

# PSYCH 25: Human Sexuality (54563)

Fall 2023

Meets Date/Time: Online

**Instructor: Norma H. Barajas, MS, PhD**

Email address: [norma.barajas@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:norma.barajas@reedleycollege.edu)

You can also reach me through canvas

Office Hours: By appointment.

## **Important Dates:** [Campus Calendar](#)

Aug. 7 (M)	First day of instruction
Aug. 18 (F)	Last day to drop class for full refund
Aug. 25 (F)	Last day to drop to avoid a "W"
Sept. 4 (M)	Labor Day holiday (no classes held, campus closed)
Oct. 6 (F)	Last day to drop, letter grades assigned after this date
Nov. 10 (F)	Veteran's Day observed (no classes held, campus open)
Nov. 23-24 (Th-F)	Thanksgiving holiday (no classes held, campus closed)
Dec. 4-8 (M-F)	Finals*****

For other important dates visit: [Campus Calendar](#)

**Required Text:** [Carroll, J. \(2019\). \*Sexuality Now: Embracing Diversity\*. Boston, MA. Cengage. 6th Ed.](#)  
Student Edition: ISBN: 978-1-337-40499-0  
Loose-leaf Edition: ISBN: 978-1-337-56356-7

**\*Follett Bookstore has made both the Hardcopy and Electronic Copy available**

## **Overview of Course:**

This course will provide you with a general introduction to sexual behaviors and values in contemporary society from historical, psychobiological and sociological perspectives; material will be presented explicitly and scientifically. Several areas of sexuality including sex within relationships, alternative lifestyles, contraception, sexual dysfunction, social roles and attitudes will be discussed. Destructive and atypical sexual behaviors such as sexual violence and selling of sex will also be discussed. This course will help students understand and describe how humans develop sexually throughout the life span within a cultural context.

## **Specific Course Goals and Objectives:**

Students who successfully complete PSYCH 25—Humans Sexuality should be able to:

1. Accurately discuss a broad range of topics on sexuality utilizing historical, cultural, sociological, psychological, biological and evolutionary perspectives.
  1. History of sex on television
  2. Important developments in the history of sexuality research
  3. Same sex relationships around the globe
  4. Assisted reproduction/contraceptions
2. Understand how sexuality research has been conducted historically and the associated problems encountered when using certain data collection techniques.
3. List, describe and differentiate between major theories of human sexuality.
4. State and discuss pro and con positions on controversial sexual issues like, but not limited to, use of contraceptives, self-stimulation (masturbation), sexual orientation and polygamy.

5. Identify the various influences on one's own sexual knowledge, attitudes, relationships, and behavior, including the ways in which society attempts to regulate all sexual behavior.
6. Discuss the topic of sex and its many related issues with minimal psychological and physiological discomfort.

**Overview of Assignments and Points :**

Overall grade will evaluate student performance in the following areas:

**I. Participation / Discussion Assignment (70)**

You will be responsible for posting a response to each chapter we read. I will give you guidance on what that posting should include. Please be respectful in your posts. Also, keep in mind that in order to accommodate for learning opportunities as well as meet the fast pace of this course, you may need to respond to two chapters each week.

We will occasionally start a Discussion Thread (under the Discussions tab on Canvas). These are different from the weekly DPAs. I recommend posting questions, reactions, or thoughts here. There is no prompt for these, as these will be more informal with the intent of encouraging discussion. A thread may be started by me, you, or your peers; you are encouraged to respectfully respond to me or your peers' discussion threads as well. Although these discussion threads do not get an official grade, engagement in these discussion threads is part of your participation and I do take these into consideration when assessing your final grade.

**Assignments (14 DPAs x 5 points = 70 points)**

**II. Exams (300)**

- Exam 1 (Chapters 1 through 7– 100 points)
- Exam 2 (Chapters 8 through 13 – 100 points)
- Exam 2 (Chapters 14 through 18 – 100 points)

**III. Topic Summary and Analysis (30)**

There will be 1 psychology topic paper assigned. You will select a topic from the textbook and write a summary. There will be specific questions and information to include in your paper that will be provided at a later date. This will be an opportunity for you to dive a little further into a topic of psychology that you might have a special interest in.

