

Psychology of Human Sexuality
Spring 2009
PSYC 5 ONLINE CLASS TICKET #80345

Instructors: Kelly Neff M.A. & Michelle M. Robison, M.A.
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When emailing, please make the subject "PSYC 5 Online" and Ticket Number

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to familiarize students with the psychology of human sexuality. Topics of interest include sexuality across cultures, male and female sexual anatomy, gender roles, sexual orientation, sexuality across the lifespan, love and intimacy, STI's, HIV/AIDS, and sexual behaviors and dysfunction. By the end of the course, students should be able to describe the complex nature of human sexuality, trace the development of sexuality from childhood to old age, compare variations in sexuality across social class, ethnic groups, and other cultures, and integrate biological, psychological, and historical perspectives on human sexuality.

Because of the sensitive nature of some of the course content, it is vital that students treat each other with the utmost respect and value each other's opinions and beliefs. This course will have an open online classroom environment where students are encouraged to ask questions, exchange ideas, and engage each other in discussion using the Discussion Boards. Harassment or derogatory remarks of any kind will not be tolerated. Students will be provided with some supplemental readings and relevant websites in addition to the required textbook, and will be expected to participate in the Discussion Board and complete all course assignments (Quizzes, Tests, Reaction Papers and Postings) **on time!!!**

Required Materials

Required Text:

Strong, B., Yarber, W. L., Sayad, B. W., DeVault, C. (2007). *Human Sexuality: Diversity in Contemporary America*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 6th edition

The ISBN number for this text is: 978-0-07-312911-2 and it is available in the bookstore, as well as other retailers. You should have the text in order to successfully complete this course.

Required Assigned Readings: Additional readings (research articles, handouts and web-site links) will be posted on the Blackboard Course Documents Section for the Week that they are due. You will be alerted to these readings each week in your course Calendar.

Lecture Notes/Video Summaries: You will have access to weekly video summary lectures by the professor, as well as full lecture slides each week that should help you to organize and review information.

Video Clips: A number of video clips and website streaming videos will also be made available to you each week. You are expected to watch these videos as they enhance your learning and will help you to engage better with the course materials. Plus, many are fun and entertaining! All video clips are posted in Course Documents folder for the week they are due.

Blackboard Website Usage

The Blackboard internet-based system will be used for the entire course. In other words, you MUST have a working internet connection and use Blackboard in order to take this course. Blackboard allows for class/faculty interaction and includes; class email lists, discussion boards, announcements, on-line quizzes and exams, grade posting, etc.

Your username is your Saddleback College email address (without the @saddleback.edu) given to you at registration and your password is your *email* password. Note; Blackboard will be my only source of reaching you outside of class, therefore you will need to check your Saddleback college email account through MySite (<http://www.saddleback.edu>) or go through this site once in order to *change* your email options and forward email to an account that you regularly check. Blackboard can be accessed socccd.blackboard.com or through the main saddleback webpage under *Students* tab. Check your user accessibility IMMEDIATELY.

Course Requirements

1) Chapter Quizzes: You will be required to take four short quizzes during the semester to assess your growing knowledge base and ensure that you are progressing through the course. You should read assigned chapter material BEFORE taking the quizzes, as quizzes can only be taken once and will be administered entirely on the internet.

Quizzes will have a 10 minute time limit and can ONLY be taken once and will be due by Wednesdays at midnight (see course Calendar). You will submit your answers through the Blackboard website. Please note that you should not open another web browser window or click on “save” “back” or “refresh” while taking quizzes or exams as this will kick you out of the quiz or exam. You should also be sure never to have any other programs running, and do not navigate away from your page. The quizzes are not designed to stress you out, they are to make sure that you stay up on your readings! You can find the Quizzes under the Quizzes button on the toolbar on the left hand side of your Blackboard screen.

2) Examinations: There will be two exams during the course of the semester (see Course Calendar). All material from the texts, handouts, readings, and lecture notes may be included. Exams will not be cumulative, although basic concepts from the first section of the course will be present on the final exam. The instructor reserves the right to curve (or not to curve) examination grades dependent on class breakdown and distribution of test scores. Exams can ONLY BE TAKEN ONCE and will be administered entirely on the internet, with a 45 minute time limit to complete the exam once it has been started. There is no scheduled exam time during which the exam must be taken, but the due dates are firm. Be sure to prepare by reading and reviewing chapter materials before taking the exams. You will submit your answers through the Blackboard website. You should NOT make any test taking mistakes on the EXAMS that result on you being booted from it (such as running other programs, opening other windows, clicking ‘save’ ‘print’ ‘refresh’); if you do, the instructor will view this as a

serious issue and investigate. You can find the Exams by clicking on the “EXAM” button on the toolbar on the left hand side of your Blackboard screen.

