

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH – DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY
PSYCHOLOGY 1110-7710 (CRN 25935)
Spring 2017

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, Wednesdays 12:30 – 2:30pm

Course Description.

This is a hybrid course, online and in person and presents a social-psychological research orientation toward the study of human sexual behavior, with a major emphasis on the impact of underlying values and attitudes. A secondary theme is the interaction of social and biological factors in determining sexual behavior. Topics that will be addressed include sex hormones and sexual arousal, sexual orientation, and conceptual differences between the terms ‘gender’ and ‘sex’. Other topics include contraception, love and attraction, sexually transmitted diseases and coercive sexual behavior.

Course Objectives.

Upon completion of this course, besides knowing the basic facts about human sexual functioning, students should be able to:

1. Be aware of the variety of beliefs people hold about sexual issues and how these beliefs affect their behaviors and reactions and thoughts to the behaviors of others.
2. Critically evaluate reported research findings relating to human sexual behavior and attitudes.
3. Realize that any conclusions of sexuality research depend upon knowledge of the underlying methodology and sample.

In order to achieve this objective, you will be participating in on-line discussions, class discussions, one-on-one discussions with other students, small group discussions and large group exercises. This means that your active participation is a vital part of this course. You will be graded on your exams and assignments and your contribution in the workshops and online via the discussion board.

Workshops

There will be 3 mandatory workshops over the course of the semester. During these workshops we will meet as a class in person. During the workshops we will have discussions about the current unit we are covering, discuss material and have class activities. The dates for each of the workshops are below.

Workshop Dates and Location

January 7, 2017 Cathedral of Learning G19A

February 4, 2017 Cathedral of Learning G19A

March 18, 2017 Cathedral of Learning G19A

Textbook

LeVay, S. & Baldwin, J., Baldwin., J. (2015). Discovering Human Sexuality, 3rd Ed. Sinauer Associated, Inc.: Sunderland, MA

COMMUNICATION

Email with any questions or concerns. I make every effort to reply to students within 24 hours. If you do not receive a reply in 2 weekdays, send the message again as messages do get lost in cyberspace or are rerouted to the spam-message mailbox. Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., gmail). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to

another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on Edit Forwarding Addresses, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished.

WORKSHOP POLICIES

CELL PHONES

Turn off cell phones during the workshops. Do not check voice messages during workshops. Do not check email during workshops. Do not text during workshops.

LAPTOPS

You may use a laptop during the workshops to take notes. However, you may not use a laptop during the workshops to check email, surf the internet or any other non-class related activities.

CLASSROOM RECORDING

“To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student’s own private use.”

OFFICE HOURS and APPOINTMENTS

I will have a designated time to respond to emails each week, Tuesdays from 8:30-9:30 pm. I will also be available through email throughout the week. If you would like to come and speak with me or if you have any questions about the material, course, etc., please email me and we can set up a time for you to come to my office.

DISABILITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412.648.7890 [412.383.7355 (TTY)], as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. A comprehensive description of the services of that office can be obtained at www.drs.pitt.edu

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](#) Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center provides free assistance and advice to students during all stages of the writing process. It is a great resource that will be beneficial to you. For more information visit the following website http://www.wac.pitt.edu/stu/stu_writingcenter.shtm

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note: Information such as details of assignments, syllabus with updated order of readings (if applicable), rubrics, grading policies, etc., will be placed on the course website throughout the course.

WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!! The reason for this requirement is that this course is based on in-class participation and on-line participation. The course is designed so that its components build upon each other. Thus, if you miss a workshop, you will have missed one of the “building blocks” of the course. In addition, the required papers are based on your reactions to things that occur in class. If a situation arises in which missing class is unavoidable you should inform me in advance by seeing me in class, or sending me e-mail message at jch55@pitt.edu .

PARTICIPATION Creating a viable learning experience in the workshops and online is the responsibility of everyone together. Some people find it easy to participate in class while others find it easier to participate online. However, the success of this class depends on your participation, and you will gain more value from this course by participating. You can do this by coming to the workshops prepared, by having done the readings and by contributing thoughtful comments and intriguing questions to the discussion board.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: All written assignments will be submitted through courseweb. You will only get full credit on any assignment if you follow **ALL** of the directions for that assignment, including turning it in on time. All assignments are due by midnight of the due date, otherwise it is considered late. One point will be taken off for each day of a late assignment.

Discussion Board: An important component to this course will be online discussions. Each unit of the course includes one or two online discussion questions. This is meant to provide a starting topic for the online discussion, but our discussions need not focus solely on the suggested question(s). There are guidelines to the posts that will be accepted for credit. Each discussion post must demonstrate that you have given serious thought to the topic addressed and integrated course concepts wherever possible. Posts including personal information of information of a sensitive nature about yourself or another will be deleted and will not receive credit. It is important to remember that we will be discussing sensitive material and you need to be thoughtful and respectful of all of the students in the course. Every week a discussion question will be posted, you need to post a comment to the other student's previous posts if you are not the first person to respond and you must respond to at least 14 of the discussion questions. Each appropriate response will be worth 5 points, for a total of 70 points. You may respond to more than 14; however you may not receive partial credit for a post or any more than 70 points.

Assignments: Detailed information for the assignments will be given out during the workshops.

