

# PSY 265: PSYCHOLOGY of HUMAN SEXUALITY

Spring 2015 \* MWF 9:00am-9:50am \* Hopkins Center 310

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"The heart has its reasons that reason does not understand." **Blaise Pascal**

"Everything in the world is about sex except sex. Sex is about power." **Oscar Wilde**

**Please note that all facets of the syllabus are subject to change at our discretion.**

### Course Overview

The course will introduce you to the breadth of psychological research about human sexuality. It will cover biological aspects as well as social aspects of psychological phenomena related to sexuality. Topics include reproductive anatomy and functioning, sexual identity, sexual response, sexual orientation, love, contraception, sexual aggression, and romantic attraction. Throughout the course we will look at ways in which the physiological aspects of sexuality and social aspects of sexuality intersect.

### Course Requirements

**We will make every reasonable attempt to grade blind.** In order to maintain blind grading on assignments submitted through turnitin.com, you must create a new or edit an existing turnitin.com account. For your first name, enter your four-digit personal class ID number. For your last name, enter your four-digit personal class ID number. Submit all of your assignments for this class using this account that keeps your identity masked from us.

**Exams.** Four equally weighted exams including short answer questions. Each exam is worth 20% of your course grade (100 points each for a total of 400 points). These exams generally will not be cumulative. These will be 50-minute exams. All grading will be done blind so only put your personal class ID number on your exams. **Review sheets for exams (and other course documents) will be posted on Moodle.**

**Discussion Questions:** Four times during the semester there will be readings beyond the textbook. These readings are on Moodle. There will be class discussions based upon the textbook and the assigned readings. You are required to submit three questions at the start of the discussion. These questions must be typed. **Submit them with only your personal Class ID number on the page (not your name).** Also submit them on turnitin.com. If you do not submit questions at the start of class or submit questions that do not demonstrate that you have completed the readings, you will lose a full lettergrade on your paper grade.

**Discussion Papers:** Subsequent to the discussion you are required to write a discussion paper. The paper may be one of two formats. 1) **A research reaction paper** in which you respond to the assigned readings and discussion using at least one outside, peer-reviewed journal article relevant to the topic, or 2) **a research persuasion paper** in which you argue a particular stance based upon the issues raised in the assigned readings and discussion using at least one outside, peer-reviewed journal article relevant to the topic. You should include outside and/or original sources in this paper. This paper should be 1½ -2½ doublespaced pages not including any tables, figures or references with one inch margins on all sides. You are limited to one direct quote per page. Each paper will be worth 5% (25

points) of your course grade for a total of 20% (100 points) of your course grade. Each paper must be submitted in class on hardcopy and also submitted electronically on turnitin.com. **The course ID number for turnitin.com is 9460591. The password is class. All grading will be done blind so only put your personal class ID number your papers.**

### Required Readings

*Human Sexuality: From Cells to Society* (2013) by Martha Rosenthal, ISBN-10: 0618755713, ISBN-13: 9780618755714. You may purchase it at the AC Bookstore. The e-book is available from the publisher, Cengage Learning.

