HEAL 325 DL1 – Health Aspects: Human Sexuality
3 Credits, Spring 2021
Distance Learning

Faculty
Name: Dr. Amanda Gordon
Office hours: By appointment
Office location: N/A
Office phone: N/A
Email address: agordon8@gmu.edu

Pre-requisites/Co-requisites
None

University Catalog Course Description
Covers biological, behavioral, and sociocultural factors in human sexual behavior.

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 January 25 at 12:01am.

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.

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

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see:
  https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers

  To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:
  https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems

- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- 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.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: https://get.adobe.com/reader/
  - Windows Media Player: https://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/windows-media-player/
  - Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

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. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- 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.
- 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.
- Accommodations: Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives
This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

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.

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

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

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

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

Requirements	Possible Points
Tests Test 01 (covers chapters 1, 3-6) Test 02 (covers chapters 7-12) Test 03 (covers chapters 13-18) 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.	**40 points**
Preventing Unplanned Pregnancy Lessons and Quizzes Each student will complete 3 online lessons focused on preventing unplanned pregnancy (links will be provided on BB). Three short quizzes for each lesson will be available on Blackboard. The quizzes have a total of 20 questions over 3 quizzes each worth .5 pt. for a total of 10 pts. Quizzes are made up of multiple-choice questions based on the lessons presented online.	**10 points**

Content Questions 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.	**30 points**
Discussion Forums 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 a self-assessment related to text material and completed by the student and then posting as a comment at the forum. Each posting with reply is worth 2 points for a total of 20 points that will be factored directly into the overall grade.	**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		

Professional Dispositions
Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See
https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/

Class Schedule

Week		Topic	Readings/Assignment Due
1	Jan 25-31	Intro. to the course Perspectives	Chapter 1: Perspectives on Sexuality Content question 1 **due Jan 31 end of day** Discussion forum 1 **due Jan 31 end of day (initial post due Jan 30 end of day)**
2	Feb 1-7	Sexuality and Sexual Health	Circles of Sexuality: Visual and Explanations of Circles (links on Blackboard) Content question 2 **due Feb 7 end of day** Discussion forum 2 **due Feb 7 end of day (initial post due Feb 6 end of day)**
3	Feb 8-14	Anatomy and Physiology	Chapters 3 & 4: Female and Male Anatomy and Physiology Content question 3 **due Feb 14 end of day** Discussion forum 3 **due Feb 14 end of day (initial post due Feb 13 end of day)**

4	Feb 15-21	Gender	Chapter 5: Gender Issues The Guide to Gender (link on Blackboard) Content question 4 **due Feb 21 end of day** Discussion forum 4 **due Feb 21 end of day (initial post due Feb 20 end of day)**
5	Feb 22-28	Sexual Response	Chapter 6: Sexual Arousal and Response Test 1 **due Feb 28 end of day (covers Chs. 1, 3-6)**
6	Mar 1-7	Love and Communication; Sexual Behaviors	Chapter 7: Love and Communication in Intimate Relationships Chapter 8: Sexual Behaviors Content question 5 **due Mar 7 end of day** Discussion forum 5 **due Mar 7 end of day (initial post due Mar 6 end of day)**
7	Mar 8-14	Sexual Orientation	Chapter 9: Sexual Orientation Preventing unplanned pregnancy online lessons and quizzes **due Mar 14 end of day**
8	Mar 15-21	Contraception; Conception	Chapter 10: Contraception Chapter 11: Conceiving Children: Process and Choice Content question 6 **due Mar 21 end of day** Discussion forum 6 **due Mar 21 end of day (initial post due Mar 20 end of day)**
9	Mar 22-28	Child & Adolescent Sexuality	Chapter 12: Childhood and Adolescence Sexuality Test 2 **due Mar 28 end of day (covers Chs. 7-12)**
10	Mar 29-Apr 4	Adult Sexuality; Sexual Difficulties	Chapter 13: Sexuality and the Adult Years Chapter 14: Sexual Difficulties and Solutions Content question 7 **due Apr 4 end of day** Discussion forum 7 **due Apr 4 end of day (initial post due Apr 3 end of day)**

11	Apr 5-11	Sexually Transmitted Infections	Chapter 15: Sexually Transmitted Infections Content question 8 **due Apr 11 end of day** Discussion forum 8 **due Apr 11 end of day (initial post due Apr 10 end of day)**
12	Apr 12-18	Atypical Sexuality	Chapter 16: Atypical Sexual Behavior Content question 9 **due Apr 18 end of day** Discussion forum 9 **due Apr 18 end of day (initial post due Apr 17 end of day)**
13	Apr 19-25	Sexual Coercion	Chapter 17: Sexual Coercion Content question 10 **due Apr 25 end of day** Discussion forum 10 **due Apr 25 end of day (initial post due Apr 24 end of day)**
14	Apr 26-May 2	Sex for Sale	Chapter 18: Sex for Sale Test 3 **due May 2 end of day (covers Chs. 13-18)**

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

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: http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

1. GMU Policies and Resources for students
   Policies
   1. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code
      (see https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/).
   2. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing
      (see https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/).
   3. 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.
   4. 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).

   5. Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
   Campus Resources
   - Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard

should be directed to https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/.

- Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a "Responsible Employee," and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, 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 from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

- For information on student support resources on campus, see https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus

- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website http://cehd.gmu.edu/.