

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

HEAL 325 – Health Aspects of Human Sexuality (3)  
Spring 2011

DAY/TIME:	W 7:20 – 10:00 p.m.	LOCATION:	Innovation Hall Room 204
INSTRUCTOR:	Diana Karczmarczyk	EMAIL ADDRESS:	<a href="mailto:dkarczma@gmu.edu">dkarczma@gmu.edu</a>
OFFICE LOCATION:	N/A	PHONE NUMBER:	703-253-4815 (w)
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment only	FAX NUMBER:	N/A

#### PREREQUISITES

None

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the 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, lectures, guest speakers, and open discussion with peers.
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

This course relies, in part, on the use of explicit visual teaching aids such as slides, films and video clips. These materials may portray nudity, masturbation, and examples of sexual behavior. Every effort is made to present those materials in a mature and scientific manner. A person who would be offended by frank discussions and/or visual portrayals of human sexual behavior may not be a good candidate for this class.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a college classroom. Any student whose behavior is inappropriate or destructive to the learning environment will be asked to leave the class.

#### CLASSROOM POLICIES

- Please be on time to class. If you need to come in late- please do so quietly as to not disrupt others. It is expected that you attend all classes. Failure to attend may result in missed points that may result in a lower course grade. Athletes who may need to miss classes for university approved games and travel must submit a schedule in writing to the Instructor to be excused. All other class absences must be submitted in writing to the Instructor *to be considered* as excused.
- This class has a REQUIRED Blackboard component. It is important that you check Blackboard for important announcements, assignments and to access the midterm and final exam.
- Weather related announcements for class will be posted on the Blackboard page and emailed through Blackboard. It may be helpful to forward your Blackboard email to an account you frequently check.

- Be an active participant- listen, ask questions, and share ideas. It is your participation that will help to make this class more valuable. Sleeping in class is not a form of participation and you will be asked to leave.
- Please create a safe environment for people to openly communicate.
- Respect that each person is entitled to their own belief system.
- Complete all assignments on time. All written assignments are due at the beginning of class. Work must be submitted through Blackboard or turned in at the start of class as a hard copy. Late assignments will be accepted with points deducted for each day the assignment is late and must be emailed to the Instructor. If you miss class on a day when an assignment is due please note that the assignment MUST be received by the Instructor through Blackboard prior to the start of class or points will be deducted.
- Type, spell check and proofread all papers. All papers must be typed with a font size of 12 points and a margin of 1 inch. All work must be double-spaced. Papers that are not in this format will receive a deduction in points. Grading rubrics for each assignment will be posted on Blackboard.
- All work in this class must be your own. Use appropriate citation in work that is referenced.
- You may bring food and drink items to class, but please take all trash with you at the end of the class and dispose of properly.
- Cell phones must be muted or turned off during class. Please do not answer any calls in class or send/read any text messages. Video recording or taking pictures of any lecture is only allowed with the approval of the Instructor. Audio recording of lectures is allowed.
- Laptops are allowed in class to take notes on the lectures. If having a laptop in class is a possible source of distraction please reconsider bringing the laptop to class.
- To facilitate positive class discussions the class will develop and agree on a set of “ground rules” for the discussions that will occur throughout the semester. These “ground rules” will be added to the Blackboard page once they have been agreed upon and will be utilized for all class discussions.

#### REQUIRED READINGS

Crooks, R. & Baur, K. (2011). *Our Sexuality (11<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

#### EVALUATION

<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Points</u>
#1 Midterm- Multiple choice (60 question) exam taken on Blackboard	60
#2 Final Exam - Multiple choice (60 question) exam taken on Blackboard	60
<i>Assignments (3 total at up to 10 points each)</i>	30
<i>Movie Review (1 at up to 20 points)</i>	20
<i>In class reflections (5 at 2 points each)</i>	10
<i>Bonus Points (1 at up to 5 points)</i>	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>185</b>

**Assignments:** There will be 3 assignments due in the course. Details for each assignment will be provided in Blackboard. Assignments will include reviewing internet sites, watching television clips and analyzing the content, and informally interviewing 2-3 people and analyzing the responses.

**Movie Review:** Each student will be required to watch one of the films suggested throughout the textbook and submit a 3-4 page review analyzing the film and providing responses to the questions posted in Blackboard. This review is a critical evaluation of the messages regarding sexuality and sex roles. The review is NOT a summary of the movie.

**In class reflection:** Throughout the course there will be at least 5 opportunities for written reflection. This is a way to share your feedback about the topics discussed and ask any remaining questions you may have. These are your thoughts! These reflections may occur in the middle of the class or at the end of class. These reflections are NOT scheduled and can occur at any time throughout the semester. There will NOT be opportunities to make-up these reflections so attendance is critical.

**Bonus Points:** Students may work in pairs to each receive up to 5 additional points (per person) by developing up to a 3 minute recorded commercial. The commercial should address the question of “Why should someone take the Human Sexuality class at George Mason?” Commercials are due to the Instructor one week prior to the end of the semester. The commercial must be educational, creative and provide correct information. Any person (including the student) who is in the video must provide written permission to be recorded. In addition, the consent form should address if the video can be shown to current/future classes. Sample consent forms will be provided in Blackboard.

### **Grading Scale**

This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 185 possible points. Students may earn up to 185 points, but the course will only be graded out of 180 points to account for the bonus points. The final grade will be determined based on the following point scale.

185 points to 169 points = A  
168 points to 162 points = A-  
161 points to 158 points = B+  
157 points to 151 points = B  
150 points to 144 points = B-  
143 points to 140 points = C+  
139 points to 133 points = C  
132 points to 126 points = C-  
125 points to 108 points = D  
107 points to 0 points = F

### TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

- 1/26 Intro to class, Review syllabus, Develop contact cards/class pictures
- 2/2 Chapter 1: Perspectives on Sexuality & Chapter 2: Sex Research: Methods and Problems,
- 2/9 Chapter 3: Female Sexual Anatomy and Physiology & Chapter 4: Male Sexual Anatomy and Physiology
- 2/16 Chapter 5: Gender issues & Chapter 6: Sexual Arousal and Response, **Assignment # 1 Due**
- 2/23 Chapter 7: Love and Communication in Intimate Relationships, **Assignment # 2 Due**
- 3/2 Chapter 8: Sexual Behaviors
- 3/9 **MIDTERM on Blackboard (taken online on Blackboard)**
- 3/16 **NO CLASS! SPRING BREAK!**

- 3/23 Chapter 9: Sexual Orientation
- 3/30 Chapter 10: Contraception & Chapter 11: Conceiving Children: Process and Choice, **Assignment # 3 Due**
- 4/6 Chapter 12: Sexuality during Childhood and Adolescence, **Movie Review Due**
- 4/13 Chapter 13: Sexuality and the Adult Years & Chapter 14: Sexual Difficulties and Solutions
- 4/20 Chapter 15: Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- 4/27 Chapter 16: Atypical Sexual Behavior & Chapter 17: Sexual Coercion, **Bonus Points (Videos) Due**
- 5/4 Chapter 18: Sex for Sale
- 5/11 **FINAL EXAM on Blackboard (taken online on Blackboard)**

*Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary.*

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#### *Student Expectations*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

#### *Campus Resources*

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu>].

