

CRN 44459, 04 credits

PSY388: A Psychological Approach to Human Sexuality

Summer 2004, MUWH 16:00-16:50, 16 Pacific Hall

Instructor	Office	E-mail	Phone	Office Hours
Chuck Tate	356 Straub	ctate1@uoregon.edu	346-1060	Tuesdays 15:00-16:00 Wed 17:00-18:00

Class website: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>

Course Description: This course will cover some basic topics in psychology as they relate to human sexuality and sexual practices. You will be introduced to the psychological study of human sexuality from the perspectives of researchers in the United States. Throughout the course, though, we will consider conceptualizations of sexuality and sexual practices in different cultures, both historical and current. These considerations will serve as foils to the understanding in America and as illustrations of the variability of sexual expression across human cultures.

In this course, we will explore issues from genetics, biology, physiology, and evolution but the major focus will be on social psychological phenomena (e.g., self-identities, social attitudes, social interactions, personal beliefs, psychologically-based sexual difficulties, etc.). Lectures will also draw on studies in anthropology and sociology as well as issues in philosophy (e.g., conceptions of love, the impact of American feminism on the understanding of sexuality, etc.).

Although many human sexuality courses use heterosexuality as the standard for understanding all of human sexuality—and therefore discuss homosexuality and bisexuality as anomalies—I (and the authors of your text) take the position that there are many sexual orientations. Accordingly, homosexuality, bisexuality, and heterosexuality are all equally considered as valid and important expressions of *human sexuality*. Functionally, this stance means that you will be presented with images and descriptions of both other-sex and same-sex relationships and sexual practices in lecture and in your text.

Course Prerequisite(s): Exposure to American culture in some way.

Materials:

Textbook (required): Crooks and Baur, “Our Sexuality” (8th ed.)

Students are responsible for reading the assigned chapters prior to class meeting. You are not expected to master the material, but to expose yourself to the major concepts we will be covering. This preparation will make lectures more meaningful and productive.

University of Oregon e-mail account (strongly recommended): We will be using the Blackboard website (<http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>) as a supplement for this course. You are all registered with the site and logging on is much easier to do with a university account compared to an outside account.

Lectures

Attached is a list of lecture topics and reading assignments from the text. Each lecture will be posted on Blackboard the day before it scheduled to be given. You are expected to attend the lectures because the information presented therein will be the basis, in part, for both exam and assignment content.

Group Discussions (Seminar Style Sessions)

There will be three group discussion class periods (sessions). Each session will be run in a seminar-style format, meaning that we will have open discussion about relevant issues for that session, with little or no lecture material covered that day. These sessions will be semi-structured in that you will be required to complete short assignments (either before or during each session) in order to effectively participate in the discussions. During these sessions you will break into small groups (of no more than five people) and converse about issues before presenting ideas from your small group discussion to the class as a whole. Each seminar-style session has a theme—of which the short assignment will be an illustration—and discussion will center on that theme. In order to get full credit for this aspect of the course, you must be present and contribute in some way to the group discussions.

Exams

There will be three (3) bi-weekly exams (starting July 8), each consisting of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. There will be no final examination. Make-up examinations for each exam may be given only under extreme circumstances where the instructor has been notified of your absence *ahead of time* (e.g., serious illness, injury, family death). Proof of the extenuating circumstance needs to be provided (e.g., doctor's note).

Assignments

Four (4) assignments will be given in this course. Each assignment is due bi-weekly on a Tuesday (except the first assignment, which is due June 29). Assignment topics and directions will be *summarized in class* and posted in detail on Blackboard. Assignments can be turned in to the psychology department office (Straub Hall 131) as late as 4:00 p.m. and *be sure to put the instructor's name on it*. (Assignments can always be brought to class.) It is a good idea to bring questions about the assignments to office hours or appointments with the instructor. The assignments will focus on scientific and psychological issues related to the topics discussed, and they range from film critiques to data collection. It is the hope of the instructor that such assignments will help you think critically about the issues presented in a way that helps you become a better social scientist.

Grade Breakdowns

Assignments	200 points	(50 points each) x 4
Exams	150 points	(50 points each) x 3
Group Activities	60 points	(20 points each) x 3
Total	410 points	

Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale (based on the percentage of total points earned):

%	Grade
98-100	A+
93-97	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
below 60	F

%	Status
> 70	Pass
< 70	No Pass

Additional Notes:

- Concerns: If you find yourself doing more poorly in the class than anticipated, please see me, the instructor, sooner rather than later. If you wait to come forward with any problems, you may find that it is too late to do anything about your grade.
- Cheating: Cheating will not be tolerated. If cheating is discovered on the exams, then the University will be notified and appropriate action will be taken. You may work together on the assignments, but each student needs to turn in an individually completed assignment for credit.
- Accommodations: If one of the following applies to you, please see the instructor *as soon as possible* to make adjustments.
 - Documented learning disability
 - Non-documented need for adjustments to help you learn
 - On a sports team that travels this term
 - English is not your first language

With advance planning, adjustments are relatively easy. Adjustments at the last minute are problematic and sometimes not possible.

Tentative List of Lecture Topics, Readings, Exam and Discussion Dates

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic(s)</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Jun. 21	Orientation, Introduction: Why Study Human Sexuality?	N/A
Jun. 22	A History of Sexuality (in Europe, mostly, and elsewhere too)	Ch. 1
Jun. 23	Introduction to Sexology: The Scientific Study of Sex	Ch. 2
Jun. 24	Group Discussion (topics in gender and sexuality)	handouts
Jun. 28	Sex/Gender Issues	Ch. 3
Jun. 29	More Gender Issues	Ch. 3
Jun. 30	Female Anatomy and Physiology	Ch. 4
Jul. 1	Male Anatomy and Physiology	Ch. 5
<i>Jul. 5</i>	<i>No Class (Independence Day [U.S.] observed)</i>	---
Jul. 6	Sexual Arousal	Ch. 6
Jul. 7	Sexual Response	Ch. 6
Jul. 8	Exam 1	N/A
Jul. 12	Love and Sex (part I)	Ch. 7
Jul. 13	Love and Sex (part II)	Ch. 7
Jul. 14	Sexual Behaviors: Sex with the Self	Ch. 9
Jul. 15	Sexual Behaviors: Sex with Others	Ch. 9
Jul. 19	Sexual Orientations: Then and Now	Ch. 10
Jul. 20	More about Sexual Orientations	Ch. 10
Jul. 21	Group Discussion (assn. #2 results & discourse)	----
Jul. 22	Exam 2	N/A
Jul. 26	Contraception	Ch. 11
Jul. 27	Conception, childbirth, and afterbirth (the short version)	Ch. 12
Jul. 28	Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence	Ch. 13
Jul. 29	Sexuality in Adulthood (including Seniorhood)	Ch. 14
Aug. 2	Sex Therapy/Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)	Chs. 16,17
Aug. 3	Group Discussion (atypical sexual behaviors)	handouts
Aug. 4	Atypical (Non-common) Sexual Behaviors	Ch. 18
Aug. 5	Exam 3	N/A
Aug. 9	Sexual Victimization (rape & harassment)	Ch. 19
Aug. 10	Sex for Sale (part 1): The Porn Industry (and all that)	Ch. 20
Aug. 11	Sex for Sale (part 2): Pornography & Prostitution	Ch. 20

Assignment Due Dates:

Assignment	Due Date
Assignment # 1	June 29 (Tuesday)
Assignment # 2	July 13 (Tuesday)
Assignment # 3	July 27 (Tuesday)
Assignment # 4	August 10 (Tuesday)