Assignment 1: Thought Paper: You will write a paper (3 pages) that pertains to material relevant to the class. These papers will give you the opportunity to express your opinions about any theories, concepts or issues related any topic that we have covered, or will cover in the course. Detailed information about the Thought Papers will be provided.

Assignment 2: Reaction Paper: You will write **ONE** short paper (2-3 pages). In the "reaction paper" you will express your reaction to something that has happened during the class session. You must, therefore, be present in class in order to write these papers. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO WRITE A REACTION PAPER IF YOU MISS THAT CLASS – YOU WILL RECEIVE ZERO POINTS FOR THAT PAPER.** Detailed information about the topic and requirements for the reaction paper will be given during the workshops

Assignment 3: Brief Media Presentation: The media plays a big role in how society views sexuality. You will work together with one other student in the course and find an appropriate media clip (you tube, etc.) that is related to any of the topics we have discussed in class. Offensive or explicit clips will not be permitted. With your partner, you will compare how the media clip is consistent or inconsistent with the research we have discussed.

EXAMS There will be three multiple choice and short essay closed-book exams throughout the course. Each exam will be worth 50 points. A study guide will be posted on the website prior to each exam. You must take the Exams at the Testing Center on campus. You will need to make an appointment with the testing center for each Exam, <http://www.pitt.edu/~ciddeweb/UESP/index.html>. If you are unable to use the Testing Center on campus, let me know as soon as possible. You must notify me **PRIOR** to the exam if you are not able to complete the Exam before the deadline. You will have 48 hours to make-up the exam. The exams will cover the material from the website, workshops and assigned readings.

GRADING

Participation	10 points	A: 243 - 270
Discussion Board	70 points (5 pts each)	B: 216 - 242
Thought Paper	10 points	C: 189 - 215
Reaction Paper	10 points	D: 162 - 188
Presentation	20 points	F: 0 - 161
Exam 1	50 points	
Exam 2	50 points	
Final exam	50 points	

A+ = 97 – 100%	B+ = 87 – 89%	C+ = 77 – 79%	D+ = 67 – 69%	F = below 60%
A = 93 – 96%	B = 83 – 86%	C = 73 – 76%	D = 63 – 66%	
A– = 90 – 92%	B– = 80 – 82%	C– = 70 – 72%	D– = 60 – 62%	

CLASS TOPICS SCHEDULE

Calendar Date	Topics Schedule and Readings	Assignments and Due Dates
CHAPTERS 1-4: Introduction to Human Sexuality, Human Bodies and Gender		
Week 1 1/4-1/15	Chapter 1: Cultural and Historical Context of Sexuality	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
WORKSHOP #1		
1/7 CL G19A	Discussion of course requirements. Discussion of religious and historical perspectives on sexuality. Values, beliefs and attitudes within a historical context. Thought Paper Assignment discussed, 10 pts	
Week 2 1/16-1/22	Chapter 2: Women's Bodies	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
Week 3 1/23-1/29	Chapter 3: Men's Bodies	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
Week 4 1/30-2/5	Chapter 4: Sex and Gender	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
WORKSHOP #2		
2/4 CL G19A	Discussion of historical and cultural implications of sex and gender * Reaction Paper assigned 10 pts – Due by FEBRUARY 12, 2017	
EXAM 1: CHAPTERS 1 -4		
OPEN AT THE TESTING CENTER FROM MONDAY 2/6/17 BY 5 PM MONDAY 2/13/17		
CHAPTERS 5-8 Attraction, Arousal, Sexual Orientation, Sexual Behavior and Relationships		
Week 5 2/6-2/12	Chapter 5: Attraction, arousal and response.	Discussion Board Response 5 pts Reaction Paper DUE by 2/12/17 10 pts
Week 6 2/13-2/19	Chapter 5: Attraction, arousal and response.	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
Week 7 2/20-2/26	Chapter 6: Sexual Behavior	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
Week 8 2/27-3/5	Chapter 7: Sexual relationships	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
Week 9 3/5 -3/12	SPRING BREAK!!!	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
Week 10 3/13-3/19	Chapter 12: Sexual Orientation	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
WORKSHOP #3		
3/18 CL G19A	Discussion of biological factors involved with sexuality, social implications of sexual expectations, communication about sexual relationships and sexual health Presentations will be given during the workshop: 20 pts	
EXAM 2: CHAPTERS 5, 6, 7, 12		
OPEN AT THE TESTING CENTER FROM MONDAY 3/20/17 BY 5 PM MONDAY 3/27/17		
CHAPTERS 9, 13, 15, 16: Contraception and Abortion, Sexual Assault, Atypical Sexuality, STDs		
Week 11 3/20 – 3/26	Chapter 15: Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
Week 12 3/27 – 4/2	Chapter 16: Sexual Assault	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
Week 13 4/3- 4/9	Chapter 16: Sexual Assault	Discussion Board Response 5 pts Thought Paper Due by 4/9/17 10 pts
Week 14 4/10- 4/16	Chapter 9: Contraception and Abortion	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
Week 15 4/17- 4/23	Chapter 13: Atypical Sexuality	Discussion Board Response 5 pts
FINAL EXAM: CHAPTERS 9, 13, 15, 16		
OPEN AT THE TESTING CENTER FROM SATURDAY 4/22/17 UNTIL 5PM FRIDAY 4/28/17		