Course Syllabus
Fall 2015

Psy2306: Sexual Behavior
Section 001, MW 10am-10:50am., Class room, BA 244
F: ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

Instructor:  Ida Mohebpour
Office Hours: By appointment only, please email me for appointments.
Email:  Ida.Mohebpour@tamuc.edu

*When sending me an e-mail, please be sure to include “PSY 2306” in the subject line. I will not respond to any emails that do not have “PSY 2306” in the subject line.

Course Description: This is a course about 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, and birth control. We will discuss not only the scientific aspects, but also cultural, historical, and legal issues that pertain to these topics.


University Closing Due to Inclement Weather
University closing information will be posted on the web at http://www.tamuc.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@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct: A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Students Learning Objectives: Sexuality is an integral part of life; knowledge and understanding of one’s sexuality are essential in order to make decisions regarding physiological and social aspects of one’s sexual life. Throughout the course we will consider the scientific basis by which sexuality is studied. We will employ critical thinking in all our discussions about the topic.

- Students will be able to recognize their own subjectivity, follow the arguments of others, and interpret data. To demonstrate critical thinking, students in psychology of sexual behavior will be asked to recognize their own biases (i.e., subjectivity) regarding sexual behavior in a written assignment. This
will be assessed via a final paper in which students will describe how they subjective views of sexual behavior have changed after exposure to particular empirical research.

- Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message. To demonstrate effective communication, students in psychology of sexual behavior will be asked to write a paper that follows the conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose, and message. The instructor will assess whether the paper uses appropriate grammar and syntax, is appropriate for the audience, and displays a clear and purposeful message.

- Students will be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data. To demonstrate empirical and quantitative skills, students in psychology of sexual behavior will be asked to interpret and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data in a written assignment. The instructor will assess whether students are able to interpret and demonstrate proper use of empirical data to support their arguments.

- Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues. To demonstrate social responsibility, students in psychology of sexual behaviors will demonstrate an awareness of societal or social issues in a written assignment. The instructor will assess if students are able to display an awareness of how psychology regarding sexuality may affect society or social issues.

As this is a course on human sexuality, we may discuss issues that some of you may find embarrassing, uncomfortable, and 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.

Course Requirements and Assignments:

1. Attendance: The student is expected to attend all class sessions. University guidelines will be followed (See 2005-2006 Undergraduate Student’s Guidebook). Only University approved excuses (in writing) are accepted reasons to make up assignments, activities, or tests.

   A. The attendance policy is outlined in the current Undergraduate Catalog and Student’s Guidebook.
      i. Students are expected to attend every class period. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period.
      ii. It is the prerogative of the professor to drop students from courses in which they have accrued excessive absences (3) as defined in the course syllabus. In such cases, the student can be dropped from the course or dropped a grade point. The faculty member will document absences and will make a reasonable effort to communicate with the student prior to recommending the drop. If approved, the college dean will forward the recommendation to the Registrar’s Office. Students who wish to drop a course or withdraw from the university are responsible for initiating this action.
      iii. If you miss more than five (3) classes you will receive a drop in letter grade no matter what your average may be.

   B. At 10 am, I will begin taking attendance. Once I have finished taking attendance I will close the classroom door. If you are not in class by the time the door closes, you WILL be counted absent.

   C. You should always attend class. Much of the material covered in class may NOT be found in your text. I plan on incorporating videos, class discussions and class activities into each lecture. Please note that all questions on the examinations will be taken from the text, as well as the classroom lectures, videos, and discussions.

   D. If you miss class, (and therefore miss the lecture notes), it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to obtain the notes. You will need to borrow class notes from a classmate.

   E. On average, you will be expected to read two chapters per week. Do not wait until the night before the exam to start your reading. It is advised to stay on top of the readings and to read the chapters before each class that has the corresponding lecture material.
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 can understand the reasoning behind feeling shy in this class. However, we are all adults, and as such, we should be able to have intelligent discussions about the subject material without any immature distractions. Students will not be forced into speaking out in class, but should be aware that developing the ability to contribute to discussions is very important to a successful college career. There’s no better time to learn and practice this skill than now. *Carpe Diem!* With that being said, there is no need for individuals to go into specific detail about, for example, their own sexual encounters. I encourage you, if you wish, to share your experiences *tastefully* with the class, or use them to aid in presenting your point of view regarding discussion topics.

**NO TALKING DURING CLASS!!!** Turn off all cell phones and pagers. **Students who fail to do so will be asked to leave the class. If cell phones and pagers are being used they will be taken up by me during the class.**

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. All pagers, cell phones, electronic games, radios, CD players, or other devices must be turned off when you enter the classroom.
   