- **Topic Paper One = 30 points**

**Grades :** Final grades will be decided according to the following scale. There will be a total of **400** points possible from the three 100-point exams, the 70-point discussion assignments (these are also your participation points), and the two 15-point psychology topic papers.

400-372 A	(93%)	307-292 C	(73%)
371-360 A-	(90%)	291-280 C-	(70%)
359-348 B+	(87%)	279-268 D+	(67%)
347-332 B	(83%)	267-252 D	(63%)
331-320 B-	(80%)	251-240 D-	(60%)
319-308 C+	(77%)	239 & Under	F

**Attendance & Participation:**

Course engagement is one measure of participation. Canvas allows me to view your engagement in the material, which in turn will allow me to assess your learning and participation. Remember that this is a 3 credit course, and as such you are expected to spend just as much time engaged in the material as if we were in a traditional, in-person course. This part of your class is very important as given our current structure you will be engaged in the material as much as you choose to.

**You should complete all assignments on time.**

College policy allows the instructor to drop a student who accumulates 4 or more “absences” or in this case missed assignments, in the first few weeks of class. All absences **before** the drop date will result in a **LOSS from participation points**. Absences occurring **AFTER** the drop date will result in a **GREATER loss of points PER absence**. So in short, be prepared to participate!

### **Class Etiquette**

**IMPORTANT WARNING!** Online learning, Asynchronous Learning in particular, is not for everyone. You need to be a **very self-directed and personally responsible** student to be successful in online asynchronous courses. In this course you do not see your instructor twice a week, reminding you of what’s due in next class, or discussing other projects. Therefore, you need to seriously consider your motivation and skills before you embark on this course.

Computer problems, electrical shortages, and other malfunctions do occur, and it is your responsibility to complete work by the deadline **regardless** of any of these problems . Please do not write to me to ask for extensions because your computer crashed, or you were unable to ‘get online’ to complete the work. You are given several days to complete an assignment, therefore, if your technology fails on the last day the assignment is due, you will not be excused from the deadline.

To clarify: Under no circumstance will late work be accepted at any time in the term! There is no room for late assignments.

**I recommend you always complete your work before the deadline to prevent any problem of this sort.**

### **Professionalism:**

Students are expected to behave in a professional manner. Basic program expectations include professional behavior in the classroom. Engagement, preparedness, effort, and honesty, in combination with respect for faculty and other students are all considered under the heading of professional behavior. The goal is to create a community of learners in a positive, insult-free zone. A student who is unable to conduct himself / herself in a courteous and respectful manner will be asked to remove himself or herself from the class and or classroom. Your first warning might be verbal for any insult or disrespectful comments or behavioral disturbances. The second time you will need to see the V.P. of Student Services and/or sign a behavioral contract before returning to class. Your participation points will be deducted if you are disruptive during an exercise or discussion.

### **Exams:**

There will be a total of **Three (3) examinations** consisting of many or all of the following: Multiple choice, matching, true-false and short answer questions. Students are expected to complete the exam within the time allotted.

Make-up exams will be allowed only in the rare case of EXTREME emergencies, and at the discretion of the instructor. Students are not generally given, and should not expect, a make-up exam to be allowed without written documentation of the emergency condition (illness, accident, family emergency, etc.), and then only if some notice is given in advance of the exam. **ALL students must take the third exam in order to pass the course and no make-up exams will be allowed for the final exam.**

- Given the above stipulation, it should be clear that:
  - **If a student misses an exam—for whatever reason—and DOES NOT provide advanced notification to the instructor, the student WILL NOT be allowed to take/make-up the exam missed!!**

### **Discussion Preparation Assignments**

Over the course of the semester, students will be expected to participate in discussion assignments. Using the textbook as well as other sources (i.e. websites, internet, etc.), each student will write an independent response/analysis of the assigned topic(s). **Specific information for each assignment, with corresponding detail, will follow and will posted on Canvas.**

## **Psychology Topic Summary and Analysis:**

To better allow students the opportunity to explore a topic of interest, Students will write one short paper. **Students will critique and summarize the research, the theory, or a perspective in writing.**

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, you should notify me immediately. If you do have a disability, you must have registered in our DSP&S office on this campus. They will assist you with providing you with the accommodations as delineated by that office. You cannot simply ask for multiple accommodations without having the paperwork completed and approved through DSP&S office. Furthermore, you must do that at each campus. If you have registered for services at Clovis, that will not cover you at Reedley. It is campus specific.

