

The University of Texas at Dallas

Course Syllabus

Human Sexuality PSY 4346

Term: Summer 2010

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 6-10 p.m.

Location: Green Hall – GR4.428

Contact Information

Name: Dr. Joanna Gentsch

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Email: jgentsch@utdallas.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 3:30-5:30 p.m. (or by appointment)

Other Information: The best way to reach me is via email. Please include your name in the subject line of the message and send the message from a UTD email address.

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

This course examines human sexuality from psychological, biological, behavioral, social, and historical perspectives. Topics include sexual research and theoretical perspectives, values and sex, love and intimacy, male and female sexual anatomy and physiology, sexually transmitted diseases, patterns of sexual response, sexual problems and therapies, the development of sexuality, sexual orientation, reproductive sexuality and the law, forcible sexual behavior, and other social issues in sexuality.

Student Learning Objectives:

After completing the course, students should be able to:

- 1.1 Describe and explain the nature of human sexuality as a scientific discipline.
- 1.2 Describe and analyze major theoretical perspectives and overarching themes of human sexuality from biological, behavioral, social, political, and historical perspectives.
- 1.3 Describe, apply, and analyze nine selected content areas within human sexuality: 1. historical perspectives, 2. sex research, 3. anatomy, physiology of sexual response and biology, 4. sexuality and the life cycle 5. Attraction, intimacy and love 6. Sexual orientation and gender roles 7. Variations in sexual behavior, disorders, sex therapy, 8. Ethics, religion and sexuality 9. Sex and the law.
- 2.1 Identify and explain different research methods used by psychologists to examine human sexuality and variations in sexual behavior.
- 2.2 Explain and apply basic statistical analyses and employ critical thinking to evaluate the appropriateness of conclusions derived from their use in human sexuality research
- 3.1 Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media, stereotypes, and scholarly literature in human sexuality.
- 3.3 Use creative thinking to address human sexuality-related issues.
- 4.1 Demonstrate effective writing skills in weekly thought journals designed to assess integration of the material discussed in class and read in the text.
- 5.1 Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings to issues addressing human sexuality, gender, sexual orientation, legal issues, and other aspects of everyday life.
- 5.3 Demonstrate how psychological principles and issues addressed in human sexuality can explain social issues and inform public policy.

Required Textbook and Materials:

Hyde, J & DeLamater, J. Understanding Human Sexuality, 10th Edition. 2008

Additional assigned readings on: **WebCT – to be announced**

- Supplemental readings or links to additional **mandatory** assigned readings will be posted on **Elearning (WebCT)**.
- For each exam, you must bring a **Pearson Scantron #229630** (pink form) and a #2 pencil. You can obtain these free at the off-campus bookstore.

Exams and Assignments:

The descriptions and timelines are subject to change at discretion of the professor.

It is your responsibility to acquire missed lecture notes or assignments. You are responsible for all material covered in lectures. This includes any changes to the syllabus, content and format of exams and details given regarding assignments.

- **Exams:** There will be two non-cumulative exams based on the lectures, films, activities and assigned readings. Test grades will reflect the percentage of correct items. Exam format will be multiple choice. Each exam is worth 30% of your final grade.
- **Journals:** On a weekly basis on Elearning (WebCT) there will be a journal assignment or activity related to the topic or a specific reading. Throughout the course of the semester each student will be required to complete a total of eight journals. Each journal will be worth 12.5 points each (for a total of 100 points and 20% of the final grade). Each student will be responsible for writing a brief essay (1 1/2 – 2 pages) related to the assignment (unless otherwise noted in the assignment). The journal essays must be submitted electronically to Elearning by class time (6 p.m.) on the due date. Late journals will not be accepted. You will need to keep up with the number of journals submitted. Each student may only submit 8 and no extra credit journals will be accepted. Journals will not be returned.
- **In-Class Activities:** Attendance and participation are very important in this class. Lectures will cover material outside of the text and exams will reflect the content of the classroom lectures. There will be in class activities and students will receive credit for completing. To receive full credit for participation and activities, you need to arrive in class prepared and on time. There will be no opportunities to make up in-class activities. The activities and class participation combined will be worth 10% of your final grade. If you are absent or repeatedly missing class, it will reflect in your grade.

Grading Policy:

Final course grade is based on the following criteria: Grades are reported as percentages and correspond with letter grades as listed below.

