Psychology 2306, Psychology of Sexual Behavior (Honors)
Texas A&M University-Commerce, Fall 2012

Professor: Dr. Stephen Reysen
Classroom: BA340
Class meets: Tues. 4:30pm to 7:10pm
Office hours: Mon. 8am-1pm, and by appointment
Office: Binnion 213
Office phone: 903-886-5197
Email: Stephen.Reysen@tamuc.edu (email is the best way to reach me)
Skype: sreysen

Class Procedures:
The attached class schedule lists the topics we will cover in class. The material covered in class will be on the same general topic as the required reading assignment for that week, but it will go more in depth. Be sure to read the assignment prior to class because you will then understand the class material better.

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.

Grading:
Tests. Two tests will be given, in addition to a group presentation and final paper. Each test will consist of 100 multiple-choice items (each worth one point).

Research proposal. This assignment provides another way for you to engage the ideas of the course in the context of a topic that you find interesting. The final paper is a research proposal on a topic of your choice (although it might help if you consulted with me prior to writing). The paper should be 6-10 pages in length (double spaced, 12-point new times roman font). The paper is due on the Tuesday November 27th by 4:30PM (submit your paper to the ecollege dropbox AND bring a hard copy to class). I would like to emphasize that this exercise is
a TERM paper—that is, something you do throughout the semester. Your presentation to the class will represent 30% of this paper grade.

**Research participation:** A goal of this class is to help you familiarize yourself with research methods. One manner to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at TAMUC, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class will be required to participate in the psychology department’s participant pool or complete alternative assignments (see me for more information on alternative assignments).

Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if students complete their first 4 experiment credits without any “no-shows” you will receive 2 free punctual participant credits. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment system (SONA) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive ½ free experiment credit.

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full grade. In effect, if you have an ‘A’ in the class but fail to complete your research participation (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both) your final grade in the class will be a ‘B.’ More information about participating in research is given at the end of this syllabus.

**3. 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.

**Assessment:**
Test 1: 100 points
Test 2: 100 points
Final Paper and Presentation: 100 points

A = 270-300
B = 240-269
C = 210-239
D = 180-209
F = 179 and below

**Attendance:**
Class attendance will be taken. Class attendance will be used in determining grades for students who are on the borderline between two course grades. I start class on time. IF YOU ARE MORE THAN 10 MINUTES LATE IT WILL COUNT AS AN ABSENCE.

The general class policy is that NO MAKEUP EXAMS will be offered. However, in **extremely** unusual circumstances, some arrangements may be possible for making up exams. If you have a problem on exam day that prevents you from showing up, contact me IMMEDIATELY (email or phone). THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT GETTING IN TOUCH
RIGHT AWAY ABOUT YOUR ABSENCE! Out of fairness to students who take exams as scheduled, any makeup exams will face an automatic grade reduction.

Disabilities:
   The staff of Student Disability Resources and Services, Gee Library Room 132, 886-5835, StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu, coordinates accommodations and services for TAMUC courses. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in TAMUC classes and have not contacted them, please do so as soon as possible. Please also see me privately in regard to this course so that we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate the educational experience.

Respect:
   More generally, if you have any problems or concerns regarding this course, please contact me as soon as possible. Your feedback (both positive and negative) is more than welcome. We should strive to respect and value the diversity that exists in TAMUC classrooms (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity, national origin, disability, geographic backgrounds, political orientation, sexual orientation). While we may sometimes disagree with each other on topics discussed in class, it’s important that we remember that appreciating diversity in perspectives is an important part of the learning process (and good life skill). If you ever feel that you are not being given the respect you deserve in class, please let me know.

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.

