

Religion and Sexuality

Objective:

- 1) Introduce students to the connection between religion and sexuality
- 2) Explore how religious beliefs, behaviors, and affiliations influence views of sexuality
- 3) Examine the religious lives of gays and lesbians
- 4) Familiarize students with online research tools

Activity:

Using the [QuickStats](#) tool on The ARDA, explore the attitudes and demographic and religious patterns of Americans attitudes on sexuality by clicking the U.S. Surveys tab and “Moral Issues.” Possible topics include [homosexuality](#), [same-sex marriage](#), [extra-marital sex](#), or [sex before marriage](#).

Using the [Compare Members](#) tool within the American Denominations QuickStats page, compare the attitudes toward homosexuality of members of up to five American denominations

View one of the videos of a worship service of a [Metropolitan Community Church](#) congregation on The ARDA’s YouTube channel (The MCC is a denomination focused on serving the gay community; more information [here](#))

Using the Methodist Religious Events and People [Interactive Timeline](#), read about the “Rise of Equal Rights Movement” and “UMC General Conference Denies Sexuality Amendment”

Assessment:

Direct students to complete the [Religion and Views on Homosexuality](#) learning module

Drawing on what they now know, direct students to write a response piece to one of the [Ahead of the Trend](#) articles on [sexuality](#) in the Press Room of The ARDA

Students can complete the [Compare Yourself](#) survey in The Learning Center of The ARDA paying particular attention to how they compare on the moral attitude questions concerning sexuality to similar individuals in the survey

Suggested readings:

Christiano, Kevin J., William H. Swatos, Jr., and Peter Kivisto. 2002. *Sociology of Religion: Contemporary Developments*. AltaMira. Pp. 204-206.

Emerson, Michael O., William A. Mirola, and Susanne C. Monahan. 2011. *Religion Matters: What Sociology Teaches Us about Religion in Our World*. Allyn & Bacon. Ch. 9.



- Hunter, James. 2011. "Culture Wars: The Challenge of Homosexuality." In *Sociology of Religion: A Reader* (2nd edition), S. Monahan, W. Mirola, and M. Emerson (eds.), pp. 185-187. Pearson.
- McQueeney, Krista. 2011. "We Are God's Children, Y'all." In *Sociology of Religion: A Reader* (2nd edition), S. Monahan, W. Mirola, and M. Emerson (eds.), pp. 209-228. Pearson.
- Olson, Laura and Wendy Cadge. 2011. "Talking about Homosexuality: The Views of Mainline Protestant Clergy." In *Sociology of Religion: A Reader* (2nd edition), S. Monahan, W. Mirola, and M. Emerson (eds.), pp. 188-202. Pearson.
- Roberts, Keith and David Yamane. 2011. *Religion in the Sociological Perspective*, 5th edition, pp. 283-291. Sage.
- Sherkat, Darren E., Melissa Powell-Williams, Gregory Maddox, and Kylan Mattias de Vries. 2011. "Religion, Politics, and Support for Same-Sex Marriage in the United States, 1988-2008." *Social Science Research* 40: 167-180.
- Thomas, Jeremy N. and Daniel V. A. Olson. 2012. "Evangelical Elites' Changing Responses to Homosexuality 1960-2009." *Sociology of Religion* 73(3): 239-272.
- Thumma, Scott. 1991. "Negotiating a Religious Identity: The Case of the Gay Evangelical." *Sociological Analysis* 52(4): 333-347.
- Wellman Jr., J. K. 1999. "The Debate Over Homosexual Ordination: Subcultural Identity Theory in American Religious Organizations." *Review of Religious Research* 41:184-206.
- Whitehead, Andrew L. 2010. "Sacred Rites and Civil Rights: Religion's Effect on Attitudes toward Same-Sex Unions and the Perceived Cause of Homosexuality." *Social Science Quarterly* 91(1):63-79.
- Wolkomir, Michelle. 2006. *Be Not Deceived: The Sacred and Sexual Struggles of Gay and Ex-Gay Christian Men*. Rutgers.