

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Health and Human Performance**

**HEAL 325 DL5 – Health Aspects: Human Sexuality, 83741**  
**3 Credits, Fall 2020 (Oct 12-Nov 29)**  
**Distance Learning**

**Faculty**

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**Pre-requisites/Co-requisites**

None

**University Catalog Course Description**

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

**Course Overview**

This course explores the health aspects of human sexuality.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered online using an asynchronous format via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on October 12 at 12:01am.

**Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.**

*Technical Requirements*

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see:  
[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#supported-browsers](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers)

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:  
[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems)

- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - Windows Media Player: <https://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/windows-media-player/>
  - Apple Quick Time Player: [www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

### *Expectations*

- Course Week: Because asynchronous courses do not have a "fixed" meeting day, our week will start on Mon. and finish on Sun. Our course week will begin on the day that our synchronous meetings take place as indicated on the Schedule of Classes.
- Log-in Frequency: Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least one times per week.
- Participation: Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- Technical Competence: Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- Technical Issues: Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Workload: Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- Instructor Support: Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.
- Netiquette: The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- Accommodations: Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

## Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

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.

## Professional Standards

Not Applicable

## Required Texts

Crooks, R., Baur, K., & Widman, L. (2021). *Our Sexuality: 14th Ed.* Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-0-357-36075-0

In addition, supplementary readings will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester.

## Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 100 possible points.

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
<u>Tests</u>  Test 01 (covers chapters 1, 3-6) Test 02 (covers chapters 7-12) Test 03 (covers chapters 13-18)  Each Blackboard online test is composed of 50 multiple-choice questions. The tests are based on the content of the text as organized and presented in PowerPoint lectures. Each test will be graded 0-100 points. Test 01 is weighted .10, while Tests 02 and 03 are each weighted .15 of overall course grade. To best prepare for the tests, students should use their textbook-based notes as well as other materials provided on Blackboard.	<b>40 points</b>
<u>Preventing Unplanned Pregnancy Lessons and Quizzes</u>  Each student will complete 3 online lessons focused on preventing unplanned pregnancy (links will be provided on BB). Three short quizzes for each lesson will be available on Blackboard. The quizzes have a total of 20 questions over 3 quizzes each worth .5 pt. for a total of 10 pts. Quizzes are made up of multiple-choice questions based on the lessons presented online.	<b>10 points</b>

<p><u>Short Essay Quizzes</u></p> <p>There will be 10 short essay quizzes based on the content of the text as organized and presented in PowerPoint lectures. Each short essay quiz will be graded 0-3 points with a total of 30 possible points that will be factored directly into the overall grade.</p>	<b>30 points</b>
<p><u>Discussion Forums</u></p> <p>Each student is expected to post a comment in 10 different discussion forums and reply to another student's comment within that forum. Each discussion forum will be based on a self-assessment related to text material and completed by the student and then posting as a comment at the forum. Each posting with reply is worth 2 points for a total of 20 points that will be factored directly into the overall grade.</p>	<b>20 points</b>

**TOTAL** **100 points**

**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	

**Professional Dispositions**

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/>

**Class Schedule**

Week		Topic	Readings/Assignment Due
1	Oct 12-18	Intro. to the course  Perspectives on Sexuality  Sexuality and Sexual Health	<b>Readings</b> – Chapter 1, Circles of Sexuality (link on BB), A National Strategy to Improve Sexual Health (link on BB)  Short Essay Quizzes 1 & 2 <b>due Oct 18 end of day</b>  Discussion Forums 1 & 2 <b>due Oct 18 end of day (initial posts due Oct 17 end of day)</b>
2	Oct 19-25	Sexual Anatomy and Physiology  Gender Issues	<b>Readings</b> - Chapters 3, 4, 5, The Guide to Gender (link on BB)  Short Essay Quizzes 3 & 4 <b>due Oct 25 end of day</b>  Discussion Forums 3 & 4 <b>due Oct 25 end of day (initial posts due Oct 24 end of day)</b>

3	Oct 26-Nov 1	Sexual Arousal and Response  Love and Communication  Sexual Behaviors	<b>Readings</b> - Chapters 6, 7, 8  Test 1 <b>due Nov 8 end of day (covers Chs. 1, 3-6)</b>  Short Essay Quiz 5 <b>due Nov 1 end of day</b>  Discussion Forum 5 <b>due Nov 1 end of day (initial post due Oct 31 end of day)</b>
4	Nov 2-8	Sexual Orientations  Contraception  Conception	<b>Readings</b> - Chapters 9, 10, 11  Preventing Unplanned Pregnancy Online Lessons and Quizzes <b>due Nov 8 end of day</b>  Short Essay Quiz 6 <b>due Nov 8 end of day</b>  Discussion Forum 6 <b>due Nov 8 end of day (initial post due Nov 7 end of day)</b>
5	Nov 9-15	Child & Adolescent Sexuality  Adult Sexuality  Sexual Difficulties and Solutions	<b>Readings</b> - Chapters 12, 13, 14  Test 2 <b>due Nov 15 end of day (covers Chs. 7-12)</b>  Short Essay Quiz 7 <b>due Nov 15 end of day</b>  Discussion Forum 7 <b>due Nov 15 end of day (initial post due Nov 14 end of day)</b>
6	Nov 16-22	Sexually Transmitted Infections  Atypical Sexual Behavior	<b>Readings</b> - Chapter 15, 16  Short Essay Quizzes 8 & 9 <b>due Nov 22 end of day</b>  Discussion Forums 8 & 9 <b>due Nov 22 end of day (initial posts due Nov 21 end of day)</b>
7	<b>Nov 23-29</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>
8	Nov 23-Nov 29	Sexual Coercion  Sex for Sale	<b>Readings</b> - Chapters 17, 18  Short Essay Quiz 10 <b>due Dec 6 end of day</b>  Discussion Forum 10 <b>due Dec 6 end of day (initial post due Dec 5 end of day)</b>  Test 3 <b>due Dec 6 end of day (covers Chs. 13-18)</b>

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

## 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: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

## GMU Policies and Resources for Students

### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- 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 Mason 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 with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

1. Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
2. **Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:** As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at [703-380-1434](tel:703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at [703-993-2380](tel:703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling [703-993-8730](tel:703-993-8730), or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).
3. For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>
4. For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <http://cehd.gmu.edu/>.

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>**