Cheating:
   Warning: If I detect you engaging in academic misconduct you will automatically FAIL this course. Academic misconduct includes disruption of classes, giving or receiving unauthorized aid on examinations, knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work, or otherwise acting dishonestly. This includes both cheating on exams and plagiarism of any written work that you hand in for this course. Information on the academic misconduct policy of Texas A&M-Commerce can be found at http://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/en/report_custom.asp?clientid=20504
Class 1: August 28
Introductions, Syllabus

Class 2: September 4: Research Methods I
Lecture 1: Research Methods

Class 3: September 11: Research Methods II
Lecture 2: Research and Writing
Group Activity: Research Proposals

Class 4: September 18: Theories
Lecture 3: Sexual Theoretical Perspectives

Class 5: September 25: Attraction
Lecture 4: Attraction

Class 6: October 2: Relationships
Lecture 5: Relationships

Class 7: October 9: Stereotyping, Prejudice, Discrimination
Lecture 6: Stereotyping, Prejudice, Discrimination

Class 8: October 16
MIDTERM EXAM

Class 9: October 23: Gender
Lecture 7: Gender
Class 10: October 30: Sexual Orientation
Lecture 8: Sexual Orientation

Class 11: November 6: Sexual Behaviors
Lecture 9: Just because you don’t do it doesn’t make it abnormal

Class 12: November 13: Presenting Research
Lecture 10: Proposal tips
Article: TBA

**November 20 (thanksgiving break)**

Class 13: November 27
FINAL PAPERS DUE (on ecollege AND a hard copy in class)
CLASS PRESENTATIONS I

Class 14: December 4
CLASS PRESENTATIONS II
FINAL EXAM

Friday December 7th is the LAST DAY to participate in research.
All global class surveys are due by Friday December 7th 11:59PM
Students’ Guide to Research Participation
Department of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education
Texas A&M University-Commerce

• **What is Research Participation?**
Exposure to research is essential to your gaining a better understanding of the scientific study of psychology. It is how we add new knowledge in psychology. Being involved in research is a good way to experience first-hand and learn about the scientific enterprise. We believe there are two key ways to experience research activity at this level: 1) read about related scientific investigations; 2) experience research as a volunteer participant; or some combination of both. The class in which you received this handout requires you to fulfill 6 research credits through one or both of these activities.

• **What if I am not yet 18 years old?**
In order to participate in research you must be at least 18 years old. If you are not yet 18 years old, please see your instructor, and ask him/her about alternative ways of earning research credit.

• **In what type of research studies will I participate?**
All studies you will participate in have been reviewed and approved by the Texas A&M University-Commerce Institutional Review Board (IRB) and by the Department of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education. Studies vary widely. Many involve completing questionnaires or carrying out tasks on the computer. Some are even fun, and you’ll learn something from all of them.

• **What are my rights as a research participant?**
Your participation is voluntary and you may withdraw from any study at any time. Your data will be kept confidential. If you have any further questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the IRB head, Carmen Salazar (Carmen.Salazar@tamuc.edu). More information about your rights will be provided to you prior to each study for which you sign up.

• **How will my research participation credit be calculated?**
You will receive 1 credit for each hour of research participation. Studies lasting 15 minutes or less are worth 0.25 credit. For example, a 15 min. study = 0.25 research credits; 30 min. = 0.5 credits; 45 min. = 0.75 credits; 60min = 1 credit; 1½ hours = 1.5 credits... etc.

• **How many research credits may I complete?**
You are encouraged to participate in as much research as you wish, but at a minimum you must complete 6 research credits (by participating in research, or alternative assignments, or a mixture of both). However, if you show up on time to all the studies you sign up for you will receive 2 free research credits. In other words, if you show up to all your studies on time you only need to complete 4 research credits.

• **What if I cannot go to a study I signed up for?**
If for whatever reason you cannot attend a study that you have signed up for you need to cancel your appointment before the start of the study. There are 2 ways to cancel an appointment. First, if you cancel 24 hours before a study you can do this online through the Experiment Management System (EMS) website. Second, if it is the same day of the study you can call or email the experimenter – their contact information will be available in the EMS.

• **What if I sign up for a study but forget to go?**
  If you fail to show up for a study (without canceling prior to the start of the study) you will receive an email alerting you that you were listed as a “no show” for that study. Additionally on the EMS website you will see a “failure to appear” message in your list of studies completed. If this occurs you are no longer eligible to receive the 2 free credits that participants who are on time to all of their studies receive, and you will have to complete the full 6 credits.