## **Demonstrating satisfactory progress**

Completing the assigned readings and homework assignments will help students demonstrate their knowledge of the course material on examinations. If students have earned **less than 40% of the total points possible** by the **4th or 5th week** of instruction, their successful completion of the course with a C or better is numerically impossible. Students will be informed of their class standing and advised to seek counseling either with me or counseling services to discuss their current status and all possible options to ensure their successful program matriculation.

## **Cheating and Plagiarism**

Reedley College has a written board policy (BP 5410) on Standards and Conduct, which references incidences of cheating and plagiarism (see definitions below). If caught engaging in such academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, including but not limited to the removal, suspension or expulsion of a student will be taken as outline in BP 5410 and its corresponding administrative regulation.

Anyone deemed to have submitted a plagiarized paper will automatically receive a failing grade. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different classes without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights

- **Cheating** is defined as the willful and intentional practice of fraudulent and deceptive acts for the purpose of improving a grade or obtaining course credit. This definition is not limited to examination situations only; it also includes any and all behavior by you, which is intended to gain an unearned academic advantage.
- Plagiarism is identified as a specific form of fraudulent and deceptive act which, consists of the willful and intentional misuse of published works of another by representing the material so used, as one's own work.

## **Class Cancellation**

If for any reason class is canceled, a notice will be posted on our Canvas page and on the Reedley College website. Also, always check Canvas. Any important messages or assignments for the next class session will be posted there.

## **REVISED Tentative Course Calendar:**

	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Readings</u></b>
Week 1. Due Thur Aug 10	Exploring Human Sexuality: Past and Present	Chapter 1
Week 2 Due Thur Aug 17	Understanding Human Sexuality: Theory and Research	Chapter 2
Week 3 Due Thur Aug 24	Communication and Sexuality Love & Intimacy	Chapter 3 Chapter 7
Week 4 Due Thur Aug 31	Gender Development, Gender Roles, & Gender Identity	Chapter 4

Week 5 Due Thur Sept 7	Female Sexuality Anatomy & Physiology	Chapter 5
Week 6 Due Thur Sept 14	Male Sexual Anatomy & Physiology	Chapter 6
<b>Week 6</b> <b>ASSIGNED Thursday September 14, 6pm</b> <b>DUE September 18, 2023 6:00 pm</b>		<b>Exam 1 Chapters 1 - 7</b>
Week 7 Due Thur Sept 21	Childhood & Adolescent Sexuality	Chapter 8
Week 8 Due Thur Sept 28	Adult Sexual Relationships	Chapter 9
Week 9 Due Thur Oct 5	Sexual Expression	Chapter 10
Week 10 Due Thur Oct 11	Sexual Orientation	Chapter 11
Week 11 Due Thur Oct 19	Pregnancy & Birth	Chapter 12
Week 12 Due Thur Oct 26	Contraception & Abortion	Chapter 13
<b>Week 12</b> <b>ASSIGNED Thursday October 26, 6pm</b> <b>DUE October 29, 2022 6:00 pm</b>		<b>Exam 2 Chapters 8 - 13</b>
<b>ASSIGNED October 26, 2022</b>		<b>Psych Topic Paper #1</b>
Week 13 Due Thur Nov 2	Challenges to Sexual Functioning	Chapter 14
Week 14 Due Thur Nov 9	Sexually Transmitted Infections	Chapter 15
Week 15 Due Thur Nov 16	Varieties of Sexual Expression Sexual Images & Selling Sex	Chapter 16 Chapter 18
Week 16	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	
Week 17 Due Thur Nov 30	Power and Coercion	Chapter 17
<b>DUE November 19, 11:59pm</b>		<b>Psych Topic Paper #1</b>
<b>ASSIGNED Friday December 1, 6pm</b> <b>DUE December 5, 2022. 11:59pm</b>		<b>Exam 3 Chapters 14 - 18</b>

**THIS SYLLABUS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR REVISION DURING THE ACADEMIC SEMESTER AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.**