

Human Sexuality (Psy 388)

Winter Term 2012, CRN: 26933; University of Oregon

The Meeting Time:

TTh (TR), 4:00-5:20pm

250 Clinical Services Building (CLS; [Map](#))

The Instructor:

Dr. Peter Sparks (psparks@uoregon.edu)

Office Hours: MW, 2:30-3:45 (Rm. 326 in Straub)

The Teaching Assistant:

Alex Bies (bies@uoregon.edu)

Office hours: By Appointment Only

The Textbook:

Crooks and Baur, *Our Sexuality* (11th Edition; Wadsworth publishers)

Welcome to Human Sexuality! This course is meant to be an introductory course designed to expose you to the topics within the field of Human Sexuality. It will provide an overview of the anatomy and physiology of the genitalia, arousal physiology, conception and diseases/illnesses related to the genitalia and sexuality. We will also examine attractions, love, relationships, gender and sexual orientation, and the effect of culture on these developments. Finally, we will cover the major theoretical perspectives that have been proposed to explain why we are this way. Importantly, this is a course on human sexuality. Thus we will be talking candidly about sexual anatomy, physiology and relationships, which may involve pictures or videos with an explicit sexual nature. Do not be shocked about this. The course will be taught openly and maturely, and I ask that you respect the class and your classmates by acting openly and maturely as well. The reason I emphasize openness is because being open with sexuality is important on two points. First, being open leads to better sex/relationships and second, leads to better health.

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe the purpose, comprehensive scope and areas of application in the discipline of Human Sexuality.
2. Understand basic scientific principles and research methods and how they affect conclusions we draw about sexuality.
3. Recognize, compare and contrast various theoretical perspectives on sexuality.
4. Be aware of your own values and how they differ by culture.
5. Discuss issues related to sexuality with knowledge and an increased degree of comfort.
6. Apply critical thinking to assumptions, claims, and common sense ideas about sexuality.
7. Make smart, safe and healthy choices about your own sexual practices.

To achieve these goals, there are a number of topics which I hope we will cover this term. I emphasize the word "hope" since no one can never predict the future. What we do cover depends entirely on the time it takes to cover certain topics, the pace of the lectures and the interest of the students. Also, I am very open to discussing something at the spur of the moment and with Sex, there is always an interesting conversation to have. Covering all of these topics would be great, but may not happen. Thus, the description of the course presented below could change. The best thing is to simply come to class, and pay attention to the announcements in the Blackboard component of class. **The exam dates will not change.** Therefore, the exams will only concern what material we have covered in class since the last exam. Detailed subject outlines will be handed out at the start of a new topic, which will help you follow along with the lecture and keep track of details such as definitions.

Course Website: (accessed via <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>) All handouts, homework announcements, grades, copies of lecture power points, lecture worksheets, and other materials, will be posted in Blackboard. Nothing will be handed out in class (on paper) except the exams.

Readings and Lecture Schedule: Presented below is the lecture and readings schedule. Please be aware that there could be additional readings as handed out by me via Blackboard or other assigned material. These additional readings will be announced in class and via Blackboard.

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Book Chapter</u>
Week 1 (Jan. 9-14)	
Introduction: What is "sex"?	Chapter 1
Research Methods and Theoretical Perspectives	Chapter 2
Sexuality in Perspective	Chapter 1
Week 2 (Jan. 15-21) No Class on Monday (MLK Day)	
Male and Female Anatomy	Chapter 3 and 4
Health Concerns of Men and Women	
Self Exam	
Hormones, Development,	Chapter 3 and 4
Week 3 (Jan. 22-28)	
Hormone Cycles: Menstruation and Menopause	
Gender Roles: Male-Female Expectations	Chapter 5
Intersex Development	
Week 4 (Jan. 29-February 4) Exam 1 Tuesday (Jan. 31)	
Sexual Arousal: The physiology of the Big "O"	Chapter 3 and 4
Attraction: From Bodies to Behavior and Attitudes	Chapter 6
Role of Hormones?	
Week 5 (Feb. 5-11)	
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	Chapter 9
Social or Biological? Does Advertising have an effect?	
Sexual Behaviors:	Chapter 8
Atypical Sexual Behavior: Coercion?	Chapter 16
Week 6 (Feb. 12-18)	
Love and Intimacy	Chapter 7
Communication	
Lying, Deception and Cheating	
The Death of the Relationship	
Sexual Disorders and Diseases	
Sexual Difficulties	Chapter 14
Week 7 (Feb. 19-25): Exam 2 Thursday (Feb. 23)	
Power in Relationships:	
Movie: The Kids Are Alright	
Sexual Coercion: Rape	Chapter 17
Week 8 (Feb. 26 – March 3): Extra day in there!	
Contraception and Conception	Chapter 10
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Chapter 15
Week 9 (March 4-10)	
Sex Across the Lifespan	Chapter 12 and 13
Talking to your children about sex	
Sex education	

