

Course Syllabus Spring 2013

Psy2306L: Sexual Behavior

Section 01L, M 11am – 11:50am, Class Room BA 258

Section 02L, W 11am – 11:50am, Class Room BA 258

Instructor: Ida Mohebpour

Office Hours: Please email to schedule a meeting time.

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

Course Description: This lab section is meant to compliment the main course (PSY 2306) by aiding in the understanding of topics concerned with human sexuality. In addition, students will be provided the opportunity to acquire important skills for success by engaging in mature in-depth discussions, conducting research, giving an oral presentation, etc.

Textbook: There will be no textbook for the lab section. However, I may provide you with several articles either by hardcopy or PDF file.

Objectives: The objectives of this lab are in line with those of the main course objectives outlined by the course instructor. However, take advantage of the smaller class sizes in the lab section by asking questions about course material that you might not have had time to ask in class. My intention is to fuel your understanding and knowledge through discussion. Feel free to come to class with a question that has always sparked your curiosity. The more involved everyone is, the more fun this course will be!

Course Requirements and Assignments:

1. **Attendance:** University guidelines will be followed (the attendance policy is outlined in the current Undergraduate Catalog and *Student's Guidebook*). Only University approved excuses (in writing) are accepted reasons to make up assignments or activities.
 - A. You should always attend class. A good portion of the material covered in class may NOT be found in your text.
 - B. If you miss class, (and therefore miss the lecture notes), it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to obtain the notes. I will not supply lecture notes to you for any reason. You will need to borrow class notes from a classmate.
 - C. Please note that your participation grade is likely to be affected if you are never present.
2. **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.

3. **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.

NO TALKING DURING CLASS!!

(unless you are participating in the class discussion)

- 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.

4. **Evaluation and Assessment:**

- A. **Assignments (3 @ 20 pts each):** There will be three assignments worth 20 points each.
- B. **Group Presentation (1 @ 30 pts):** You will be required to participate in one group presentation.
- C. **Participation (10 pts):** see full details regarding class participation above.

60 = Assignments (3 @ 20 pts each)

30 = Group Presentation

10 = Participation

60 + 30 + 10 = 100 Total possible points

A = 100 – 89.5

B = 89.4 – 79.5

C = 79.4 – 69.5

D = 69.4 – 59.5

F = 59.4 and below

MY GRADE TRACKER

Assignment 1 _____

Group Presentation _____

Assignment 2 _____

Participation _____

Assignment 3 _____

Total _____

Schedule for Lectures and Exams PSY 2306L MW 11-11:50am

Mon. 1/13 & Wed. 1/15	Syllabus, Announcements, Questions
Mon. 1/20 & Wed. 1/22	NO LAB
Mon. 1/27 & Wed. 1/29	APA Formatting and Research Techniques
Mon. 2/3 & Wed. 2/5	Inis Beag & Mangai; Male & Female Anatomy Activity
Mon. 2/10 & Wed. 2/12	Assignment #1 Due
Mon. 2/17 & Wed. 2/19	Guest Speaker
Mon. 2/24 & Wed. 2/26	Sexual Activity During Pregnancy; Contraception
Mon. 3/3 & Wed. 3/5	Assignment #2 Due; Triangular Theory of Love
Mon. 3/10 & Wed. 3/12	NO LAB (SPRING BREAK)
Mon. 3/17 & Wed. 3/19	Is Sexual Orientation Conversion Therapy Ethical? Gender Identity Disorder (GID). "Bug Chasing"
Mon. 3/24 & Wed. 3/26	Group Presentations Due
Mon. 3/31 & Wed. 4/2	Sex For Sale: Would the Legalization of Virtual Child Pronography Reduce Sexual Abuse of Children?
Mon. 4/7 & Wed. 4/9	Paraphilias
Mon. 4/14 & Wed. 4/16	Assignment #3 Due; STI Game; Should Children Have an HPV Vaccination Before Enrolling in School?
Mon. 4/21 & Wed. 4/23	Should Same Sex Marriage Be Legal?
Mon. 4/28 & Wed. 4/30	NO LAB

Minor changes may be made to this schedule; modifications will be announced in class. Students that do not attend class are responsible for obtaining the alterations made to the syllabus.

Assignment Descriptions

Assignment #1 Research Article

Objective:

Each student will be assigned one journal article, which they will be required to summarize in front of the class. This is NOT a written assignment! On the due date, the student will only need to verbally report a summary of the assigned article to the class.

The summary will need to include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- (1). The topic of the article being discussed (this will need to include any information from the article the class may need to understand the topic being researched.)
- (2). The purpose of the research being conducted in the article (i.e., what are the researchers trying to do). If the article involves a study or studies, the hypotheses will need to be reported (i.e., what did the researchers expect to find).
- (3). The method used to conduct the experiment (i.e., where did they get their participants, literature, did they give a survey, etc.).
- (4). What the researchers found (if the assigned article is a review of several studies, and they didn't really conduct an experiment, just report on the researchers conclusions).
- (5). How the study/review applies to the real world.

Assignment #2 Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love Poster

Objective:

Construct a poster presentation that represents your own interpretation of Robert J. Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love.

Sternberg proposes that there are three components of love: intimacy, passion, and decision/commitment. Your presentation should form a triangle, and have whatever object(s) that, to you, represent each component on the appropriate point of the triangle. The more creative you are, the better your grade will be!

Assignment #3 STI Reduction Program

Objective:

Each student will design a program to reduce the number of cases of sexually transmitted infections on campus.

Think carefully about the needs and behaviors of college students. And remember, there are many different types of college students.

The program will need to be reasonable, feasible, and consist of things that already exist. For example, a student shall not present a program that involves administering a "magic drug" that will hypothetically make everyone not want to engage in sexual behavior of any kind.

You may work alone, or with a partner.

Write Up:

You will need to create a portfolio of the program, which will need to include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (1). a written summary of the program
- (2). a description of the target population (e.g., does your program appeal to all college students? just young college students?)
- (3). a detailed description of how the program will be implemented
- (4). estimate of expected success
- (5). why you believe this program will work (use theory and your knowledge of human sexual behavior to back up your answer)
- (6). a description of any possible foreseen problems with the program

Feel free to add anything you want to spice it up (i.e., logos, illustrations, catchy graphics, fancy text). Imagine that you were trying to sell this program.

Group Presentation

Topic: Whatever your group decides.

Grade: Individual (30 points of your lab grade)

Format: APA

Your group will need to make a presentation over any topic in human sexuality agreed upon by the group. A powerpoint presentation is encouraged, but not mandatory. Since we are very limited in time, I advise that you present only main points (don't give too much un-needed information). Once the time limit is reached, I'll have to stop the presentation (time limits are given below).

You will be graded individually, and each of you should share an equal part in the presentation (this includes speaking as well as preparation). If anyone has a complaint about a member of his or her group not participating in the preparation of the assignment, please let me know.

Make sure your group e-mails me a reference page. Your references should be in APA format! If I do not receive a reference page, I will subtract 10 pts from your grade! In addition to the reference page, your sources need to be cited properly within your presentation as well. **You are only allowed to use 2 website sources! The rest must come from books and scholarly articles.**

Once the group has decided on a topic, please let me know either in class or by email ASAP, so that I may make sure it is acceptable. It's best to pick a very specific topic. For example, instead of presenting on the broad topic of paraphilias, one might present on necrophilia, a specific type of paraphilia.

I will assign you partners.