

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism
HEAL 325 Human Sexuality (3)
Section 5P1
Spring 2010

DAY/TIME:	M 7:20 – 10:00 p.m.	LOCATION:	East Building 201
PROFESSOR:	Dr. Tonya Cherry	EMAIL ADDRESS:	tcherry2@gmu.edu
		PHONE NUMBER:	641-715-3900 x87217

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Covers biological, behavioral, and sociocultural factors in human sexual behavior.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a solid basic understanding of biological, social, and psychological components of their human sexuality.
2. Form and express educated attitudes and viewpoints on several aspects of human sexuality through the interpretation of readings,
3. Form and express rational and responsible decisions concerning their human sexuality and development.
4. Write and discuss the value of human sexuality education with professional teachers as well as the community.

COURSE OVERVIEW/REQUIREMENTS

Basic Assumptions for the Course

Assumption One: It is assumed that the student will attend every class session. In the event the student cannot attend, the student is still accountable for ALL information and assignments covered during class.

Assumption Two: Dialogue during class discussions is vital to the success of the student in this course. Since many sensitive and at times controversial subjects will be covered, it is critical that each student understand and abide by the "Common Ground Dialogue" process (printed below) to ensure all participants are in an environment of safety and respect.

“In this course we will be discussing very complex issues of which all of us have strong feelings and, in most cases, unfounded attitudes. It is essential that we approach this class experience with our minds open to evidence that may clash with our beliefs. Moreover, it is vital that we treat each other’s opinions and comments with courtesy even when they diverge and conflict with our own. We must avoid personal attacks to invalidate each other’s positions. Instead, we must develop a culture of civil argumentation, wherein all positions have the right to be defended and argued against in intellectually reasoned ways. It is this standard that everyone must accept in order to stay in this class; a standard that applies to all classes in a college setting but, whose observance is especially important in a course whose subject matter can be so emotionally charged.” [Adapted from Professor Melvin Oliver’s Sociology 156 syllabus, Fall 1991.]

Assumption Three: Late assignments, for any reason, will not be given maximum points. All assignments that are submitted after the due date will be deducted **5 points** per day (including weekends).

Course Requirements

- A. Attendance/Lateness—Class attendance is pertinent to your success in this class. Furthermore, consistently attending class late will not be tolerated. If you must attend class late, please do so quietly to avoid disruption of the class already in progress. If you must leave class early, please consult with me beforehand.
- B. Class Participation--Students are expected to take part in individual/group classroom activities and homework assignments as assigned by the instructor. Class participation accounts for a portion of your grade.
- C. Human Sexuality Survey & Personal Reflection Essay—Students will complete an anonymous, ONLINE sexuality survey that will reflect your personal sex history based on the original sex interview questions created by sex researcher, Alfred Kinsey in the 1950’s and a more contemporary online-based human sexuality survey

developed in the 2000's. A 4-5 page reaction paper will be submitted after completion of the surveys. A separate sheet of instructions will be given later. **DUE: March 14th, 2010**

D. Paraphilia Definition Paper —Students will be assigned a sexual paraphilia/non-traditional sexual expression to research and write a brief one page description based on your findings. A short oral presentation will accompany this assignment. A separate sheet of instructions will be given later. **DUE: April 26th, 2010**

E. Field Trip Experience—Students will choose a social setting, that they have never experienced, which is centered around some aspect of sexuality and write a short 2-3 page essay on what was observed and how the overall experience affected them. A separate sheet of instructions will be given later. **DUE: May 3rd, 2010**

F. Quizzes/Exams—A quiz will be given after *each* chapter is covered. ALL QUIZZES WILL BE ADMINISTERED ONLINE USING BLACKBOARD. There are NO MAKEUP QUIZZES. You must take all quizzes! In the event you miss a quiz, a grade of zero will be averaged in. Detailed instructions will be discussed in class on the first day. Additionally, each quiz will be accompanied by instructions online. **All quizzes must be completed before midnight on May, 9th, 2010.**

G. A **cumulative final exam** will be administered on **MAY 10TH, 2010**. **This exam will be administered online via Blackboard.**

Chances for Extra Credit

There are no opportunities for extra credit in this class for this semester. Therefore, it is imperative that you do well DURING the class semester/session as opposed to trying “catch-up” after the semester.

Other Important Stuff

- Please note that in discussing many of the topics in this course, [explicit terms, pictures, and/or films](#) may be used. If you find this offensive you may not want to take this course.
- Quizzes and exams must be taken as scheduled. In case of an emergency, a make-up final exam may be offered based upon the discretion of the instructor. No make-ups will be allowed without appropriate supporting documentation on official letterhead.
- Please keep a copy of all of your submitted assignments!
- Please turn the sound off of all cell phones, pagers, etc.
- Ethical conduct is expected. Violation of the cheating /plagiarism policy will result in a grade of “F” for the course.
- Any one not registered for the class can not attend (e.g. friends, children)
- **Syllabus Updates:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will notify students of such changes as soon as possible.

REQUIRED READINGS

Text: Carroll, J. (2010). *Sexuality Now: Embracing Diversity (3rd edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing.
Supplemental Readings: Provided by the instructor in class or posted online via Blackboard.

EVALUATION

This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 625 possible points.

		Points
Requirements		
Exams		
Mini Assessments	Quizzes 1-6 worth 10 points each; multiple choice taken online via Blackboard	60
Final Exam	Cumulative; multiple choice taken online via Blackboard	100
<i>Attendance* & Participation/In class assignments/Homework**</i>		15
Guiding Questions: The History of Sex		25

Guiding Questions: The Miracle of Life	25
Self Exploration Exercise: Anatomy	50
<i>Written Assignments</i>	
Human Sexuality Survey (pts. 1 & 2) & accompanying Personal Reflection Essay	50 100
Paraphilia Definition Paper (95 points for paper; 5 points in class pres.)	100
Fieldtrip Trip Experience	100
TOTAL	625

*Attendance—each day present in class in worth one point
 **Participation/In-class Assignments/Homework—each exercise completed in class is worth 1 additional point (with the exception of those assigned an independent grade)

Grading Scale

A+ = 100	B+ = 88 – 89	C+ = 78 – 79	D = 60 – 69
A = 94 – 99	B = 84 – 87	C = 74 – 77	F = 0 – 59
A- = 90 – 93	B- = 80 – 83	C- = 70 – 73	

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

1/25	Orientation	Discuss class expectations, textbook, syllabus and use of BlackBoard
2/1 & 2/8	Chapter 1	Exploring Human Sexuality: Past and Present
2/15	Chapter 2	Understanding Human Sexuality: Theory and Research
2/15, 2/22, & 3/1	Chapters 5/6	Female & Male Sexual Anatomy and Physiology/Supplement: Female Circumcision
3/8	SPRING BREAK	
3/15 & 3/22	Chapter 12	Pregnancy & Birth
3/29	Chapters 13	Contraception & Abortion
4/5 & 4/12	Chapter 4	Gender Development, Gender Roles, and Gender Identity
4/19	Chapters 11	Sexual Orientation
4/26	Chapter 16	Varieties of Sexual Expression— Para
5/3	Chapter 17	Power and Sexual Coercion
Independent Study	Chapter 15	Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS



- ❖ All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#Anchor12>]
- ❖ University policy states that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the professor
- ❖ Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See www.gmu.edu/student/drc]
- ❖ For additional School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism information, please visit the website at <http://rht.gmu.edu>