

Introduction to Human Sexuality
Psychology 49 -- Section 01
Winter 2010 Call # 1796
M, W 1:30-3:20
Room 3204

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REQUIRED TEXT

Human Sexuality Today
Bruce M. King
Prentice Hall
6th Edition

COURSE WEBSITE

Go to: www.foothill.com → “Foothill Quick Links” → “Directory”

Last Name: (*Enter*) “Stefonik”

Division: (*Select*) “Business and Social Sciences” → (*Click*) “Search Directory”

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The overarching goal of this course is to explore the many different ways that our sexualities influence us on a daily basis. Human sexuality is ubiquitous – it’s everywhere! Thus, the goal of this course is to examine how human sexuality can play a role in shaping our individual, social, and cultural experiences. To achieve this goal, the scope of the course will integrate discussions from psychological, philosophical, developmental, biological, and political perspectives. Specifically, course topics will include the history of human sexuality and sex research, biological and anatomical aspects of males and females, STD’s, gender roles, sexual orientation, stereotypes, common sexual practices, *uncommon* sexual practices, sexual orientation, sexual ethics, love, relationships, sexual problems, and how to communicate about sex. Together we will seek to understand how sexuality influences not only us as individuals, but also the world around us in which we operate on a daily basis.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To learn and demonstrate mastery over the fundamental concepts from each of the chapter topics covered during the semester (i.e., to increase your knowledge of the various topics included in the field of human sexuality).
- 2a. To gain and improve upon your **critical thinking skills**: to be able to analyze yours, as well as others’, beliefs and attitudes toward human sexuality and sexual behavior.
- 2b. To gain practical knowledge and improve upon your **practical thinking skills** in regards to aspects of your life that involve sexuality. This semester we will be learning a tremendous amount of information that has practical relevance, including, but not limited to: how to make healthy sexual decisions, how to recognize and solve sexual problems, and how to formulate a healthy attitude toward sexuality and sexual behaviors. Thus, a goal is to learn this information in such a way that we can apply it to our lives during and after the completion of this course.
3. To learn not only the fundamental concepts from each chapter topic, but also to be able to recognize and understand how each topic is *interrelated* and *why* each topic is included in the field of human sexuality (i.e. to be able to explain how each topic is a necessary component to the study of human sexuality).
4. To learn about and better understand our own sexuality and sexual selves through group discussions and class participation. The beauty of this course is that everyone has their own unique, valid, and

interesting perspective on the material. As such, a key component of this course is to create engaging class discussions and foster a diverse spectrum of ideas.

5. To be able to recognize, better understand, and empathize with sexual differences and people who deviate from our culture's standard of normal sexual behavior.

IMPORTANT CLASSROOM POLICIES

1. Student takes sole responsibility for withdrawal procedures from the course.

2. All exams must be completed in class during the regularly scheduled time unless the student has worked out an arrangement **prior** to the date of the exam.

3. Disruptive behavior and derogatory comments will not be tolerated. We will seek to foster an inclusive and respectful atmosphere where all opinions, beliefs, attitudes and religious backgrounds are respected. Derogatory, homophobic, racist, or sexist language is unacceptable. Students who are disruptive in class will be asked to leave and will be required to meet with the professor during office hours to obtain written permission to return.

4. The information and topics covered in this class have the potential to inspire tremendous personal and psychological growth. Group discussions and class participation are great ways of becoming more comfortable with the language and concepts of human sexuality. As a result, there will be potential opportunities to talk about yourself and your own sexuality. However, please talk about only those matters that you are truly comfortable speaking about. Never feel pressure to self-disclose any information that you may be uncomfortable speaking about.

5. If you have any questions regarding anything about this course, please feel free to e-mail me, talk to me after class, stop by my office hours, or arrange an appointment with me. Also, college is a professional environment. All correspondence with me via e-mail should reflect this professionalism. E-mails that read like text messages are frowned upon by both me as well as the broader academic community. Please use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation with all e-mails. However, do not be concerned about minor errors. We are all human, and humans make errors! Just be sure to be respectful and appropriately formal.

GRADING SCALE

A = 90% and up

B = 80–89%

C = 70–79%

D = 60–69%

F = 59% and below

Source	Percentage
Quizzes/15 min. papers	25%
Homework	25%
Exams	40%
Participation	10%

*Extra credit opportunities will be available throughout the semester and will count toward your cumulative total points.

ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES

Homework and Papers: There will be several homework assignment and written papers given throughout the course. To do well in the class you will need to complete the written paper assignments. Please keep abreast of the course work each week to ensure that you do not miss an assignment.

