Psychology 25: Human Sexuality

Course Syllabus – PSY 25-58600 Fall 2021 (Online)

Instructor: Luz Adriana Vargas, Psy.D., MAOB

E-mail: luzadriana.vargas@reedleycollege.edu

# Course Overview

Course description

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 rape, incest and paraphilias will also be discussed. This course will help students understand and describe how humans develop sexually throughout the life span.

### Student learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Accurately discuss a broad range of topics on sexuality utilizing historical, sociological, psychological, biological and evolutionary perspectives.
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.

Text

**Great news**: your textbook for this class is available for online at a low price.

* $29.95 for online version/access
* $49.95 for downloadable text and online access
* $54.95 for color printed text with online access
* $74.95 for color printed, downloadable, and online access

[Sexuality and Our Diversity: Integrating Culture with the Biopsychosocial v2.1](https://catalog.flatworldknowledge.com/catalog/editions/sexuality_div_2-1)

By: Marcus Tye

Published: 2020

ISBN (Digital): 978-1-4533-3567-3

Student Link: <https://students.flatworldknowledge.com/course/2596929>

# Course Requirements

This will be a 100% online course. You will not have to log on at designated times. Lectures and class activities will be accessible on your own schedule (asynchronous course); however, I will be available to schedule zoom meetings with anyone that needs it. There will be due dates for discussion posts, assignments and exams. You will have to check-in and complete an introductory discussion response by the first week of class (8/13/2021) in order to not be dropped from the course. The introduction discussion response is worth 20 points and is mandatory to stay in the course after the first week as it will be the way to assess that you are attending and participating in the course.

### Discussion Posts

Two different discussion topics or questions will be posted each week and will correspond with the chapter or topic being discussed that given week. One discussion response will be due each Wednesday while the second one will be due each Friday. You WILL have to respond to the discussion posts in a thorough and thoughtful manner and ALSO respond to two different replies submitted by your peers. This means you will submit a total of six replies each week (two to me and four to peers). Your response to the original discussion post should be a thorough paragraph in which you make reference to information from course content or text book, at a minimum and responses to your peers should be no less than 4 complete sentences. Responses of “I agree with you” or “I can relate to that” are not enough. The reply you submit to the original discussion post will be worth 10 points. The two replies to your peers will be worth 5 points each for a total of 20 points each discussion post. You will have the ability to earn a total of 40 points each week in discussion responses. Total semester points available for discussion posts is 640 points. The discussion posts will be available by Monday mornings at 8:00 AM and will be due the same week on Wednesday and Friday by 11:59 PM.

#### Exams

There will be three midterms and a final. All exams will be worth 100 points for a total of 400 possible points in exams and will be a combination of 50 multiple choice, true-false, and/or fill-in questions. All exams will be assigned on the dates below (Friday 8:00 AM), but will be due by 11:59 PM on Monday unless it is a holiday and will then be due the following day. This gives you four days to complete the exam. Students will have 1.5 hours to complete the exam. Once you start the exam, the 1.5 hours begins. The final exam will be available from Saturday, December 4, 2021 and is scheduled to be due on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 by 11:59 PM. You'll have to be **flexible** if the scheduled dates/times are inconvenient for you. Because of the nature of an online course, make-up exams may be difficult to accommodate.

# Professionalism

Online learning is not everyone’s favorite BUT due to COVID-19 online courses are likely a big part of your life right now. You need to be a very self-directed and personally responsible student to be successful in online courses. Online you do not see your instructor twice a week, reminding you of what’s due next class, or discussing other projects. Therefore, you need to use your motivation and skills to successfully embark on this course. I will also make myself available through email and/or zoom to help you throughout the course. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns related to the course. We will work together! Remember that tutoring, DSP&S, counseling and other resources to help you succeed will still be readily available online.

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 at the last minute. 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 unless there was a serious issue. I recommend you always complete your work before the deadline to prevent any problem of this sort.

Course Drop Policy

Students who do not review the week 1 module and complete the check-in discussion response (worth 20 points) at the end of the module by 8/13/2021 will be dropped as that would be considered being a no show.

# Plagiarism

Please note that plagiarism is a violation of Reedley College policy. Anyone deemed to have submitted plagiarized work 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. Again, all assignments, tests, and quizzes are to be completed on an individual basis; collaboration with other classmates or anyone else is **not allowed** unless instructed otherwise.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (e.g. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

# Grades

The following scale will decide final grades. There will be a total of 1060 points possible from the three 100-point midterms, the 100-point final, and 660 points from introduction and discussion posts.

## Grading Scale

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Points |  | Letter Grade | Percentage |
| 954 – 1060 |  | A | 90% - 100% |
| 848 – 953 |  | B | 80% - 89%  |
| 742 – 847  |  | C | 70% – 79% |
| 636 – 741  |  | D | 60% – 69% |
| 0 – 635 |  | F | 0% – 59% |

# Course Schedule

| **Week** | **Date** | **Readings/Topic** | **Discussion Due** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 | 8/9 | Syllabus and Course Review | 8/13 |
| Week 2 | 8/16 | Ch.1: Studying Sexuality in a Cultural and Historical Context | 8/18 and 8/20 |
| Week 3 | 8/23 | Ch. 2: Studying Sexuality: Research Methods and Challenges | 8/25 and 8/27 |
| Week 4 | 8/309/3 | Ch. 3: Sexual Bodies: Anatomy and Physiology**Exam 1: Chapter 1-3** | 9/1 and 9/3**Due 9/7** |
| Week 5 | 9/6 | Chapter 4: Gender Identity and Sex Development | 9/8 and 9/10 |
| Week 6 | 9/13 | Ch. 5: Attraction, Arousal, Response, and Sexual Orientation | 9/15 and 9/17 |
| Week 7 | 9/20 | Ch. 6: Sexual Relationships, Love, and Communication | 9/22 and 9/24 |
| Week 8 | 9/2710/1 | Ch. 7: Sexual Behavior Across Cultures**Exam 2: Chapter 4-7** | 9/29 and 10/1**Due 10/4** |
| Week 9 | 10/410/8 | Ch. 8: Gender and Sexuality Across the Lifespan | 10/6 and 10/8 |
| Week 10 | 10/11 | Ch. 9: Variations in Sexual Behavior: Kinks, Fetishes, and Paraphilias | 10/13 and 10/15 |
| Week 11 | 10/18 | Ch. 10: Fertility, Contraception, and Abortion | 10/20 and 10/22 |
| Week 12 | 10/2510/29 | Ch. 11: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Parenthood**Exam 3: Chapters 8-11** | 10/27 and 10/29**Due 11/1** |
| Week 13 | 11/111/5 | Ch. 12: Sexual Difficulties, Dysfunctions, and Treatments | 11/3 and 11/5 |
| Week 14 | 11/811/11 | Ch. 13: Sexually Transmitted Infections and Prevention**Veteran’s Holiday (11/11) – No Classes** | 11/10 and 11/12 |
| Week 15 | 11/15 | Ch. 14: Sexual Aggression and Coercion | 11/17 and 11/19 |
| Week 16 | 11/2211/25 | Ch. 15: Sex as a Commodity and the Regulation of Sexuality**Thanksgiving Holiday (11/25 – 11/26) – No Classes** | 11/24 |
| Week 17 | 11/29 | Review | 12/1 and 12/3 |
| Week 18 | 12/6 | **Final Exam: Chapters 12-15** | **Due 12/8** |

**This syllabus is subject to (very probable) change and/or revision during the academic term.**

**Have a GREAT SEMESTER-If you have any questions, just ask!**