

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**HEAL**

HEAL 325 AO1 – Health Aspects of Human Sexuality, 40463

3 Credits,  
Summer 2021, Distance Learning

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

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 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 January 25, 2021 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://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-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. at 12:01 am and finish on Sunday at 11:59 pm.
- 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 two 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. **Late work will not be accepted.**

- 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:

- Develop a solid basic understanding of biological, social, and psychological components of their human sexuality.
- 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.
- Form and express rational and responsible decisions concerning their human sexuality and development.
- Write and discuss the value of human sexuality education with professional teachers as well as the community.

## **Required Texts**

- Crooks, R., Baur, K. & Widman, L. (2017). *Our Sexuality*: 14th Ed. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-0357360750.

Additional course material at Blackboard: <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>

## **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard). This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 213 possible points.

### Assignments and/or Examinations

Requirements	Possible Points
<u>Tests</u> Test 01 Test 02 Each Blackboard online exam is composed of multiple-choice, true/false, and matching items. Each test will be graded 0-100 points. Both tests contain 100 items are weighted .25 each or .50 of your overall course grade. To best prepare for the tests, students should use their textbook-based notes as well as other materials provided on BB. Multiple-choice, true-false, and matching items will measure students' abilities to identify/recall, differentiate, apply and analyze subject material.	<b>50 points</b>
<u>Short Essay Quizzes</u> There will be 6 short essay quizzes based on the content of the text as organized and presented in PowerPoint lectures. Each short essay quiz will be graded 0-5 points with a total of 30 possible points that will be factored directly into the overall grade. The short essay questions will measure students' abilities to apply and analyze subject material.	<b>30 points</b>
<u>Discussion Forums</u> Each student is expected to post a comment in 5 different discussion forums and reply to another student's comment within that forum. The initial comment/post is due by 11:59 pm on Friday of each week and the reply to another student's comment is due by 11:59 on Sunday. Each discussion forum will be based on a self-assessment related to text or other posted material and completed by the student and then posting as a comment at the forum. Each posting with reply is worth 4 points for a total of 20 points that will be factored directly into the overall grade. The discussion forums will represent affective learning experiences.	<b>20 points</b>

**TOTAL**

**100 points**

### Grading

#### 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

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/>.

## Class Schedule

Week		Topic	Readings/Assignment Due
1	May 17 – May 23	Introduction to the course  Perspectives  Sexuality and Sexual Health  Anatomy and Physiology	<b>Readings</b> - Chapter 1, 3, 4, Circles of Sexuality (link on BB), and A National Strategy to Improve Sexual Health  <b>Discussion Forum 1 Initial Post (due June 5) and Reply Post (due June 7)</b>  <b>Short Essay Quiz 1 and 2 (due June 7)</b>
2	May 24 – May 30	Gender  Sexual Response  Love and Communication	<b>Readings</b> - Chapter 5, 6, 7, and The Guide to Gender (link on Blackboard – Lectures)  <b>Discussion Forum 2 Initial Post (due June 12) and Reply Post (due June 14)</b>  <b>Discussion Forum 3 Initial Post (due June 12) and Reply Post (due June 14)</b>  <b>Short Essay Quiz 3 and 4 (due June 14)</b>

3	May 31 – June 6	Sexual Behaviors;  Sexual Orientation;  Contraception  Conception	<b>Readings</b> - Chapter 8, 9, 10, 11  <b>Test 1 - Chapter 1-11, and other reading materials (due June 21)</b>
4	June 7 – June 13	Child & Adolescent Sexuality  Adult Sexuality  Sexual Difficulties  Sexually Transmitted Infections	<b>Readings</b> - Chapter 12, 13, 14, 15  <b>Discussion Forum 4 Initial Post (due June 26) and Reply Post (due June 28)</b>  <b>Short Essay Quiz 5 and 6 (due June 28)</b>
5	June 14 – June 19  **Everything is due early this week since it is the last week of class/final exams.	Atypical Sexuality  Sexual Coercion  Sex for Sale	<b>Readings</b> - Chapter 16, 17, and 18  <b>Discussion Forum 5 Initial Post (due Wednesday, June 16) and Reply Post (due Friday, June 18)**</b>  <b>Test 2 - Chapter 12-18 (due Friday, June 18)**</b>

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

### 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

### 1. GMU Policies and Resources for students

#### *Policies*

1. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
2. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
3. 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.
4. 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 <https://ds.gmu.edu>).
5. 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/> .**