

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

HEAL 325 – Health Aspects of Human Sexuality (3)  
Fall 2012

DAY/TIME:	T 7:20 – 10:00 p.m.	LOCATION:	University 1204
INSTRUCTOR:	Diana Karczmarczyk, MPH	EMAIL ADDRESS:	<a href="mailto:dkarczma@gmu.edu">dkarczma@gmu.edu</a>
OFFICE LOCATION:	N/A	PHONE NUMBER:	703-253-4886 (w)
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment only	FAX NUMBER:	N/A

#### PREREQUISITES

None

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Covers biological, behavioral, and sociocultural factors in human sexual behavior.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a solid basic understanding of biological, social, and psychological components of their human sexuality.
2. 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.
3. Form and express rational and responsible decisions concerning their human sexuality and development.
4. Write and discuss the value of human sexuality education with professional teachers as well as the community.

#### COURSE OVERVIEW

This course relies, in part, on the use of explicit visual teaching aids such as slides, films and video clips. These materials may portray nudity, masturbation, and examples of sexual behavior. Every effort is made to present those materials in a mature and scientific manner. A person who would be offended by frank discussions and/or visual portrayals of human sexual behavior may not be a good candidate for this class.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a college classroom. Any student whose behavior is inappropriate or destructive to the learning environment will be asked to leave the class.

#### NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY

Face to face

#### CLASSROOM POLICIES

- Please be on time to class. If you need to come in late- please do so quietly as to not disrupt others. It is expected that you attend all classes. Failure to attend will result in missed points that will result in a lower course grade. **Requests** for exceptions must be submitted in writing to the Instructor prior to missing class.
- This class has a **REQUIRED** Blackboard component. It is important that you check Blackboard for important announcements, assignments and to access the midterm and final exam.
- Weather related announcements for class will be posted on the Blackboard page and communicated through Blackboard as well as by the Mason administration.

- Be an active participant- listen, ask questions, and share ideas. It is your participation that will help to make this class more valuable. Sleeping in class is not a form of participation and you will be asked to leave.
- Please create a safe environment for people to openly communicate.
- Respect that each person is entitled to their own belief system.
- Complete all assignments on time. All written assignments are due at the beginning of class. Work must be submitted through Blackboard or turned in at the start of class as a hard copy. Late assignments will be accepted with points deducted for each day the assignment is late and must be emailed to the Instructor. If students miss class on a day when an assignment is due please note that the assignment MUST be received by the Instructor through Blackboard prior to the start of class or points will be deducted. No exceptions will be made to this policy as all assignments will be provided at least 2 weeks prior to their due date.
- Type, spell check and proofread all papers. All papers must be typed with a font size of 12 points and a margin of 1 inch. All work must be double-spaced. Papers that are not in this format will receive a deduction in points. Grading rubrics for each assignment will be posted on Blackboard.
- All work in this class must be your own. Use appropriate citation in work that is referenced.
- Students may bring food and drink items to class, but please take all personal trash at the end of the class and dispose of properly.
- Cell phones must be muted or turned off during class. Please do not answer any calls in class or send/read any text messages. Video recording or taking pictures of any lecture is only allowed with the approval of the Instructor. Audio recording of lectures is allowed.
- Due to feedback from previous classes laptops should not be used in this class. Students have used laptops in the past for checking emails, surfing the internet and working on other work while class was in session and this is very disruptive to others. The nature of this class is not conducive to using laptops because the class consists of small and large group discussions on a regular basis. If a student feels as though they need an exception made for them to succeed in the class then they should speak to the instructor personally.
- To facilitate positive class discussions the class will develop and agree on a set of “ground rules” for the discussions that will occur throughout the semester. These “ground rules” will be added to the Blackboard page once they have been finalized and will be utilized for all class discussions.