3) Written Assignments – Throughout the course of the semester, you will write two 1-2 page papers about your reactions to one or more of the readings for that section. The purpose of such papers is to allow you to express your ideas, opinions, and/or criticisms. As such, potential topics may include:

- How the topic of study relates to personal life experiences.
- How the topic of study relates to other topics (e.g., theories) discussed in class.
- Describing the practical significance or value of the research findings.
- The extent to which you agree/disagree with authors’ rationale or study findings.

There are no right or wrong answers on these assignments. You will receive credit on assignments which demonstrate clear, well-thought ideas. Students will be expected to discuss their papers with the rest of the class on the day that they are due.

Submitting Written Assignments: Be sure to type your name and section number at the top of the assignment, and to make sure that you submit it using Turn-it-In as directed on the Blackboard website. You won’t lose points if Turn-it-in messes up your formatting. You can find the correct place to submit your reaction papers under the “Reaction Paper” button on the Toolbar on the left hand side of your Blackboard Screen. (DO NOT SEND ASSIGNMENTS VIA EMAIL to the instructor as turning assignments in through the Blackboard system allows for instructors to provide feedback to students in an easily viewable online format). Turn-it-in scans all documents for plagiarizing so

make SURE to use your own words, and use citations wherever you use another's words (including from other papers, websites, Wiki – Turn-It-In Can tell!)

3) Discussion Board Assignments: The discussion board is the life of our virtual classroom! Inter-student communication, engagement and debate is expected to happen on the discussion board. Students will be required to submit thoughtful and clear answers to the Discussion questions posted four times during the semester and are *required* to answer other students' discussion postings to fulfill this requirement. Postings will be due before midnight on the Wednesday evenings when they are due. Each posting will be graded based on a) how well it addressed the specific question, b) quality of thoughts expressed. At least one clear paragraph containing all complete sentences is required. *Also, **please be respectful** with your posts- sexuality is a sensitive topic and there are a number of different opinions out there! Usage of degrading or disrespectful language will NOT be tolerated!* You can find the discussion board under the "Discussion Board" button in the Toolbar in the Left Hand Side of your Blackboard screen.

Course Breakdown: (out of 100% or 200 points)

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| Exams (Midterm and Final) | 30% (30 points each, 60 points total) |
| Chapter Quizzes (4) | 20% (10 points each, 40 points total) |
| Written Reaction Papers (2) | 20% (20 points each, 40 points total) |
| Discussion Board Posts (4) | 30% (15 points each, 60 points total) |

Grading Scheme: Grades will be awarded based upon the fulfillment of the required elements of the course. The following scale will be used to assign letter grades:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

> 60% = F

Late Work & Missed Exams – Late assignments/exams will not be accepted. Do not wait until the last minute.... There is ample time to complete assignments, technical difficulties are not an excuse for late assignments. Discussion Boards, Exams and Quizzes will be available for you to access several days before they are due. Students that have extenuating circumstances or valid excuses for missing an assignment (death in the family, etc.) should contact the instructor as soon as possible. The professor reserves the right to decide whether to offer extra credit assignments based upon the courses' grade distribution. Students who miss more than 5 assignments will be automatically dropped from the course unless extenuating circumstances apply.

Academic Integrity: Cheating undermines the integrity of the college; it will not be tolerated. If you are found to have cheated, fabricated or plagiarized in any way, you will be subject to the following policy:

Academic Honesty Policy

All exams, quizzes, and assignments must be taken by the student who is enrolled in the course. If a student is suspected of or caught cheating or plagiarizing on any test or assignment, he/she will receive a grade of zero on that test or assignment and an Academic Dishonesty Report will be filed with the Dean's office to be retained on record. It is very important to avoid putting yourself in the position of even being suspected of cheating (working with others on exams or assignments) or plagiarism (i.e., using another's words as if they were your own written words), as very serious consequences may result and remain on your student record. Plagiarism includes failing to quote references in papers, even references from websites or other courses. If you use another person's words, you must put them in quotations! If you have any questions, please consult the instructor or the Student Handbook for what constitutes cheating, plagiarizing, and fabricating.

Student Support Services: Saddleback provides a number of student support services, listed below. You are encouraged to utilize these resources!

Learning Assistance Program (LAP) Tutoring Center: Offers free tutoring to Saddleback Students in most subject areas. The LAP is located in Library 114.

