

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: October 1, 2012

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Effective: Fall 2012

1. Course Number: PSY212
Course Title: Human Sexuality

2. Description: This course explores the physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of human sexuality. Sexuality is considered a vital part of the total human organism. Issues of: psycho-sexual development, sexual physiology, sexual attitudes, gender identity, love and sex, sex and the law, sexual lifestyles, and sexual dysfunction, among others, are discussed in an open, frank manner. Audio/visual material, internet websites, and discussion forums augment the textbook and lecture content.

3. Student Learning Outcomes (instructional objectives: intellectual skills):

A. Knowledge Base of Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course work will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends. The student will:

- understand sexual anatomy and physiology;
- know common historical and contemporary sexual attitudes;
- understand the influence of culture and religion on sexual norms;
- understand the relationship between love and sex in different cultures;
- comprehend the changes in sexuality over the lifespan;
- recognize the concepts of “normal” and “abnormal” sexual behavior in different cultures
- be able to display knowledge of practical life issues, to include:
 - pregnancy and childbirth
 - contraception
 - sexual diseases
 - sex and the law
 - commercial sex

B. Research Methods in Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course work will be able to understand the various research methods used in the study of sexology, including: observation, survey, case study, and experiment.

C. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course work will be able to respect, and use critical thinking, and skeptical inquiry to evaluate sexual information from both popular and scientific sources.

D. Application of Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course work will be able to apply their knowledge in the areas of: Pregnancy and childbirth; contraception; sexual diseases; sex and the law; male and female sexual physiology; sexuality at different stages of life; sexual coercion, and sexual dysfunction to their own lives.

E. Values in Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course work will be able to recognize personal bias, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline. Students will be able to demonstrate a knowledge of ethical issues and responsibility in the areas of intimate relationships, sexual behavior, tolerance of sexually diverse populations, and sex therapy.

F. Intellectual Skills

Students who successfully complete the course work will show increased development of the following intellectual skills:

- The expansion of vocabulary and reading proficiency
- The ability to engage critically and constructively in the exchange of ideas
- The ability to recognize and use inductive and deductive reasoning
- The ability to draw reasonable conclusions from information displayed in charts and graphs
- The ability to comprehend, develop and use concepts and generalizations
- The ability to distinguish between fact and opinion
- The ability to develop insight into one’s tendency to think egocentrically and sociocentrically
- The ability to understand the values of one’s culture and the values of other cultures
- The ability to distinguish between scientific evidence and personal bias

4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** Behavioral and Social Sciences
6. **Prerequisite:** PSY101
7. **Semesters Offered:** Fall, Spring, Summer
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Methods for assessment of the outcomes are discussion issues, written work, and ethics related questions on quizzes and exams. Evaluation of student performance will be derived from: four exams (50%); fourteen quizzes (15%), discussion group participation (15%); and a research report (20%).
9. **General Topical Outline:**
 - Female and Male Anatomy and Physiology
 - Sexual Intimacy
 - Sexual Arousal
 - Sex through Life
 - Love and Sex
 - Unusual Sex
 - Pregnancy and Contraception
 - Sexual Diseases
 - Sexual Dysfunction
 - Sexual Coercion
 - Commercial Sex