Course Syllabus

Course Description

A psychological and physiological examination of the human sexual experience from conception through old age. Current research findings serve as a basis for study. Major consideration is given to the human sexual system, the sexual act, sexual attitudes and behavior, and sexual complications.

Course Goals/Purpose

Students are expected to acquire an understanding of the relevant research methods, theories, historical and cultural contexts, physiological bases of sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity, gendered socialization related to sexuality, and other special issues related to human sexual relationships, including communication, sexual expression, power/coercion, sexual dysfunction, and sexually transmitted diseases. Students will be expected to demonstrate a basic understanding of these topics based on their performance on the objective tests.

Course Objectives

After completing this course you should be able to describe:

- our sexual history, including an evolutionary perspective, influences of ancient cultures, the Judeo-Christian heritage, Enlightenment and Victorian era influences, and sexuality in U.S. history;
- how media may impact our sexuality;
- cross-cultural influences on our sexuality;
- theoretical approaches to studying sexuality;
- several research methods for conducting research on sexuality as well as prominent sexologists in the past;
- the biological and psychological variables affecting our sex and gender;
- how our gender roles impact being a sexual male and female;
- the male/female anatomical structures and physiological processes underlying our sexuality;
- the hormonal changes associated with menarche, menstruation, and menopause;
- health problems related to sexuality and how males and females may perform self-examinations to promote their personal sexual health;
- the sexual response cycle as well as the role of the senses in arousal;
- gender similarities and differences in communication styles as well as kinds of communication that may enhance or detract from a relationship;
- different perspectives on understanding the nature of love and intimate relationships;
- how sexuality changes throughout the life cycle, including child and adolescent sexuality as well as sexuality in adult relationships;
• sexual behaviors and fantasies, including solitary behaviors as well as sexual behaviors between individuals;
• the continuum of sexual orientation, possible determinants of sexual orientation, and attitudes/behavior related to sexual orientation;
• advantages and disadvantages of different forms of contraception as well as issues related to abortion;
• sexual dysfunction, including possible causal factors and treatment;
• the causes, prevalence and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases; and
• sexual victimization, including sexual assault, sexual abuse of children, and sexual harassment.

Course Organization

Course Schedule/Pacing

You have six months (approximately 24 weeks) to complete the course. You will be reading/learning information in 6 lessons in Modules, each of which assign:

• reading from 2-3 chapters, for a total 15 chapters over the 6 lessons,
• a self-assessment,
• a quiz, and
• an essay on your choice of two assigned topics.

For Lesson 7, you will write a 5- to 7-page paper related to sexual values. The course also includes 2 exams that require detailed knowledge of the information from the lessons in Modules and assigned chapters for each lesson.

Here is a suggested schedule for how to budget your time:

Week 1: Familiarize yourself with the syllabus and introductory materials.

Weeks 2-4: Read the assigned chapters (1, 2, and 3) and the content for Lesson 1. Complete the self-assessment, quiz, and essay for Lesson 1.

Weeks 5-7: Read the assigned chapters (4 and 5) and content for Lesson 2. Complete the self-assessment, quiz, and essay for Lesson 2.

Weeks 8-10: Read the assigned chapters (7, 8, and 9) and content for Lesson 3. Complete the self-assessment, quiz, and essay for Lesson 3.

Week 11: Study for and take the Midcourse Exam.

Weeks 12-14: Read the assigned chapters (10 and 11) and content for Lesson 4. Complete the self-assessment, quiz, and essay for Lesson 4.
Weeks 15-16: Read the assigned chapters (12 and 13) and content for Lesson 5. Complete the self-assessment, quiz, and essay for Lesson 5.

Weeks 17-20: Read the assigned chapters (15, 17, and 18) and content for Lesson 6. Complete the self-assessment, quiz, and essay for Lesson 6.

Week 21: Complete Lesson 7 by choosing one of the options for the Sexual Values paper as described in the lesson.

Weeks 22-24: Study for and take the Final Exam.

Be sure to fill out the Course Pacing Guide and submit it via Modules within 7 days of enrollment. Remember that you may complete no more than 2 lessons per week.

Grading

Grading Criteria/Scale

Your grade is based on 400 points. Of these points, 140 points (35%) are based on your lesson assignments (Lesson 1-6 quizzes and essays and the Lesson 7 essay), 120 points (30%) are based on your midcourse exam, and 140 points (35%) are based on your final exam.

