

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
HEAL

HEAL 325 DL2 – Human Sexuality
3 Credits, Fall 2024
Distance Learning
(August 26-October 13)

Faculty

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Pre-requisites/Co-requisites

None

University Catalog Course Description

Covers the biological, psychological, emotional, and sociocultural factors related to human sexual behaviors. Includes topics such as anatomy, gender, sexual response, sexual behaviors, sexual orientation, relationships, reproduction, contraception, sexual difficulties and solution, sexually transmitted infections, and sexual coercion.

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 August 26 at 12:01am.

- To access your course in Canvas: <https://canvas.gmu.edu/login/canvas>.

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.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

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

1. Describe the biological components of human sexuality (e.g., anatomical, physiological, human sexual response), including the male and female reproductive systems, and sexual dysfunctions.
2. Explain key health concepts in human sexuality across the lifespan.

3. Identify and compare the different methods of contraception, and sexually transmitted infections and diseases.
4. Analyze the biological, psychological, emotional, and sociocultural influences that shape sexual attitudes, values, and behaviors.
5. Discuss the diversity of sexual behaviors and lifestyles.
6. Identify sexual health resources available for youth and adults on diverse sexual behaviors.

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

The textbook is integrated into Blackboard for your convenience as part of the Cengage First Day Program. If you choose not to use the First Day Program, you can do so at the "Purchase Course Materials" link in Blackboard. If you opt out of the First Day Program, you will need to purchase the textbook on your own. We will cover all 18 chapters and the exams are based on the 14th edition.

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

Technical Requirements

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

- High-speed internet access with updated browsers.
 - Canvas supported browsers: <https://guides.instructure.com/a/720329>
- Consistent and reliable access to GMU email and the course LMS, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Speakers and a microphone or a microphone-enabled headset for use with the synchronous web conferencing tools.
- Note that 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.

Expectations

- Course Week: Because asynchronous courses do not have a "fixed" meeting day, our week will start on Monday at 12:01am and finish on Sunday at 11:59pm.
- 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.
- 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:** Late assignments will be marked down by 15% each day and will not be accepted after **three days**. These terms are negotiable only in the case of documented emergencies and, if possible, with **advance notice**. Work with me... the more I know, the more I can help you.
- **Instructor Support:** Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times. One-on-one sessions will take place Zoom or BB Collaborate.
- **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.

Course Performance Evaluation

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

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

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

Requirements	Possible Points
<p><u>Tests</u></p> <p>Test 01 (covers chapters 1, 3-6) Test 02 (covers chapters 7-12) Test 03 (covers chapters 13-18)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>40 points</p>
<p><u>Reflection Paper</u></p> <p>Each student will have a chance to reflect on the materials presented and discussed throughout the semester. Prompts will be provided on Blackboard at least two weeks prior to the due date. The paper should be 2-3 pages, double-spaced. It is worth a total of 10 points that will be factored directly into the overall grade.</p>	<p>10 points</p>

<p><u>Content Questions</u></p> <p>There will be 10 content questions based on the textbook and PowerPoint lectures. Each content question will be graded 0-3 points with a total of 30 possible points that will be factored directly into the overall grade.</p>	30 points
<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 text material and other supplemental articles, videos, etc. related to human sexuality. Each posting with reply is worth 2 points for a total of 20 points that will be factored directly into the overall grade.</p>	20 points

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	

Use of Generative AI

Use of Generative AI tools should be used following the fundamental principles of Mason's Academic Standards. This includes being honest about the use of these tools for submitted work and including citations when using the work of others, whether individual people or Generative AI tools.

Professional Dispositions (CEHD Student Guide)

Throughout study in the College of Education and Human Development, students are expected to demonstrate behaviors that reflect the positive dispositions of a professional. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/current-students/cehd-student-guide>.

Class Schedule:

Week		Topic	Readings/Assignment Due
1	Aug 26-Sep 1	Intro. to the course Perspectives Sexuality and Sexual Health	Readings - Chapter 1, Circles of Sexuality: Visual and Explanations of Circles (links on BB) Content Questions 1 & 2 due Sep 1 end of day Discussion Forums 1 & 2 due Sep 1 end of day (initial posts due Aug 31 end of day)

2	Sep 2-8	Anatomy and Physiology Gender	Readings - Chapters 3, 4, and 5, The Guide to Gender (link on BB) Content Questions 3 & 4 due Sep 8 end of day Discussion Forums 3 & 4 due Sep 8 end of day (initial posts due Sep 7 end of day)
3	Sep 9-15	Sexual Response Love and Communication Sexual Behaviors	Readings – Chapters 6, 7, and 8 Test 1 due Sep 15 end of day (covers Chs. 1, 3-6) Content Question 5 due Sep 15 end of day Discussion Forum 5 due Sep 15 end of day (initial post due Sep 14 end of day)
4	Sep 16-22	Sexual Orientation Contraception Conception	Readings - Chapters 9, 10, and 11 Content Question 6 due Sep 22 end of day Discussion Forum 6 due Sep 22 end of day (initial post due Sep 21 end of day)
5	Sep 23-29	Child & Adolescent Sexuality Adult Sexuality Sexual Difficulties	Readings - Chapters 12, 13, and 14 Test 2 due Sep 29 end of day (covers Chs. 7-12) Content Question 7 due Sep 29 end of day Discussion Forum 7 due Sep 29 end of day (initial post due Sep 28 end of day)
6	Sep 30-Oct 6	Sexually Transmitted Infections Atypical Sexuality	Readings - Chapter 15 and 16 Content Questions 8 & 9 due Oct 6 end of day Discussion Forums 8 & 9 due Oct 6 end of day (initial posts due Oct 5 end of day)

7	Oct 7-16 **Note later due dates this week	Sexual Coercion Sex for Sale	Readings - Chapters 17 and 18 Content Question 10 due Oct 16 end of day Discussion Forum 10 due Oct 16 end of day (initial post due Oct 15 end of day) Reflection Paper due Oct 16 end of day Test 3 due Oct 16 end of day (covers Chs. 13-18)
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Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

CEHD Commitments

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to fostering collaboration and community, promoting justice and equity, and advancing research-informed practice. Students are expected to adhere to, and contribute to, these commitments, the CEHD Mission, and Core Values of George Mason University. More information can be found here: <https://cehd.gmu.edu/about/culture/>

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to Mason’s Academic Standards (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://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 <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to viahelp@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments>.
- Questions or concerns regarding use of your LMS should be directed to:
 - Blackboard Learn: <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>
 - Canvas: <https://its.gmu.edu/service/canvas/>
- For information on student support resources on campus, see: <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>
 - TimelyCare: <https://caps.gmu.edu/timelycare-services/>
 - Writing Center: <https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, 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 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.