Computer Lab: Computer labs are available in BGS 248 (75 computers), Library 114 (44 computers), Library (75 computers), and SM 207 (25 computers). You can access

Blackboard, check email, make discussion posts, and take quizzes and exams from these computers.

Counseling: Available to assist students with career planning, academic advising, and personal counseling. For an appointment, call 582-4572.

Special Services for Students with Disabilities: This course meets the requirements set forth in the accessibility checklist and universal design grid provided by special services. Web pages, video presentations, textbooks and class materials used in this course are accessible to students with disabilities. Students who need special assistance in this course, or who suspect that they have a learning disability, should contact Special Services to obtain appropriate documentation and/or support services. Please contact Special Services in Student Services room 113, (949)- 582-4885, if you have any questions. Students should also speak with the instructor as soon as possible to ensure their learning needs are met.

ONLINE COURSE CALENDAR (Items Due by Midnight in BOLD)

| DATE | TOPIC | READING (due for this week!) |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Week 1: 2/2 | Orientation Familiarize Yourself With Syllabus, Orientation Materials and Blackboard Layout Orientation Quiz due this week (not graded) | Read & Review Course Syllabus |
| Week 2: 2/9 | Introduction to Human Sexuality <i>History of Understanding Sexuality</i> Discussion Board 1 open & Student Intros | APA Sexuality Website |
| Week 3: 2/16 | <i>Sexuality in Context:</i> Media, Culture and Social Norms Discussion Board 1 Due 2/18 | Text Chapter 1 and "Sexualization Report" online |

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| Week 4: 2/23 | <p><i>Sex Research:</i> Methods, Researchers & Perspectives http://www.kinseyinstitute.org "Kinsey" "Sex MRI" Quiz 1 Due 2/25</p> | Text Chapter 2 |
| Week 5: 3/2 | <p><i>Female & Male Sexuality:</i> Anatomy, Physiology & Response "The Vagina Monologues" "Tough Guise" Reaction Paper 1 Due 3/4</p> | Text Chapter 3 & 4 |
| Week 6: 3/9 | <p><i>Gender Role:</i> Identity, Intersex and Transsexuals http://www.queermusicheritage.com/aug2000a.html "XXXY" Quiz 2 Due 3/11</p> | Text Chapter 5 |
| Week 8: 3/16 | <p><u><i>SPRING BREAK: NO ASSIGNMENTS; HAVE FUN AND REVIEW FOR THE MIDTERM!</i></u></p> | |
| Week 9: 3/23 | <p><i>Sexual Orientation</i> LGBT relationships and homophobia "Life in the closet: NFL style" www.hrc.org (Human Rights Campaign) http://www.apa.org/topics/orientation.html (APA) Discussion Board 2 Due 3/25</p> | "What Makes People Gay" Online Article and websites specified |
| Week 9: 3/30 | <p><u>Midterm Examination</u> 45 minutes, Due by Midnight on 4/1</p> | MIDTERM EXAM |
| Week 10: 4/6 | <p><i>Sexual Development Across the Lifespan</i> Childhood, Adolescence, Adulthood & Aging http://www.scarletteen.com http://www.sexhealth.org/sexaging No assignment</p> | Text Chapter 6 & 7 |
| Week 11: 4/13 | <p><i>Love & Communication in Intimate Relationships</i> Intimacy, Commitment, Passion www.ashleymadison.com Quiz 3 Due 4/15</p> | Text Chapter 8 |

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| Week 12: 4/20 | <i>Sexual Behavior:</i> Variations, Paraphillias & Therapy “Wired for Sex” http://www.sexuality.org , http://www.sa.org Reaction Paper 2 due 4/22 | Text Chapters 9, 10, 14 |
| Week 13: 4/27 | <i>Sexual Health:</i> Contraception, STIs & HIV/AIDS “And the Band Played On” http://www.sexhealth.org/safersex/fun.shtml Discussion Board 3 Due 4/29 | Text Chapter 11, 15 & 16 |
| Week 13: 5/4 | <i>Sexual Aggression:</i> Abuse, Violence, Rape & Sex Laws http://www.rainn.org , www.vday.org “To Catch a Predator” Quiz 4 Due 5/6 | Text Chapter 17 |
| Week 15: 5/11 | <i>The Sexual Marketplace:</i> Pornography, Prostitution & Culture “Trans Prostitution in Hawaii” Discussion Board 4 Due 5/13 | Text Chapter 18 |
| Week 16: 5/18 | <u>Final Examination</u> 45 minute Time Limit, due by 5/20 at midnight | FINAL EXAM |