

Human Sexuality
HLS 301G
Distance Education/on-line class

Summer I - 2008 Syllabus

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Required text:

Crooks, R. & Bauer, K (2008). *Our Sexuality* for New Mexico State University: Study edition. Mason, OH: Thomas Wadsworth.

Warning: The material in the class may be considered offensive by some individuals. Periodically, material will be covered that is of a graphic and explicit or controversial nature. *Your continued enrollment in this course indicates that you are aware of the nature of the material and that you consent to the presentation of the material.*

Prerequisites: None.

Course Description:

Examination of human sexuality from a variety of perspectives: cultural, sociological, physiological and psychological. Issues examined from viewpoints such as gender, individual, family, and professional roles.

This course addresses diversity in detail and also includes coverage of the latest research on such topics as the depiction of sex in the media, sex in cyberspace, gender identity issues, breast implants, prostate cancer treatments, contraception technology, sexual orientation, artificial insemination, and sexually transmitted diseases. The title is *Our Sexuality* - an explicit acknowledgment that, for all of our differences, we all share the human experience of many sexual and relationship matters. Such matters cross cultural boundaries and sexual orientation lines: the body's physiological arousal and response to pleasure; overcoming the green-eyed monster of jealousy and communicating more effectively; the variety of sexual behaviors that can be explored; treatment possibilities for sexual

dysfunctions; the need to protect ourselves from STIs; how our sexual satisfaction can improve with age even as the body changes; and how we help those who have been victimized by sexual attack, etc.

The course will be 100% on-line, WebCT based.

Course Objectives:

- Examine your personal value system regarding sexual decision making and be more comfortable with sexuality issues.
- Apply new understandings of human sexuality to help dispel current myths and misunderstandings.
- Identify the relationship between gender identity and gender role, and discuss how male and female roles are changing.
- Examine male and female reproductive anatomy and the physiology of sexual arousal.
- Identify and discuss sexual behavior patterns.
- Examine the processes of relationships and discuss the characteristics and skills that are necessary to build and maintain intimate relationships.
- Discuss the attitudes and issues pertaining to homosexuality.
- Identify the various methods of contraception and discuss the factors that should be taken into account in choosing a method of birth control.
- Identify and discuss the process of conception through childbirth.
- Discuss the transmission, diagnosis, complications, treatment, and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.
- Discuss sexual victimization prevention.

What is General Education Core Curriculum?

This course has been certified as one in New Mexico State University's General Education Core Curriculum (GECC). The GECC attempts to foster intelligent inquiry, abstract logical thinking, critical analysis and the integration and synthesis of knowledge; it strives for literacy in writing, reading, speaking and listening; it teaches mathematical structures; acquainting students with precise abstract thought and numbers and space; it encourages an understanding of science and scientific inquiry; it provides a historical consciousness, including an understanding of one's own heritage as well as respect for other peoples and cultures; it includes an examination of values and stresses the importance of a carefully considered values system; it fosters an appreciation of the arts; and general education provides the breadth necessary to have a familiarity with the various branches of human understanding.

Teaching Methods:

This course is designed to be completed 100% on-line and asynchronously at each student's own pace. Via WebCT, students will have a wealth of information and study materials available to them.

- Student CD: Your textbook comes with a CD, and contains valuable study resources and tools.
- Power Point Presentations Icon: Under the “Power Point Presentations” icon on the opening WebCT page for this course, students will find a series of power point presentations of the course contents and book.
- Textbook Companion Web Site: The book publisher provides a direct web link to a multitude of on-line resources.

Student-computer responsibilities:

It is the student’s responsibility to have access to a working computer at all times for this course, including Internet access. An explanation of one’s computer not working or not having access to the Web is not a reasonable excuse for not turning in assignments on time in light of the format of this class, 100% on-line. Between work, home, public libraries, Internet cafes, and related sources, it is the student’s responsibility to have and maintain Internet access and the ability to log in during the semester.

Should problems arise, contact the instructor as soon as possible to inform her of the situation; continue to maintain strong lines of communication to avoid any misunderstandings. It is *not acceptable* to contact the instructor on the day an assignment is due to report that there has been a problem in completing and submitting the assignment. It is assumed that students in this course are responsible, professional individuals who will take the course seriously and make every attempt to complete assignments early so they can address some problems should they arise.