Week 10 (March 11-17)

Abortion
Sex for sale

Chapter 11
Chapter 18

Week 11 (March 19-23) Final Exam Week!!

Our exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 20 at 1:00pm**. Make note of the different time!!!!

During this time, we will take our 3rd exam. About half the exam (or more) will cover the material covered after the second exam. About ¼ or more of the exam will cover the material presented before the second exam, and so this exam is an all comprehensive exam.

Evaluation

Homework: There will be about 5-6 homework assignments this term. The purpose of these is to make sure that you are reading the text before you enter the class (so we occasionally can have an interesting discussion), to focus you on things that I find important, and to get you to think more deeply about a topic. For some assignments, you will be asked to answer a few short answer questions about the chapter assigned for that week. For some, there may be a brief group effort or singular effort which will result in a short 1-2 page reflection essay about a topic. These assignments will mostly be graded on effort: the more effort/thoughtfulness you put into your essay, the more likely you will earn full credit. These assignments will be posted on blackboard and announced in class at various times throughout the term and will be worth between 5-10 points each.

Papers:

There will be **two** short essay papers due for this class. The purpose of these is to get you to think a little bit more about the material discussed in class or tangential material that we didn't get into during lecture. As with the other assignments, a detailed description will be posted on blackboard and announced in class. I will give you a general topic, and you will need to find a more specific topic, and explore this topic. You will need to create a 4-5 page paper and find at least two sources to enhance your knowledge. (the textbook is not a source). Each paper is worth 25 points.

All homework and papers needs to be typed and turned in during class (i.e. A Hardcopy). Submission via email is not desired, but possible with a dire circumstance (it needs to be in DOC or RFT formats).

Any assignment that has excessive spelling errors or very poor grammar will automatically be deducted points. Use your spell and grammar check. I am not perfect myself in this respect, but frankly the work of some of my past students work has become that bad. Take pride in your work, even for the simple reflective essays.

Exams: There will be 3 exams this term. The first two will be worth 100 pts each and will only cover the material presented since the last exam. The last exam will test the entire course: ½ or more will cover material since the second exam, but 1/3 or so will come from material covered before the first exam (e.g. if the test is 50 questions, about 35 will cover after the 2nd exam, and 15 or so will cover before the 2nd exam). Since the exam is comprehensive, it will be worth 150 points. All exams will be composed of multiple choice questions only.

In lecture, we will not have time to cover all of the material in the readings, but I expect you to know the material. The material tested will come MOSTLY from my lectures, though, with items not covered only in your assigned readings being less likely to be tested, but some questions will cover that material. The point is that the book is there to help you and guide you, but come to the classes!!!! Those that come to class will do well, and those that do not, will not do well. On test days, the exam will start promptly at the start of class, and will take one hour. You should bring a pencil, but exam answer sheets will be provided. You should also bring your notebook because we will continue lecture for the remaining time.

As we get closer to an exam, I will be able to tell you exactly what topics will be on the exam.