   B. Immaturity will **NOT** be tolerated! If a student’s behavior is disrupting the class, or is disrespectful to ANYONE, he/she will be asked to leave.

   *“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”* (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)

4. **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.

5. **Evaluation and Assessment:**

   **Method** | **Total Percentage**
   --- | ---
   Two scheduled tests | 50%
   Lab completion of the lab requirements | 10%
   Attendance/ assignments | 15%
   Final Paper | 25%

→ If you are having problems in class, please come and talk to me immediately. I will be better able to help you if you come to me early. Do not come to me at the end of the semester, unhappy with your grade, asking for a way to change it. I cannot randomly change grades because of “guilt trips”. However, I adjust the distribution for the entire class to ensure reasonable grading standards.

**Tests 50% grade (400 points):** There will be two examinations, total 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. **No makeup exams will be given.**

**NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!************* I mean this.** 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.

**Exam Policies:**
- You must take your exams during the time stated for your section of this class. Failure to do so will result in a score of 0 (zero) for the exam.
- 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.
- Bring TWO No. 2 pencils and scantrons (green or brown) with you to each exam. I will not bring any if you forget.
- I will not tolerate cheating. Severe penalty will be given to those who cheat.

**Lab Requirement 10% grade (100 points):**
Students are required to attend weekly lab meetings. You need to be registered and attend either section of lab:
**Monday 11-11:50am HL 208 or Wednesday 11-11:50am HL 208**
- Your attendance in the lab is required to pass this course.

**Follow all Lab Requirements**

**Participation and Attendance 15% grade (50 points):** Participation includes elements outlined above (attendance) and weekly in-class assignments. These assignments may include group projects, surveys, and problem solving sessions. In general, these assignments are designed to augment your comprehension of the material.

**Total 50 points**
- **Class attendance (25 points)** – No more than 3 absences
  - Attendance= 25 points total possible with no absences
  - 1 absence = 20 points
  - 2 absences = 10 points
  - 3 absences = 0 points
- **Class participation (25 points)** – asking questions, commenting on issues, daily grades in class, homework assignments, group projects, surveys, and problem solving sessions. In general, these assignments are designed to augment your comprehension of the material. For obvious reasons, there are absolutely no make-ups for these in-class assignments (however, I suggest that you still ask about the assignment to see if it would help you better understand the material).

**Final Paper (100 pts):** The final paper will consist of a 5-page paper (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, saved as .docx or .doc). **Due on the last class day 12/9.** In this paper you will (1) describe a belief/preconception about sexual behavior you held prior to participating in this class, (2) describe evidence (i.e., empirical research findings) from psychology that led you to change your mind regarding that belief, and (3) describe how a wider understanding of the psychology that informed your new belief may impact societal and/or social issues. The paper will be graded to assess if you are able to:
1. Recognize your own subjectivity, follow the arguments of others, and interpret data.
2. Follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose, and message.
3. Interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
4. Demonstrate an awareness of societal and/or social issues.

**Points for Final Letter Grade:**
- **A = 583 – 650 points**
B = 498 – 582 points
C = 452 – 497 points
D = 387 – 451 points
F = Below 386 points

Schedule for Lectures and Exams  Psy 2306  M/W 10-10:50am

Mon. 8/31 & Wed. 9/2  Syllabus, Announcements, Questions/ Chapter 1
Wed 9/7  LABOR DAY…NO CLASS
Wed. 9/9  Chapters 2
Mon. 9/14 & Wed. 9/16  Chapter 3, 4
Mon. 9/21 & Wed. 9/23  Chapter 4, 5
Mon. 9/28 & Wed. 9/30  Chapter 5, 6
Mon. 10/5 & Wed. 10/7  Chapter 6, 7
Mon 10/12 & Wed 10/14  Chapter 7, 8
Mon 10/19  Chapter 9, 10

**Wednesday 10/21**  Midterm Exam, Chapters 1-10

Mon 10/26 & Wed 10/28  Chapter 11, 12
Mon 11/2 & Wed 11/4  Chapter 13, 14
Mon 11/9 & Wed 11/11  Chapter 14, 15
Mon 11/16 & Wed 11/18  Chapter 16, 17
Mon 11/23 & Wed 11/25  Chapter 17, 18
Mon 11/30 & Wed 12/2  Chapter 18
Mon 12/7  Chapter 19

**Wednesday 12/9**  Final Exam, Chapter 11-19

***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.***