To log on to WebCT:

When you are logged on to the Internet, go to <http://salsa.nmsu.edu>. This is the home page for WebCT @ NMSU. If you do not have a global login, follow the instruction under the section entitled Create Your ID and obtain one. If you have a global login, type it into the box for NMSU Global LoginID and type in your NMSU Global Password. You will then proceed to the main WebCT page where you will see the entire set of courses, which you are enrolled in, that utilize WebCT. If you see courses that you were enrolled in, in past semesters, you can email the instructor and ask that they update their student list so you will not see the old course(s).

Under the HLS 301G, it will be noted if you have unread mail or if there are new discussion postings, etc. When you click on the blue HLS 301G you will go to the web site for this course. At the site, you will see an icon for the syllabus, communication tools, etc. Clicking on the different icons will reveal additional information. Take some time to browse through the different icons and the information that lies beneath them.

Test/update your Browser:

On the home page for WebCT, on the right side, there is an option to Test Your Browser. Each student is *strongly recommended* to click on this link and

take the necessary time to make sure your browser is in sync with that of the WebCT. If your browser is not supported by WebCT, you will run into endless “challenges” throughout the semester. Optimize your browser as early in the semester as possible. If you are having problems you can contact the ICT Help Desk, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (MST) at 575-646-1840. They may also be contacted at help@nmsu.edu.

Papers and other assignments:

All assignments are due on the dates and times indicated; **no late assignments will be accepted**. The time frames established for submission are based on Mountain Standard Time (MST). If a student resides in another time zone, it is his/her responsibility to make sure that all assignments are turned in, per MST, not the student’s personal time zone. It is strongly advised to turn papers/projects in a few hours before the due time, to alleviate any last minutes challenges that may arise from dial-up problems.

If a student knows, in advance, that they he/she will not be able to turn something in on the date/time specified, it is the student’s responsibility to arrange with the instructor to turn the assignment in early.

All assignments, unless otherwise noted, are to be written in a reasonably sized 12 point font (e.g., Times New Roman), single spaced, with 1” margins, and each page is to be numbered. All references used for the paper will be cited, at the back of the paper, on a separate sheet, entitled References.

Grade of Incomplete or Withdrawal:

An incomplete grade is only given if a student has passed the first half of the class and is unable to successfully complete the second half due to a documented illness or family crisis that the instructor genuinely believes will not permit the student to go on and successfully complete the course at this time. Those who take incompletes are responsible for completing the course within one year. As this is a short course (5 weeks), recognize that this time frame is significantly compressed.

If a student decides to withdraw from the course, that individual must process the paperwork. In order to receive a W on one’s transcript, the student must withdraw by the deadline indicated by NMSU for the specific semester.

Academic integrity:

In all matters, this class is governed by the formal NMSU policies and standards on academic integrity. Students are referred to the NMSU 2006-07 Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on page 22 http://www.nmsu.edu/Academic_Progs/Undergraduate_Catalog/generalinformation.pdf. All parties who are involved in the submission of a plagiarized or copied work are equally guilty of academic misconduct under all circumstances.

Students with Disabilities / ADA Statement: (Updated 11/30/06)

If you have or believe you have a disability and would benefit from any accommodations, you may wish to self-identify by contacting the Services for

Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located at Garcia Annex (phone: 646-6840). If you have already registered, please make sure that your instructor receives a copy of the accommodation memorandum from SSD within the first two weeks of classes. It is your responsibility to inform either your instructor or SSD representative in a timely manner if services/ accommodations provided are not meeting your needs.

If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the instructor and/or Mr. Michael Armendariz, SSD Coordinator. Feel free to call Mr. Gerard Nevarez, Director, or Angela Velasco, Assistant Director, Office of Institutional Equity, at 646-3635, with any questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All medical information will be treated confidentially.

Instructors will receive specific written guidelines for appropriate accommodations for individual students from the SSD office. No student should be given accommodations for disabilities unless SSD has requested these specific accommodations for her/him.

Evaluation of Student Performance:

Student course grades will be determined by posting a student home page, 3 on-line exams, 3 reaction papers, and 2 library research papers (to be turned in electronically via WebCT email).