Final grade: The final grade will be determined by assessing the number of points that you get from the homework assignments and exams out of the total number of points possible (there should be close to 450 points depending on how many assignments there are). It is very likely that the exams will constitute 70% of your grade and the other assignments will make up the rest. Letter grades will be applied as follows:

93-100%= A (4.0)	77-79.99%= C+ (2.3-2.5)	60-62.99%= D- (0.7-0.9)
90-92.99%= A- (3.6-3.9)	73-76.99%= C (2.0-2.2)	59.99%-below= F (0.0-0.6)
87-89.99%= B+ (3.3-3.5)	70-72.99%= C- (1.7-1.9)	
83-86.99%= B (3.0-3.2)	67-69.99%= D+ (1.3-1.6)	
80-82.99%= B- (2.6-2.9)	63-66.99%= D (1.0-1.2)	

A grade less than a 60% will be a failing grade. Do not fail this class. I will try to explain the material to the best that I can, but it is up to you to read the text book and to come to me if there is something that doesn't make sense or that you need help with. I can't help you if I don't know there is a problem. The homework assignments are a good assessment. If you do not recognize or understand the homework, come and see me as soon as possible!!!!

Summary of Important dates

It is important to understand that there are many Academic deadlines this term. Be aware of them! While I tend to be pretty flexible is someone wants to withdrawal or change from decimal grading to Pass-No Pass, there are deadlines for such actions. [Click here to see the Academic Schedule.](#)

Final points:

How to study: Let me give some pointers on how to study for this course. The biggest issue for most students is that they do not understand how much effort it takes to do well. I expect my students to not only understand, but to remember the facts, terms, and concepts presented in this course. My tests are fair, but challenging. It takes a lot of effort to do well in this course. Studying a few hours the night before the exam will not work out so well for you. The main reason for this is simply that we will be covering a lot of information; it is not difficult to understand, but it is a lot. Start studying a week in advance! Organize your notes, compare them with the handouts and the book. Re-write them, it really helps. Outline the chapter, don't just read it. Then when you have stumbled on something which you don't understand, you can ask me and I will explain it to you. I am here solely to help you learn the material. If you start studying ahead of time, you will be able to take advantage of me. This really, REALLY helps. Clearly this advice is very brief. I have created an extended in-depth description of techniques that can be used and have posted in on my website. Please look it over. If you are not doing well, come and talk with me as soon as you can. Take responsibility for your efforts and do not expect the same strategy to lead to a better grade on the next exam. If you are not doing well, change your strategy!!!!

Late Work/Make up Policy: Homework and other assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. If the work is late, a point will automatically be docked for every day late. In the end, missing an assignment will be devastating to your grade, so turn them in! Because of the essay part of the exam, there will be little flexibility in terms of changing your exam date. You will need to have a fantastic excuse to make up an exam or to postpone an exam. I will be even more resistant to letting people take exams early.

Attendance Policy: Come to class! Your attendance will not affect your final grade directly, but I cannot over emphasize the fact that those who miss class WILL NOT do well. If you miss class, do not simply ask what we covered (and to give an impromptu lecture). I am an absent-minded professor and will not remember exactly what we did. Your job is to get the notes from a classmate, and if you need to, bring them to me and I can explain/go over them with you. You should get to know someone in class and get their phone number in case you miss a class.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Do not do these things. Cheating and Plagiarism are serious offenses and will be dealt with severely! This could mean failing the test or assignment, failing the class or being excused from this college. I have little to no patience with cheating and will deal with the issue with the most severe action at my disposal. It is always better to simply work hard and learn the material. If you are having a problem learning the material, come see me. I have plenty of time to help you. Do not resort to cheating!

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor as soon as possible. Also, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities (Hillary Gerdes, hgerdes@oregon.uoregon.edu, tel. 346-3211, TTY 346-1083) send a letter verifying your disability.

Finally: It is important that you do well and learn the material. So feel free to email me anytime with questions. I understand that many questions will come when you are studying at night. Get on the email or phone and leave a message, I will respond. Also, feel free to catch me after class or before class and ask me anything. I am there to help you learn and understand the material as much as I can. So use me!

Finally, Finally: If you are not doing well on the exams (D or less), you MUST come and see me so that we can talk about changing things so that you do better.