• **What will happen if I fail to participate in studies or do the alternative assignments?**
  If you fail to complete your research requirement for the class your grade in the class will be lowered one class grade. For example, if you have a “B” in the class, but fail to complete your research requirement you will receive a “C” for the class.

• **What if I do not wish to participate in research studies?**
  If you do not wish to participate in research studies, you may utilize the alternative assignment option. You must consult your instructor for information about this option.

• **What is the difference between an online study and a laboratory study?**
  There are two types of studies that are conducted through the EMS system. You can sign up for both online studies and laboratory studies through the EMS system, however you are only allowed to complete 50% experiment credits through online studies (the system will not allow you sign up for more than 50% credits of online studies). A laboratory study requires that you attend the experiment at a specific time and place (e.g., Henderson 202 at 12:30pm on September 6th).

• **How do I find and sign up for research participation opportunities?**
  Throughout the semester, researchers in the Psychology Department will post their research studies in the Experiment Management System (EMS) online. It is up to you to check the EMS regularly to find and sign up for research studies that fit into your schedule. Detailed instructions for how to use the EMS are listed in the following pages of this handout.

• **If I decide to participate in research, what are my responsibilities?**
  You are responsible for...

  1. Registering with the Experiment Management System (at [http://tamu-commerce.sona-systems.com/](http://tamu-commerce.sona-systems.com/)). You can keep your login information if you already have an account.
2. Scheduling appointments for research participation.
3. Writing down important information about the studies for which you sign up (e.g., name of study/time/location of your experiment, name and contact information of the experimenter).
4. Showing up on time, at the correct location for your scheduled research appointments (you must cancel online, or email/phone the experimenter before the start time of the study if you cannot attend).
5. Keep track of how many credits you need to complete (you can do this on the EMS website). Everyone is required to do 6 credits, however if you are on time for all of your appointments you only need to complete 4 credits.
How do I use the Experiment Management System (EMS)?

(Create a new participant account unless you already have one and your login information works. If you do not remember your login information click on the “lost your password?” on the front page of the EMS website and follow the directions on the site, and if that does not work email curt.carlson@tamuc.edu. A list of courses will be presented, from which you must select the courses you are taking this semester for which you will receive credit for participation. If your course is not listed, see the instructor for that course.)

A. How to create a participant account on the EMS

1. Go to http://tamu-commerce.sona-systems.com/
   a. Click on New Participant “request an account here” link on the left of the screen.
   b. This takes you to a screen on which you must enter your name, a unique User ID, your University ID number, and primary email address (reminders of studies you sign up for will be sent to that email address). You will also need to highlight the course(s) in which you are enrolled, and for which you will be earning credits. If more than one, highlight all that will be involving you in research participation. However, each study in which you participate will only provide you credit for ONE course. In other words, there is no “double-dipping” allowed. BE CAREFUL TO SELECT THE CORRECT COURSE AND SECTION # – IF YOU CHOOSE THE WRONG ONE, YOUR INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT BE INFORMED OF YOUR CREDITS! After you submit your information, you will be emailed your login information. (After you have received your login information, I recommend that you login into EMS and go to your “Profile” and change your password to something that you can remember.)

If you encounter any problems with creating your account (e.g., login information not sent to you), contact the EMS administrator, curt.carlson@tamuc.edu with your full name and a detailed description of the problem.

2. When you first log into the EMS at the beginning of the semester you will be asked to take a prescreen survey. This is a short survey that researchers will use to decide if you meet the specified requirements for some studies (e.g., as a
researcher I may only allow participants who are female. If you do not complete the prescreen you will not be eligible to participate in this study). In other words, if you do not complete the prescreen you will have fewer studies that you are eligible to participate in. **IF YOU COMPLETE THE PRESCREEN IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER YOU WILL GET 0.5 CREDIT.** Take it even if you have done it before – it has probably changed, and you will still earn the 0.5 credit.

3. You are now ready to use the EMS to sign-up for research studies.

**B. Sign-up for studies—login to the EMS with your User ID and password that was emailed to you after creating your account**

1. Click **Study Sign-Up**. A list of all available studies for which you qualify will appear. You can sign-up by clicking on either the study name or **Timeslots Available**, and you will go to a new screen showing more information about the study, with a link to **View Time Slots for This Study**.

