durham: Duke University Press.

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- Pinzer, Maimie. 1997. *The Maimie Papers: Letters from an Ex-Prostitute*. New York: *The Feminist Press*
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- Kaylor, Stephanie. 2021. [Four Poems](#). Hobart.

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Illustrated/Comics

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Dayton, Liz. [Learning to Read the Room: A Call to Review Feminist Research Methods Post FOSTA-SESTA](#).

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Part III: Sex Worker News and Media

News and Media Outlets

[DecodingStigma](#)

[Hacking/Hustling](#)

[The Heaux History Project](#)

[Peepshow Media](#)

[Petite Mort](#) (a new pub)

[SexWork CEO](#)

[Slixa, blog](#)

[Tits and Sass](#)

[Tryst](#)

[WhoresOfYore](#)

[XBIZ](#)

[ZeroSpaces](#)

[YNot Cam](#)

Podcasts

[COYOTE RI, Sex Worker Story-Telling Series](#)

[Peepshow Podcast](#)

[The Old Pro Podcast](#)

[A Sex Worker's Guide to the Galaxy](#)

[SWOP Behind Bars Podcast](#)

For an A-Z list of sex industry Podcasts, [check out this list on Peepshow](#)

Documentaries

['1975, Les Prostituées de Lyon'](#)

[\(Ho\)lyOntology: Black Visual Cultural Geographies of the Sexually Illicit](#)

[Hooligan Sparrow](#)

[In Our Own Image: Sex Worker Made Media and the Story of \\$pread Magazine](#)

[Last Rescue in Siam](#)

[Live Nude Girls Unite](#)

[Tales of the Nightfairies by Shohini Ghosh](#)

[In the Flesh by Bishakha Dutta](#)

[The Other Song by Saba Dewan](#)

[Delhi Mumbai Delhi by Saba Dewan](#)

[Save Us From Saviours by VAMP \(created by Kat Mansoor\)](#)

[Naach by Saba Dewan](#)

[Whores on Film, a documentary by Juliana Piccillo](#)

[Vice News, short videos](#)

Sex Worker Websites With Writing Archives

Asian Pacific Network of Sex Workers, <https://www.apnsw.info/>

Comité Autonome du travail du sexe/Sex Work Autonomous Committee,
<https://cats-swac-mtl.org/en/publication/>

COYOTE RI, <https://coyoteri.org/wp/articles-2021/>

Thot scholar, <https://www.thotscholar.com/bylines>

Victoria Bee, <https://forgedintimacies.wordpress.com/blog-2/>

Zahara Stardust, <https://zahrastardust.com/writing/>

Courtney Trouble, <http://courtneytrouble.com/category/writing>

Camille Melissa Waring, <https://www.thephotographictheorist.com/writings>

Reese Piper, <https://www.reesepiper.com/writing>

Support Ho(s)e, <https://sxhxcollective.org/digital-publications/>

[SWOP Behind Bars, Blog](#)

Tits and Sass, <https://titsandsass.com>

[National Network of Sex Workers](#)

Sex Worker Created Syllabi

[The SW Syllabus compiled by B. Schulte](#)

Part IV: International Sex Workers Rights Organizations:

[Adult Performer Advocacy Committee](#)

[African Sex Workers Alliance](#)

[All India Network of Sex Workers](#)

[AMMAR, Sindicato de trabajadorxs sexuales de Argentina](#)

[Aproase, Mexico](#)

[APROSMIG, Brazil](#)

[Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers, \(APNSW\)](#)

[Asociacion de Mujeres Las Golondrinas](#)

[Association of Hungarian Sex Workers](#)

[Bar Hostess Empowerment and Support Programme](#)

[BAYSWAN](#)

[BIPOC Adult Industry Collective](#)

[Black Sex Workers Collective](#)

[Butterfly Asain and Migrant Sex Workers Network](#)

[Caribbean Sex Work Coalition](#)

[Coast Sex Workers Alliance \(COSWA-Kenya\)](#)

[Collectif Driots & Prostitution](#)

[Collective of Sex Workers and Supporters, Taiwan](#)

[Colectivo Caye](#)

[COYOTE](#)

[Cupcake Girls](#)

[Desiree Alliance](#)

[East Africa Sex Workers Alliance](#)

[Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee](#)

[Empower Foundation](#)

[English Collective of Prostitutes](#)

[Erotic Service Providers Union](#)

[Female Sex Workers Association \(FSWA, Malawi\)](#)

[Fundacion Red Comunitaria Trans, Colombia](#)

[GLITS \(Gays & Lesbians Living in a Transgender Society\)](#)

[Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women](#)

[Global Network of Sex Work Projects](#)

[HIPS](#)

[Hydra e.V, Berlin](#)

[International Committee for the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe \(ICRSE\)](#)

[International Committee for Sex Worker Rights](#)

[International Union of Sex Workers](#)

[Jamaica Sex Worker Coalition](#)

[Kenya Sex Workers Alliance \(KESWA\)](#)