### Miscellaneous

- 1) **We offer extra credit for participation in studies through the Psychology Department Participant Pool.** We generally do not accept more than 120 minutes of participation, so plan accordingly. In order to receive credit you must a) participate in studies approved by the Austin College IRB and b) turn in a sheet signed by the experimenter documenting your participation and with your brief explanation of the study. You may earn no more than two points of extra credit on your final course grade (one point for every 60 minutes). These research opportunities are current studies being conducted by your peers and/or the psychology faculty, and are opportunities to contribute to the knowledge of the field as well as your classmates' education. Participation is a serious commitment that requires honest and thoughtful responses. If you give false, misleading, or thoughtless (i.e., choosing "4" on every item on the scale) data, it not only compromises the work of your peers and faculty but can potentially cripple research that took months or years to set up. The researchers can see how much time it took you to complete the study (even the online surveys) and have to throw out data that is clearly carelessly entered. If you do not have enough time to complete the research appropriately (as described in the informed consent statement), do it at another time. More information may be found at the Research Opportunities link on the Psychology Department webpage: <http://artemis.austincollege.edu/acad/psych/>. Incomplete grades are only appropriate when an unforeseen circumstance (e.g., an extended illness or severe accident) affects your ability to complete the assignments for this class in a timely manner. The incomplete allows you to complete the missed work at a later time; it does not allow you to retake a test solely for the reason of improving your grade.
- 2) **If you miss class**, you are responsible for making up the work. Please do not ask us for lecture notes. However, you may ask your classmates. If you have questions about a classmate's notes (or in general), please ask us for clarifications. Students who have more than three unexcused absences may be reported to the Student Services Office and/or their mentors. Students who have more than four unexcused absences may be dropped from the class. If you will be out of town on an exam day for an official absence, it is necessary for you to take the exam before you leave. Such absences generally do not count as unexcused absences; however, if you have already expended your allotment of unexcused absences or you are doing poorly in the class, we will determine if official absences count as unexcused absences on a case-by-case basis.
- 3) **Make-up exams without a late penalty** after the scheduled exam date and time will generally only be offered in the case of a documented emergency, illness or death in the family. When you are ill, we need an official note from a medical professional (e.g., an email from the campus nurse). In the case of ongoing issues, you or your family should notify Karen Spore in Student Affairs at 903.813.2228. Notification of your absence on the exam day should be given preferably prior to but no later than the day of the exam, and prior to the start time of the exam to avoid a late penalty.
- 4) **Regarding reviewing your exams**, we do not give exams back to students. If you would like to review an exam you have taken (and we strongly encourage you to do so), please come to our office hours. We will keep your course materials through the end of the following semester. After that point, we will throw them out.
- 5) **If you have a documented disability** for which you would like accommodations, please inform us by the second week of class. It is your responsibility to remind us of your accommodations at least a week before we distribute each assignment or exam. To arrange for accommodations, you will need to register as soon as possible at the Academic Skills Center with Laura Márquez-Ramsey, the Director of the Academic Skills Center, (903) 813-2454, Suite 211 of the Wright Campus Center. For information on this process, go to <http://www.austincollege.edu/campus-life/academic-skills-center/>.
- 6) **Turn your cell phones on silent or off during class.** Please clear it with us if you feel that you have an emergency situation that requires that you put your cell phone on vibrate mode while you are in class. If you need to use your phone, please step out of class to do so. If you know you will need to leave during class, then sit near the door. You can enter your class schedule into a cell phone app (e.g., Studious [for Android phones]), and it will silence your phone when you are in class.
- 7) **Please be courteous in class to fellow students and to us.** This includes not holding ongoing conversations during class, not reading for other classes or for pleasure during class, not studying for other classes during

class, not doing games or puzzles in class, not text messaging or emailing during class, not surfing the net during class, not flirting in class, etc. Please make an effort not to fall asleep in class. Be respectful not to leave during class unless absolutely necessary. If you know you will need to leave during class, then sit near the door. Students who routinely text, surf the net or are otherwise distracted during class will be dropped from the class. 8) **The GRADING SCALE** is as follows: A+ = 97-100; A = 94-96; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87-89; B = 84-86; B- = 80-83; C+ = 77-79; C = 74-76; C- = 70-73; D+ = 67-69; D = 64-66; D- = 60-63; F = 59 or below. All grading will be done “blind,” so only put your class ID number on your assignments (unless instructed otherwise). We will downgrade all late work a third of a letter grade for each day late (including weekend days). If you want to contest a grade, please do it during the course. We will keep course materials only until the last day of the subsequent semester.

9) **You are responsible for keeping track of your grades in the course.** Do not assume that you are passing the course or that the course grade will be curved so that no one fails. If you are concerned about your progress in the class, please come and see us – the earlier in the semester, the better.

10) **Academic Honesty:** The academic process is one in which all members of the class, instructors and students alike, disseminate information and acquire knowledge with goals of both personal fulfillment and collective improvement through intellectual enrichment. Academic dishonesty completely undermines this honorable and valuable process. If we have evidence of your suspected academic dishonesty, we will report it to the Academic Integrity Council, and you will have the incident noted in your file. Punishment could be as severe as failing the course. Austin College’s detailed statement on academic honesty is in the Environment at <http://www.austincollege.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/Environment-2012-2013.pdf>.

