Psychology 2306, Psychology of Sexual Behavior  
Texas A&M-Commerce, Fall 2012

Professor: Dr. Stephen Reysen  
Classroom: AGIT 253  
Class meets: MWF 9:00-9:50AM  
Office hours: Mon. 10:00AM-3:00PM, and by appointment  
Office: Binnion 213  
Office phone: 903-886-5197  
Email: Stephen.Reysen@tamuc.edu (email is the best way to reach me)

Laboratory instructor: Jamie S. Snider  
Lab classroom: BA 256  
Lab meets:  
  Section 01: Mon. 11:00-11:50AM  
  Section 02: Wed. 11:00-11:50AM  
Lab instructor email: jsnider@leomail.tamuc.edu  
Lab instructor office: Binnion 224  
Lab instructor office hours: Fri. 10:00AM-12:00PM, and by appointment

*When sending Jamie or Dr. Reysen an e-mail, please be sure to include “PSY 2306” in the subject line.*

**Course Description:** This course will provide in-depth coverage of research and theory on: biological and social causes of sex differences in behavior, attraction and love, marriage and alternatives, sexual behavior, personality variables relating to sexual responsiveness, sexual dysfunction, sexual deviations, effects of erotica, birth control, and more. We will discuss not only the scientific aspects, but also cultural, historical, and legal issues that pertain to these topics.

Class discussion is strongly encouraged. To a large degree one’s position reflects one’s own values, and we will often refer to values, beliefs, and philosophical positions. But psychology has concepts and empirical findings that also contribute to understanding. Discussion facilitates the meshing together of those findings and values. So, feel free to talk.

**Course Objectives:**

*Theme 1: Research and general psychology*

In this course, you will learn practical information about the psychological and social aspects of sexuality. You will also learn about methods used in the scientific study of sex, to gain a better understanding of existing data and be able to evaluate studies that will be published in the future. And finally, you will become comfortable with the topic of sex, so that you can be more rational in making decisions about it.

*Theme 2: The social construction of sexuality*

A second theme of this course is to introduce you to the social construction of the experience and perception of sexuality. For example, we will spend time discussing what are “normal” sexual attitudes and behaviors and how the definition of normality is context dependent and very much culturally grounded. We will also talk about the history of sexuality and how attitudes toward sexuality and behaviors have changed over time.


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**University Closing Due to Inclement Weather**

University closing information will be posted on the web at [http://www.tamu-commerce.edu](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu). Information will be forwarded to radio station KETR (88.9 FM); Dallas-area television stations KDFW (Channel 4), KXAS (Channel 5), and WFAA (Channel 8); and, Tyler/Longview-area television station KLTV (Channel 7).
**Students with Disabilities:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

**Course Requirements and Assignments:**

1. **Participation:** This element is essential to your grade in both the class and lab sections of this course. Students will be expected to contribute to class discussions regularly. I’m the type of instructor who talks WITH you, not AT you. Although I can understand the reasoning behind feeling shy in this class, we are all adults, and as such, we should be able to have intelligent discussions about the subject material without any immature distractions (i.e., giggling, disregard for others).

   A. Developing the ability to contribute to class discussions is very important to a successful college career, as well as your future career. I do encourage students to share their experiences *tastefully* with the class, or use them to aid in presenting their point of view regarding discussion topics. With that being said, there is no need to go into specific detail about one’s own sexual encounters for example.

2. **Student Behavior:** My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. Therefore, there is no need for me to devote much to this section other than the following:

   A. **Electronic Devices:** all of these should be turned off or put on vibrate when in class.
   B. **Immaturity:** it will NOT be tolerated! If a student’s behavior is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to leave.
   C. **Respect:** Given the nature of this course, we may discuss issues that some of you may find embarrassing, uncomfortable, and/or even “inappropriate.” To remain in this class, you must be respectful of others and maintain a mature and professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course.
   D. **Academic Honesty:** The *Student’s Guidebook* addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions.

      i. It’s simple. **Do NOT cheat or plagiarize!** Since there has been some confusion with what exactly qualifies as cheating and/or plagiarizing, I’ve included the definitions below:

         1. To **cheat** is to act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage.
         2. To **plagiarize** is to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one’s own.