[Maggies, Toronto](#)

[Movimiento de Trabajo Sexual de Mexico](#)

[Namibian Sex Workers Alliance](#)

[National Association of Nigerian Prostitutes](#)

[National Network of Sex Workers India](#)

[National Ugly Mugs \(NUM\)](#)

[New Zealand Prostitutes' Collective](#)

[Ombre Rosse](#)

[Organisasi Perubahan Indonesia \(OPSI\)](#)

[PIC Amsterdam](#)

[Philippine Sex Workers Collective](#)

[PLAPERTS, Latin America](#)

[PONY](#)

[POWER, Ottawa](#)

[Pow Wow, Zimbabwe](#)

[Prostitutas Indignadas](#)

[ProCoRe \(Prostitution Collective Reflection\), Switzerland](#)

[Queer Sex Workers Initiative For Refugees](#)

[Red Umbrella, Athens](#)

[Red Umbrella Fund](#)

[Red Umbrella Project](#)

[Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha \(SANGRAM\)](#)

[SAVEsexworkers Rights](#)

[Scarlett Alliance](#), Australian Sex Workers Association

[Sekswerkexpertise](#)

[Sex Trade Workers Industrial Union 690](#)

[Sex Traders Radical Outreach & Liberation Lobby \(STROLL\)](#)

[Sex Work Call, Romania](#)

[Sex Workers Alliance, Ireland](#)

[Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Task Force](#)

[Sex Workers Action Group \(SWAG\), Berlin](#)

[Sex Workers Action Group \(SWAG\), Kingston](#)

[Sex Worker Advocacy and Resistance Movement \(SWARM\)](#)

[Sex Workers' Advocacy Network for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia \(SWAN\)](#)

[Sex Workers Network, Bangladesh](#)

[Sex Workers Project](#)

[Silver Rose, Russia](#)

[Sisonke Botswana](#)

[SistaazHood, South Africa](#)

[Sisters of Majengo](#)

[Stella](#)

[St. James Infirmary](#)

[Support Ho\(s\)e](#)

[SWOP Behind Bars](#)

[SWOP, USA \(Sex Workers Outreach Project\)](#)

[Tanzania Sex Workers Alliance \(TASWA\)](#)

[Touching Base](#)

[Twiggy Fundacion, Colombia](#)

[Uganda Network for Sex Work-Led Organisations](#)

[UMOJA, Sud-Ubangi in Central Africa](#)

[Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad \(VAMP\)](#)

[Vietnam Network of Sex Workers](#)

[Whores of Yore](#)

[Women with a Vision](#)

[Zambia Sex Workers Alliance](#)

Part V: Speakers Available for Paid Guest Lectures

(all virtual at this time)

Speaker	Contact Information	Rate for Q&A	Prepared Lecture Rate	Areas of Expertise	Website & Published Works
Jessie Sage	jessie_sage@protonmail.ch	\$100	\$250	phone sex, camming, content creation, fssw, activism, sex work writing, decrim, coming out at a sex worker, sex work and parenting	Jessiesage.com
Léa Isabelle	Lea-Isabelle@protonmail.com	\$300/hour, negotiable	\$600/hour, negotiable	marketing, communication strategy, website design, social media, usability (UIU/UX), etc. as they apply to sex work.	lea-isabelle.com @lea_isabelle_NC
Cady S. Moore	cadysmoore@gmail.com	\$500	\$1000	sex education	cadysmoore.com
Victoria Holt	holtv@roehampton.ac.uk	£25 donation to the English Collective of Prostitutes	£25 donation to the English Collective of Prostitutes	activism, domestic abuse, sex worker methodology, working in academia, violence against women and girls.	more info, blogs and contact at https://forgedintimacies.wordpress.com/
Olivia Snow (Mistress Snow)	snow@ainowinstitute.org	\$100	\$200	tech, policy (FOSTA/SESTA especially), privacy, content moderation & algorithmic bias, BDSM, consent & ethics, in-person work	twitter.com/mistresssnowphd (for now!)
Courtney Trouble	courtneytrouble@gmail.com	negotiable	negotiable	porn literacy and queer sex education are my best topics. also, personal history as artist/sex worker	courtneytrouble.com

Lauren Kiley	xoxo.laurenkiley@gmail.com	\$100/hr	\$100/hr	sex work activism (from 2011-present), self defense, sex work in media/literature, sex work & radical politics, BDSM, porn, porn industry regulations	@xoxolaurenkiley, LaurenKiley.com, chapter in WeToo, selected writing available, OnTheDresserPodcast.com
Adrie Rose	adrie@adrierose.link	\$120	\$200	content moderation, social media, financial repression	https://muckrack.com/adrie-rose
Britani	britrosemarie1992@aol.com	\$1,000	\$2000	experience, policy, activism, making a living	https://onlyfans.com/realbritanirose
Amina du Jean	aminadujeanofficial@gmail.com	\$100	\$200	Black Sex Workers, migrant Sex Workers	amina-dujean.com
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