Student Home page

1. Go to the Student Homepage – on the first page of the WebCT site for this class. Click on your name and please provide the following:
 - o Who you are,
 - o Your purpose in taking the class,
 - o What your major is, where you are from, including anything interesting you bring to the class based on your cultural background, profession, experiences, etc., and
 - o If you are computer savvy and wish to post a tasteful photo, etc. please feel free to do so.
2. Once you have posted to the Student Homepage – your posted information will be accessible to the others in the class. This information will remain accessible for the duration of the semester. **Complete & post by June 1, 2008, 11:55 p.m., MST.**

On-Line Exams

1. Each exam will have a time limit of 120 minutes.
2. Each exam covers 4-7 chapters.
3. Each exam has 50 questions, each worth 1 point.
4. Each exam ***may be taken twice***; the highest of both scores will be recorded. If you are satisfied with your score after the first attempt, you do not need to repeat that exam. If you decide to take an exam a 2nd time – be sure to note

that there is a **12 hour period** between when one can take exam a second time.

5. All exams are considered to be independent work, completed only by the individual student enrolled in the course. All exams are open-book, open-note, closed neighbor.
6. The on-line exams will be available for three days (72 hours) per exam. They primarily consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and T/F questions.

Research Papers

1. Each student will complete **two (2)** research papers on human sexuality-related topics.
2. Each paper will be 5-7 typewritten, double-spaced pages, 1" margins, 12 pt font each.
3. A minimum of five (5) references [less than 5 years old, 2003 or newer] must be attached to each research paper.
4. Website references are accepted, when correctly cited.
5. All work must be proofed and edited to be error-free.
6. The Assignment Drop Box for these assignments will be open on May 29th through the specific closing day for the assignment.

Reaction Papers

1. Each student will complete **three (3)** reaction papers.
2. They are your non-researched reactions to a human sexuality issue that has come to your attention, as a result of or in tandem with this class.
3. They will be 2-3 pages typewritten, double spaced, 1" margins, in at least 12 point font.
4. All work must be proofed and edited to be error-free.
5. The Assignment Drop Box for these assignments will be open on May 29th through the specific closing day for the assignment.

Grading System

Posting your WebCT Home page	10
Three exams (3 @ 50 pts)	150
Two research papers (2 @ 50)	100
Three reaction papers (3 @ 30)	90
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>350</i>

Course grading scale:

A	90-100%	350 - 315 points
B	80-89%	314 - 280 points
C	70-79%	279 - 245 points
D	60-69%	244 - 210 points
F	< 60%	209 and below

There is no provision for extra credit.

Recommended 5 week schedule

It is strongly recommended that students proceed through the 5 week session as indicated below.

***Do yourself a favor and update/optimize your browser
before starting the course.
It will save you some anxiety & frustration in the upcoming weeks.***

Week One:

May 29, 2008

Read:

Text: Chapter 1

Read: Sex Research: Methods and Problems

Text: Chapter 2

Read: Gender Issues

Text: Chapter 3

Read: Sexual Arousal & Response

Text: Chapters 6

Student homepage completed & post by 6/1/08, 11:55 p.m., MST.

Reaction Paper #1 due by 6/2/08, 11:55 p.m. MST

Week Two:

June 5, 2008

Read: Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

Text: Chapter 15

Read: Sexual Orientation

Text: Chapter 9

Read: Contraception

Text: Chapters 10

Exam #1 closes 6/8/08 @ 11:55 p.m.

Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 15

Week Three:

June 12, 2008

Read: Love and Communication and Sexual Behaviors

Text: Chapters 7, 8

Read: Female Sexual Anatomy/Physiology

Male Sexual Anatomy/Physiology

Text: Chapters 4, 5

Research Paper #1 due by 6/12/08, 11:55 p.m. MST

Reaction Paper #2 due, 6/16/08 by 11:55 p.m., MST

Week Four:

June 19, 2008

Read: Conceiving Children Process and Choice

Text: Chapters 11

Read: Sexuality during Childhood and Adolescence

Text: Chapter 12

Read: Sexuality and the Adult Years

Text: Chapter 13

Exam #2 closes @ 11:55 p.m. 6/22/08 MST

Chapters: 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13

Research Paper #2 due by 6/24/08, 11:55 p.m. MST

Week Five:

June 26, 2008

Read: Atypical Sexual Behavior & Sexual Coercion

Text: Chapter 16, 17

Reaction Paper #3 due, 6/27/08 by 11:55 p.m., MST

Read: Sex for Sale

Text: Chapter 18

Read: Sexual Difficulties and Solutions

Text: Chapter 14

Exam #3 closes 7/3/08 @ 11:55 p.m.

Chapters: 14, 16, 17, 18

Class closes July 3rd at 11:55 p.m., MST