Exams 1 and 2	60% Total; each exam is worth approximately 30%each
In-Class Activities and class attendance	10% Total; completion grade
Portfolio Journals	30% Total. Total of Eight journals, each is worth 12.5 points. Grading rubrics will be posted on E-learning with the assignment

98-100	A+	77-79	C+
94-97	A	74-76	C
90-93	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
		Below 60	F

Course & Instructor Policies

Extra credit: Absolutely no individualized extra credit will be given. You have the opportunity to drop journals with low grades if you want to complete more than 10. Please make use of office hours if you are concerned about your grades.

Late work: All assignments are due as noted on the syllabus. No late work will be accepted. Because you have more than eight opportunities to submit journals there will be no exceptions made. If you are having trouble submitting your journals electronically, please email them directly to me and let me know so that we can investigate your issues with electronic submission. Problems with technology are not an excuse. Journals submitted during class time (after 6 p.m.) will **not** be accepted.

Exams: Make-up exams will be given only if: (a) you were seriously ill and have verifiable documentation from a physician, or (b) you were detained the day and time of the exam, or (c) you made arrangements prior to the exam to attend an urgent family affair (e.g., funeral). In any of these cases, you must notify your professor in advance of the scheduled time of the exam (call and leave a voice-mail message if you can do nothing else). Otherwise, you will receive an F. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that an exam is made up within one week of the scheduled time. There will be no exceptions. Beware, make-up exams are designed to be more comprehensive to compensate for having more study time.

Classroom Behavior: Please come to class on time and stay for the duration of the class session. You should be seated and ready to begin on time. Please be respectful of your classmates and your professor and refrain from talking to each other during lectures. Coming and going during class and talking to your neighbors is disruptive and distracting. Cell phones must be turned off and put away during class.

Classroom Attendance: Class attendance is required and expected. It is assessed in a variety of ways. Class attendance and participation are an important indication of your commitment and professionalism and are critical to your success in class. Lecture content will frequently cover content not found in the text and will not be provided on lecture notes. There is no such thing as an "excused absence". If you are unable to stay for the entire class, please let the professor know and you will be credited for partial attendance. Signing in for class and leaving will not be tolerated and you will be marked as absent if you do so.

May 26	Class Overview/Introduction/Orientation	
	Sexuality in Perspective/ Ethics, Religion and Sexuality	Chapter 1 and 19
	Film and Activity	
	Journal One Assigned	
June 2	Theoretical Perspectives on Sexuality/Sex Research	Chapter 2 and 3
	Film and Activity	
	Journal One Due – Journal Two Assigned	
June 9	Sexual Anatomy/ Sexuality and the Life Cycle	Chapter 4
	Sex Hormones, Sexual Differentiation, Puberty & Menstrual Cycle	Chapter 5
	Film and Activity	Chapters 9, 10
	Journal Two Due – Journal Three Assigned	
June 16	Gender and Sexuality	Chapter 12
	Sexual Orientation: Gay, Straight or Bi	Chapter 13
	Film and Activity/ Guest Speaker	
	Journal Three Due – Journal Four Assigned	
June 23	Exam One	
	Journal Four Due – Journal Five Assigned	
June 30	Sexual Arousal	Chapter 8
	Attraction, Love and Communication	Chapter 11
	Film and Activity	
	Journal Five Due– Journal Six Assigned	
July 7	Variations in Sexual Behavior	Chapter 14
	Sexual Coercion/Sex for Sale	Chapter 15 and 16
	Film and Activity	
	Guest Speaker	
	Journal Six Due– Journal Seven Assigned	
July 14	Sexual Disorders and Sex Therapy	Chapter 17
	Sex and the Law	Chapter 20
	Film and Activity	
	Journal Seven Due– Journal Eight Assigned	
July 21	Sexually Transmitted Infections	Chapter 18
	Contraception and Abortion	Chapter 7
	Guest Speaker	
	Journal Eight Due- Journal Nine Assigned	
July 28	Conception, Pregnancy, and Childbirth	Chapter 6
	Looking to the Future: Sexuality Education	Epilogue
	Final Overview	
	Film and Activity	
	Journal Nine Due- Journal Ten Assigned	
August 4	Reading Day – No Class	
August 11	Final Exam 6 p.m. in GR4.428	
	Journal Ten Due	

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.