***I do not accept written homework assignments via e-mail, unless you have a valid reason and are unable to make it to class the day they are due**

Quizzes: In addition to exams, there will be weekly quizzes, both short answer and multiple choice, throughout this course. These quizzes will occur at the beginning of the class and will be on readings from your textbook and notes from class. All quizzes will be worth 10 points.

Readings: A critical factor to your success in this course is that you complete the readings for each chapter. For each chapter you will be given a list of pages/topics to read. I expect you to have a thorough understanding of the concepts and topics I assign from the text. I suggest taking notes from the readings and “adding them” to the notes from the lecture of each chapter. Quizzes and tests will contain questions from both the lectures as well as the materials you are required to read from the textbook.

LATE WORK

Late work will not be accepted. In order to receive credit for an assignment, you must complete it on time. Late work will only be accepted if you speak with me before the deadline to arrange an extension. **This is final.** Quizzes and 15 min. papers cannot be made up unless you contacted me before class to let me know you will be absent. Please notify me if you know that you are going to be gone and we can make an arrangement for you to complete the quiz or 15 min. paper outside of class.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Attendance and participation are critical to this course. Your participation score will be measured by: attending class, taking good notes, being present and engaged, contributing to class discussions, and participating in group activities (there will be several throughout the semester). Participation will be a significant factor in your final grade. We will have 20 days of instruction and each day of your attendance and participation will be worth 1 point toward your final grade (days in which there are group activities will be worth 2 pts). Thus, by simply attending and participating in class you will be earning points toward your final grade.

Because we have so much interesting material to cover, it is also critical that you arrive to class **ON TIME**. An attendance sheet will be distributed at *the beginning of class* and **students who arrive 10+ min. late will be marked absent.**

- **You will be allowed 2 unexcused absences. After the 2nd unexcused absence, your participant points will be deducted 5 points per unexcused absence**
- **9+ unexcused absences will result in a Withdrawal grade or an F**

In order to avoid an unexcused absence, **you must contact me before class VIA E-MAIL*** to tell me that you will be absent. If you know you are going to be gone, please let me know and there will be no problems!

*If you do not have internet access, you may also call the BSS division office.

Finally, students who do not attend the first two class periods without prior arrangements will be dropped.

Important Dates

1/15 – Last day to add, drop, and qualify for a refund

1/29 – Last day to drop without a grade, and file pass/no pass

2/26 – Last day to Withdraw from a semester length class (get a “W” on your transcript)

Student Services

www.foothill.edu → “Student Services”

Excellent Resources Are Available – Take Advantage Of Them!

Money For Books

Visit the **Foothill College Financial Aid Office** to find out if you can get money to pay for your classes, books, supplies and many other expenses. Room 8202, or Ph: (650) 949-7245

**PSYC 49 Introduction to Human Sexuality
Winter 2010 Schedule**

Week	Chapter	Date	In-Class Activity	Assignments & Due Dates
1	Chapter 1: Why a course in human sexuality?	1/4		
		1/6		
2	Chapter 2: Our Sexual and Reproductive Anatomy	1/11	Quiz 1	Paper 1 (Due: 1/20)
		1/13		
3		1/18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No Class	
	Chapter 3: Hormones	1/20	15 min. paper 1	
4	Chapter 4: Sexual Response Cycles	1/25	Quiz 2	
		1/27		
5	Chapter 5: STIs	2/1	15 min. paper 2	
		2/3	Midterm (ch. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)	
6	Chapter 1: Sexuality as a Social Concept	2/8		Paper 2 (Due: 2/17)
	Chapter 8: Gender	2/10	15 min. paper 3	
7		2/15	Campus Closed – No Class	
	Chapter 8: Gender	2/17		
8	Chapter 9: Sexual Orientation	2/22	Quiz 3	
		2/24		
9	Chapter 11: Adult Sexual Behaviors and Attitudes	3/1	Effeminate Sheep Quiz	Paper 3 (Due: 3/8)
		3/3		
10	Chapter 12: Love and Relationships	3/8	15 min. paper 4	
		3/10		
11	Chapter 14: Paraphilias and Sexual Variants	3/15		
	Chapter 13: Communication	3/17		
12	Chapter 13: Sexual Problems	3/22		
	Final Exam (ch. Social Concept, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14) Friday 3/26 – 2-4pm 3204			

***It is your responsibility to keep abreast of the course materials as this syllabus is subject to change. If you are gone, please contact me or fellow classmates to make sure you did not miss anything.**