Final course grades are computed as follows:

A: 360-400 points (90% or better)
B: 320-359 points (80%-89%)
C: 280-319 points (70%-79%)
D: 240-279 points (60%-69%)
F: Below 240 points (below 60%)

No pluses and minuses will be added to the final, reported grade.

You must submit all assignments and make a 60 percent or better on the final exam in order to pass the course.

Course Materials

Understanding Human Sexuality, 13th edition, 2017

Authors: Janet Hyde and John DeLamater
Publisher: McGraw Hill

The textbook is available as an e-book with Connect software. A paper copy can also be purchased.

This textbook is available through the University Bookstore (Links to an external site.). Note: On the Bookstore website, select "ODEL" as the Department.

Exams & Assignments

Assignment and Assessment Overview

As noted above, in addition to the required reading, the course consists of 6 self-assessments and quizzes, 7 written assignments and 2 exams, a midcourse and a final.

Self-Assessments: Self-assessments are objective assessments designed to help you gauge your readiness for the assignments. They are not graded, but I strongly encourage you to complete them, as some of the questions may appear on your exams. As soon as you submit a self-assessment, you should check your answers. If you miss more than one item in a self-assessment, you may want to review that lesson's material before proceeding.

Assignments: At the end of each of 6 lessons, you will submit a quiz with 15 multiple-choice questions worth 1 point each and an essay worth 5 points. You will submit a paper worth 20 points for Lesson 7. This means that the assignments for each lesson are worth 20 points; a total of 140 points (20 x 7 assignments) of your grade is based on the assignments.

Please note:

- You may complete no more than two lessons per week.
- You may not resubmit a written assignment after it has been graded.

Exams: You will take 2 exams for this course: a midcourse exam and a comprehensive final exam. Both will be taken online and must be proctored at an approved testing center. You will not have access to either exam until a proctor opens it for you.

After you have submitted the assignments for Lessons 1-3, you may schedule the midcourse exam, and after you have submitted all course assignments, you may schedule the final exam. I strongly recommend that you wait until the assignments for Lessons 1-3 are graded and returned to you before you take the midcourse exam, and that you wait until assignments for Lessons 1-7 are graded and returned to you before you take the final exam. (You should do so because a percentage of the questions on the midcourse and final exams come from the self-assessments and quizzes; you need to review the self-assessments, the quizzes, and the essay and paper feedback that I will provide as well as the other required material to study for your exams.) You
will not be permitted to consult your notes, your textbook, or any other written materials during
the exam, and you will have two-and-a-half hours to take each exam.

Your **midcourse exam** will contain 60 multiple-choice questions, with 12 of these coming from
your previous self-assessments and assignments. The other questions will come from material
covered in your textbook reading assignments and lesson pages in Modules. Each question is
worth 2 points, so the midcourse exam is worth a total of 120 points.

The **final exam** consists of 70 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each, for a total of 140
points. Ten of these questions will come from material covered in Lessons 1-3 (from the lessons
in Modules); 60 of the questions will come from Lessons 4-7. Of these 60 questions, 12 will
come from the multiple-choice questions included in self-assessments and assignments. As was
the case with your midcourse exam, the remaining questions will come from the textbook
reading assignments and lesson pages.

In addition to submitting all assignments, you must earn 60% or better on the final exam in order
to pass the course.

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### How to be Successful in this Course

**Here are Some Tips for Being Successful**

1. Pace yourself in the course, giving yourself plenty of time to CAREFULLY READ each
   chapter and complete the self-assessment, quiz, and essay for each lesson.
2. I recommend highlighting or underlining terms, facts and results of studies as you read. If
   someone’s name appears in the text for a half a page or more, or if people’s contributions
   are described on lesson pages, you should be able to recognize these names in a multiple
   choice question.
3. Be sure you are focused on the material when you are reading. If you are worried or
   thinking about something else, you aren’t concentrating and reading won’t help you
   learn.
4. Take the self-assessments after each lesson to test how much you focused on and learned
   from each chapter.
5. You should be making perfect or near perfect scores on the quizzes since these are open
   book. If you aren’t sure of the answers as you are taking the quiz, go back to your online
   course content and text. Good grades here can help you bring up your exam grades. The
   exams cover a lot of material.
6. For the last lesson, choose one of the 2 options related to sexual values. This lesson is
   meant for you, as a follow-up to all of your reading and assignments, to now think more
   seriously about your own sexual values and how the course material might inform your
   values.
7. Carefully read the information related to your midcourse and final. Review the
   information provided above about how to study for exams.
8. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your instructor.