2. Click the **Sign-Up** button to schedule your time. You should then write down or print out the study information (name of study, place, time, name and contact information of experimenter, etc.) that appears in the final window. You will also receive an email reminder the day before the study time you have selected.

**C. Canceling a Sign-Up (MUST be done if you know you will not show up)**

1. If you need to cancel a timeslot you have signed up for, you can do this from the **My Schedule and Credits** page. Choose the **My Schedule and Credits** option from top toolbar.

2. You will see listed all of the studies for which you have signed up, as well as those you have completed (see the Tracking Your Progress section below for more information).

3. Studies for which you have signed up that you are allowed to cancel will have a **Cancel** button next to them. If you cannot attend the study session you signed up for, you need to cancel it, either within the EMS system or by contacting the researcher directly prior to the start of the study. Keep in mind that there is a time limit before the study is to occur, when it is too late to cancel online. This restriction is listed at the bottom of the page (it can be 24 hours before your timeslot, or much less, such as just 2-4 hours). If you cannot cancel online please email or call the researcher to cancel. **IF YOU DO NOT CANCEL ONLINE, BY EMAIL, OR OVER THE PHONE BEFORE THE START OF THE STUDY YOU WILL BE COUNTED AS A “NO SHOW.”** If you are counted as a “no show”
for any studies you are not eligible for the 2 free punctual participant credits.

4. If you cancel the first part of a two-part study, the second part will also be cancelled. If you cancel the second part of a two-part study, the first part will not be cancelled, but you will need to ask the researcher to sign you up for the second part again, if you would like to participate in it at a later date. However, this is up to the researcher.

D. Tracking Your Progress

1. You may track your progress at any time by choosing the My Schedule and Credits option from the top toolbar.

2. When you view this page, you will see at the top a list of the number of credits you are required to earn, and how many you have earned so far. Below that, if you have signed up for any studies, those are listed as well. In the list of studies, you will see information about your credit status. If you have a no show for a study you will see that the status for that study is “failure to appear.”

Note: Your login session will expire after a certain period of inactivity, usually 20-60 minutes. This is done for security purposes. If this happens, you can always log in again. When you are finished using the system, it is better to explicitly log out, to prevent any problems that may arise if someone uses your computer before the session expires. This is especially important if you are using a public computer lab.

E. Frequently Asked Questions

1. Immediately after I login, as soon as I click on any menu option, I am taken back to the login page and I see a message that my authentication has expired. What does this mean?

Your web browser is not properly configured to accept cookies. You should turn on cookies in your web browser, use a different web browser (for example, try Firefox if you are currently using Internet Explorer), or try a different computer. Detailed instructions can be found if you go to the site and enter the URL “cookie_help.asp” in place of “default.asp” in the address bar of the browser, when you are on the front page of the site.

2. I participated in a study, but I have yet to receive credit. How do I receive credit?

The researcher must grant you credit. This is usually done within a few days after your participation. If it has been several days and you still have not received credit, contact the researcher (his or her contact information will be listed when you click on the study name within the system).
3. How do I change the email address where email notifications from the system are sent?

You can change the email address where notifications are sent by going to My Profile and editing the email address you see there.

4. I forgot where and when a study is that I signed up for. What do I do?

Check your e-mail for the EMS reminder, or logon to EMS and check your appointments.

5. Should I keep some sort of record of my participation and credits earned?

The system will keep track of the credits you earn and your instructor will have access at the end of the semester to a report of credits earned by students enrolled in the class (and if any students have “no shows”). It is a good idea, however, to occasionally print a personal copy of your credits earned and hold on to that printout as a back up to the system.

6. I showed up for a study on time, and no one was there! What do I do?

First refer to your information about that study session, to make sure you are in the right place at the right time. If you are, then wait at least 10 minutes for the researcher. If they are still not there at that point, you can leave and must send them an email within 24 hours, stating that you were present at the correct place and time for the study (refer to the study name). It is up to the researcher to try to reschedule with you.