

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

HEAL 325 – 5P3 - Health Aspects of Human Sexuality (3)
Fall 2013

DAY/TIME:	W 4:30 – 7:10 p.m.	LOCATION:	Planetary Hall 120
INSTRUCTOR:	Becky Griesse, MPH	EMAIL ADDRESS:	rgriesse@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	Classroom	PHONE NUMBER:	703-581-4795
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.

- Class attendance is required. Please arrive on time. If a student is unable to attend class, please notify the instructor prior to absence via email.
- Participation is important. Students are expected to come prepared to participate in activities and discussions on assigned readings.
- Please turn off or mute all cell phones during class. Ringing and vibrating phones disturb the flow of class. Electronic devices such as laptops, iPads, tablets, etc. will not be needed for class and should not be used.
- Please be respectful of differing opinions, values, and beliefs that will be discussed throughout this semester.
- Late assignments will **not** be accepted without prior written approval, and will be subject to grading penalty.

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY

Face to face

REQUIRED READINGS

Crooks, R. & Baur, K. (2014). *Our Sexuality (12th edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

Other required reading will be posted to Blackboard.

EVALUATION

Quizzes/Writing Assignments (10 points each – 70 total points)

Students are expected to attend class and fully participate in class activities and discussions based on the required reading for the week. There will be **10** unannounced quizzes/writing assignments. Only your 7 highest grades will count in your final grade. The quizzes will contain a mixture of multiple choice and true/false questions. The writing assignments will be no longer than one page and will take place in the middle or the end of the class. You will be asked to respond to a specific activity or question in no more than 1 page. There are no make-ups.

Documentary Response Paper (15 points)

Students must watch the documentary, *Straight Laced: How Gender Has Us All Tied Up*, and write a 2 page response. Students must view the documentary and submit the response by 9/25/13. Students may use class time on Wednesday, 9/18/13 (no class that day) to view the documentary. Grades will be based on content, organization, and grammar/spelling/punctuation.

Group Presentation (75 points) – Sexual Health Lesson Plan

In groups of 4 or 5, students will develop a sexual health lesson plan for a chosen grade level (K-12). Groups will present an overview of the lesson plan and conduct one activity with the class. Grades will be based on content, presentation skills, and organization and structure. Each person in the group is responsible for a portion of the oral presentation. Presentations will take place on the last day of class. Groups must hand in a copy of the lesson plan. More information will be provided by week 4 on Blackboard.

Exams (100 points each)

A mid-term and final exam will be given to assess your knowledge and understanding of course materials. Each exam will cover material from the preceding chapters and other required reading as well as class presentations and guest lectures. Exams will be a mix of multiple choice, true/false, matching and short answer. The final exam is not cumulative and will only cover material following the mid-term.

Assignments Points

Quizzes/Reflections	70
Response paper	15
Group Project	75
Mid-Term	100
Final	100
TOTAL:	360

Grading Scale

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

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC/READING
08/28/13 Week 1	Introduction/Syllabus/ Consolidated Chapters 1 & 2
09/04/13 Week 2	Chapter 3: Female Sexual Anatomy and Physiology
09/11/13 Week 3	Chapter 4: Male Sexual Anatomy and Physiology

09/18/13 Week 4	No Class – Assignment on your own Documentary: Straight Laced: How Gender Has Us All Tied Up Assignment: Write a 2-page response paper to the documentary listed above. Due on 9/25/13 Chapter 5: Gender issues Chapter 6: Sexual Arousal and Response <i>(information from both chapters will be included in the mid-term)</i>
09/25/13 Week 5	Chapter 7: Love and Communication in Intimate Relationships Response to Documentary Due
10/02/13 Week 6	Chapter 8: Sexual Behaviors
10/09/13 Week 7	Mid-Term (Chapters 1-8)
10/16/13 Week 8	Chapter 10: Contraception Chapter 11: Conceiving Children: Process and Choice
10/23/13 Week 9	Special Guest: TBD Chapter 9: Sexual Orientation
10/30/13 Week 10	Chapter 12: Sexuality during Childhood and Adolescence Chapter 13: Sexuality and the Adult Years
11/06/13 Week 11	Chapter 14: Sexual Difficulties and Solutions Chapter 15: Sexually Transmitted Diseases
11/13/13 Week 12	Special Guest - TBD Chapter 17: Sexual Coercion
11/20/13 Week 13	Chapter 16: Atypical Sexual Behavior Chapter 18: Sex for Sale
11/27/13	Thanksgiving Break – No Class
12/04/13 Week 14 Last Day of Class	Group Presentations
12/11/13	Final Exam (Chapters 9-18)

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

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>].
- 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/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].

- 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.

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>]

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR: Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT: The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

