SOC 1 – Guest Lecture Roger Friedland (Part II)
November 17, 2009

- He’s interested in asking, “Do networks of people participate in common sexual cultures?”
  - He’ll be able to answer this using the data from the extra credit assignment (students sending the survey to their friends, lovers, etc.)

- Traditionally, most adolescents transition to intercourse via romantic relationships
  - Sex was more covert, especially among young women (wasn’t openly talked about)

- However, with the “hook up culture,” things seem to be changing
  - Now, some people are concerned that sex and intimacy seem to be disassociated
  - Sex is a “public story” and at times even a joking matter
  - Seems to be a reversal of love/sex such that sex is taken for granted instead of love

Findings from this year’s SOC 1 class
- 1/3 of students have never had vaginal sex
- 50% have had 1 or no sexual partners
- 42% of last sex acts were 1st time sex acts with partner (vs. 49% were more than the 2nd time to have sex with the partner)
- 41% of last sex act was with a boyfriend/girlfriend (vs. 48% was “casual sex”)
- About 50% believe that “romance brainwashes”
- Repeated sex usually associated with love
- It’s generally harder for women to have sex without love (compared to men)
- For those for whom it is difficult to separate sex and love, it is 3x more likely that they are virgins
- Children of divorced families find it harder to separate love and sex (though this finding was not significant)
- Almost 90% of the students want to have a long-term romantic relationship
- 1/3 hoped to get into a relationship with person in last sex encounter
- There is no difference between those who think love is ideology (that “romance brainwashes”) and those who don’t think that in their desire for sex to lead to a relationship
  - Friedland associates the belief that “romance brainwashes” with feminism. It is worth noting, however, that feminism is NOT a unitary belief system (e.g. there are different views among feminists), and that even if feminism has some influence on this idea about romance, it is definitely not the only factor.
- Religiosity has no impact on when people have their 1st intercourse
  - “Sexual profiles” (what they do, when they do it) of believers vs. non-believers are no different
- However, Friedland sees a difference in religiosity’s connection to love…
Those who believe in God find it much more likely to separate sex and love (and a belief in the Devil is an even stronger determinant of the difficulty of separating love and sex).

People who believe in the God/Devil are more likely to have been in love/relationship during their last sex act.

Love (at least among his students in his “Sex, Love, God” course), speak about love in religious terms.

He poses the question, do religious people get practice loving because of their relationship with God? Or, did the development/experience of love lead to monotheism?