3. **Recording:** Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio tape lectures, on the condition that these audio tapes are only used by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.
4. **Evaluation and Assessment:**
   
   A. **Exams (400 points):** There will be *four* examinations worth 100 points each for a total of 400 points. They will cover materials discussed in class (from textbook, lecture materials, special assignments). Exam format may be true/false, multiple choice, matching, and/or short answer.
      
      i. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!** Exams may be rescheduled, without penalty, only when arrangements have been made in advance of the testing date. I expect people to come to me within the first week of class if they have conflicts with the exam dates. Make-ups will only be given in the case of **verifiable** medical or legal excuses. Verifiable means that written documentation is provided (e.g., signed doctors’ notes, court appearance tickets, newspaper obituaries). The final decision concerning make-up exams rests with the instructor. If no valid excuse (in the opinion of the professor) is presented your exam grade is a zero.
      
      ii. Be on time for exams. If you come late to an exam, and anyone has already left the exam, you will NOT be allowed to take the exam, as per University Regulations.
      
      iii. Bring TWO No. 2 pencils and scantrons (green or brown) with you to each exam.
   
   B. **Lab Requirement (200 points):** Students are expected attend weekly lab meetings. You need to be registered and attend either section of lab:
      
      i. **Mondays 11:00-11:50am BA 256 or Wednesdays 11:00-11:50am BA 256**
      
      ii. **Follow all Lab Requirements.** They are required to pass this course (see lab syllabus).
   
   C. **Global class participation:** A goal of this class is to help assess your understanding of globalization and how the interconnected world affects each of us. All students in this class will be required to participate in a global research project. More information regarding the global component of the class will be discussed in class. Failure to complete the global participation (surveys and attending events) or the alternative assignment will result in reduction of 10% of your grade.
5. **Grade Calculations**

400 pts = 4 Scheduled Exams @ 100 pts each
200 pts = Lab Grade

Total = 600 pts

**Individual Grade Breakdown**

A = 89.5 – 100
B = 79.5 – 89.4
C = 69.5 – 79.4
D = 59.5 – 69.4
F = 59.4 and below

**Total Grade Breakdown**

A = 537 – 600
B = 477 – 536.4
C = 417 – 476.4
D = 357 – 416.4
F = 356.4 and below

**Example Grade Calculation**

Exam 1 = 86
Exam 2 = 78
Exam 3 = 89.5
Exam 4 = 91.5
Lab = 178

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86 + 78 + 89.5 + 91.5 + 178 = 523 \quad \text{Final Grade} = \text{B}
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**MY GRADE TRACKER**

Exam 1 __________ Lab __________
Exam 2 __________ Total __________
Exam 3 __________
Exam 4 __________
### Schedule for Lectures and Exams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon. 8/27</td>
<td>Syllabus, Announcements, Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 8/29 &amp; Fri. 8/31</td>
<td>Chapter 1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 9/3, Wed. 9/5, &amp; Fri. 9/7</td>
<td>Chapter 2, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 9/10, Wed. 9/12, &amp; Fri. 9/14</td>
<td>Chapter 4, 5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 9/17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 1, Chapters 1-5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 9/19 &amp; Fri. 9/21</td>
<td>Chapter 6, 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 9/24, Wed. 9/26, &amp; Fri. 9/28</td>
<td>Chapter 7, 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 10/1, Wed. 10/3, &amp; Fri. 10/5</td>
<td>Chapter 9, 10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 10/8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 2, Chapters 6-10</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 10/10 &amp; Fri. 10/12</td>
<td>Chapter 11, 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 10/15, Wed. 10/17, &amp; Fri. 10/19</td>
<td>Chapter 12, 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 10/22, Wed. 10/24, &amp; Fri. 10/26</td>
<td>Chapter 14, 15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 10/29</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 3, Chapters 11-15</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 10/31 &amp; Fri. 11/2</td>
<td>Chapter 16, 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 11/5, Wed. 11/7, &amp; Fri. 11/9</td>
<td>Chapter 17, 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 11/12, Wed. 11/14, &amp; Fri. 11/16</td>
<td>Chapter 18, 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 11/19, Wed. 11/21, &amp; Fri. 11/23</td>
<td>NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. 11/26, Wed. 11/28, &amp; Fri. 11/30</td>
<td>Chapter 19, 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 12/3 &amp; Wed. 12/5</td>
<td>Review &amp; Tie up loose ends</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 12/7</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 4, Chapters 16-20</strong></td>
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***Minor changes may be made to this schedule; modifications will be announced in class. Students that do not attend class are responsible for the alterations made to the syllabus.***