#### REQUIRED READINGS

Crooks, R. & Baur, K. (2011). *Our Sexuality (11<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

#### EVALUATION

<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Points</u>
#1 Midterm- Multiple choice (60 question) exam taken on Blackboard	60
#2 Final Exam - Multiple choice (60 question) exam taken on Blackboard	60
<i>Assignments (3 total at up to 10 points each)</i>	30

*In class reflections and attendance (10 at up to 2 points each)*

20

*Final class reflection (includes 2 parts for up to 10 points total)*

10

TOTAL

180

**Assignments:** There will be 3 assignments due in the course. Assignments will include posting pictures on a specific topic related to class discussions and responding to pictures/posts from classmates with comments, informally interviewing 2-3 people and analyzing the responses, and conducting (and sharing verbally through a class exercise) research on a topic related to the course through the use of scholarly articles and news outlets (newspaper, magazine, television) as sources. *Details and grading rubrics for each assignment will be provided on Blackboard at least 2 weeks before the assignment deadline.*

**In class reflection and attendance:** This class will include regular class discussions, guest speakers and interactive learning activities. Student participation and attendance is critical and expected. Throughout the course there will be at least 10 opportunities for written reflection on each class. These reflections may occur in the middle of the class or at the end of class. Grading includes 2 points possible for each class attended. Students who arrive more than 30 minutes late or leave more than an hour early are only eligible for a maximum of 1 point per class.

**Final class reflection:** The final class reflection is a two part activity. Part one will be completed at the start of the semester. Each student will be provided with a set of questions about their views related to human sexuality. The answers will be sealed in an envelope. This document will then be collected by the instructor and redistributed to students near the end of the course. Part two for the final class reflection will be a 2-3 page paper reflecting on lessons learned in the class and how the class has impacted them personally by citing specific examples from class discussions and content.

**Optional Bonus Points:** Students *may* each receive up to 5 additional points for submitting a 5-7 page paper on an approved book on a topic related to the course. A list of pre-approved books will be listed on Blackboard. Requests for a book to be approved that is not on the list must be submitted in writing at least 2 weeks before the paper is due. The 5-7 page paper must be a scholarly and personal review of the book and address the following:

- What are the strengths of the book?
- What are the lessons learned from the book?
- Why should someone read this book?
- What would improve the book?

### **Grading Scale**

180 points to 169 points = A  
168 points to 162 points = A-  
161 points to 158 points = B+  
157 points to 151 points = B  
150 points to 144 points = B-

143 points to 140 points = C+  
139 points to 133 points = C  
132 points to 126 points = C-  
125 points to 108 points = D  
107 points to 0 points = F

### TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

8/28 Intro to class, Review syllabus, Develop contact cards, **Part one of Class Reflection completed in class**

(9/4 Last day to add classes)

9/4 Chapter 1: Perspectives on Sexuality & Chapter 2: Sex Research: Methods and Problems

9/11 Chapter 3: Female Sexual Anatomy and Physiology & Chapter 4: Male Sexual Anatomy and Physiology

9/18 Chapter 5: Gender issues & Chapter 6: Sexual Arousal and Response,

9/25 Chapter 7: Love and Communication in Intimate Relationships, **Assignment # 1 Due**

(9/28 Last day to drop classes with 67% tuition penalty)

10/2 Chapter 8: Sexual Behaviors

(10/8 Columbus Day recess)

10/9 **NO CLASS** due to Columbus Day Recess, Monday classes meet on this date

10/16 Chapter 9: Sexual Orientation

10/23 **MIDTERM on Blackboard (taken online on Blackboard)**

10/30 Chapter 10: Contraception & Chapter 11: Conceiving Children: Process and Choice, **Assignment # 2 Due**

11/6 Chapter 12: Sexuality during Childhood and Adolescence

11/13 Chapter 13: Sexuality and the Adult Years & Chapter 14: Sexual Difficulties and Solutions

11/20 Chapter 15: Sexually Transmitted Diseases, **Assignment # 3 Due**

(11/21-11/25 Thanksgiving Recess)

11/27 Chapter 16: Atypical Sexual Behavior & Chapter 17: Sexual Coercion, **Bonus Points Due**

12/4 Chapter 18: Sex for Sale, **Final class reflection Due**

(12/10, 12/11 until 4:30 PM Reading Days)

12/11 **FINAL EXAM on Blackboard (taken online on Blackboard)**

*Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary.*

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#### *Student Expectations*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].

- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University 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 must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

#### *Campus Resources*

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu/>].

**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.

