*In the contemporary U.S. an individual’s choice of partner – and related decisions about dating, sex, cohabitation, marriage, the division of household responsibilities, or remaining single – are typically understood as some of the most intimate, personal, decisions that one will make in a lifetime. Are they?*

*In this essay, consider the ways in which our individual “choices” are constrained by social (including economic, legal, cultural, and structural) factors presented during Weeks 7-9. How does the influence of these external forces shape your understanding of “falling in love” or “finding the one” – if at all?*