### **Avoiding Plagiarism and Cheating**

**Working together on assignments:** Imagine a math problem involving a right triangle in which one leg of the triangle is 6 inches long while the other is 8 inches long. You and a friend are working on this homework problem. Your friend says, “Help me find the value of the hypotenuse.” On the one hand you could say, “It’s 10.” However, on the other hand you could say, “It involves the Pythagorean theorem:  $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$  where A is one leg of the triangle, B is the other and C is the hypotenuse.” In our class the first response would be cheating and the second case would not. We define working together as sharing information regarding the *means* to a solution for an assignment. Sharing the solution is a form of cheating because one person’s grade is dependent upon another person’s work and unless instructed otherwise, you must produce the solutions to your assignments independently. You may share strategies and pointers (e.g., “Look at the lecture notes from last week” or “Read p. 52 in the text”). But each person must do the work to solve the problem alone unless instructed otherwise in the syllabus or a handout for the assignment.

**Studying Together for Exams:** We encourage you to study together for exams. Collaborative learning is beneficial in many ways. It helps you gain varied perspectives on a certain issue. There may be certain things that you have studied that remain confusing to you that other students may understand. There may be certain things that you help other students understand and in the process of explaining things to them, it helps you cement your knowledge. In preparing for exams, we strongly encourage you to study in groups.

**Plagiarism:** You will write short papers for this class and you will need citations beyond the textbook. Throughout the body of the paper, if you are summarizing findings or ideas that are not yours, you need to cite where you found that information - even if from the textbook, course readings or lecture. Not giving credit to the original authors is plagiarism. In addition, if you use more than three words in a row from a source, you need to not only cite it but you also need to use quotation marks. Typing in a sentence from a source and then changing every third word but presenting it in your paper as your own ideas and writing is dishonest (i.e., it is cheating). In addition, using work you wrote, created, collected, etc. for another course or a from a previous semester of Psychology of Human Sexuality without first clearing it with us and any other professors involved will be considered plagiarism in this course.

**Research Papers and Citing Sources:** The writing assignment will require you to conduct research. This involves citing the sources for your ideas. If you use someone else’s idea, you **MUST** cite it. This is not only when you quote it; this is **ALWAYS**. In addition, you include the citation immediately after the sentence with the idea. **IT IS PLAGIARISM TO USE SOMEONE’S IDEAS THROUGHOUT A PARAGRAPH AND THEN CITE THEM AT THE END OF THE PARAGRAPH.** Maybe this is how some of you were taught in high school. **NOT ONLY IS THAT WRONG ACCORDING TO MLA STYLE AND APA STYLE, BUT IT IS ALSO PLAGIARISM.** If you think this is a trivial offense, keep in mind that students were reported to the Academic Integrity Council for this exact type of offense. As your professors, we believe it is incumbent upon us to give you clear warnings and instructions regarding this issue. However, it is incumbent upon you to take this seriously and to work diligently not to plagiarize. Students often start papers at the last minute. Doing so may not allow you enough

time to cite sources properly. Make sure you give yourself enough time to cite things properly so that you do not end up with a violation of Austin College’s Academic Integrity Policy.

**There are additional notes on avoiding plagiarism and cheating on Moodle. There are also notes on how to do well in this class on Moodle. You are responsible for information and instructions posted in these documents on Moodle even if we do not mention them in class.** Moodle is a website that Austin College uses so that professors may exchange information via the Internet with their students. We use it to post documents you need for the course as well as to send messages to the class. If you are unsure how to sign into your Moodle account, ask another student or ask someone at the IT Helpdesk.

**Schedule of Lectures, Readings, Assignments & Exams**

Week 1: Feb 2-6	Ch. 1. Introduction to Sexuality and Ch. 2. Evaluating Studies of Sexuality
Week 2: Feb 9-13	Ch. 3. Male Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology and Ch. 4. Female Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology
Week 3: Feb 16-20	Ch. 5. Sex and Gender & readings on Moodle <b>Wed, Feb 18 discussion</b>
Week 4: Feb 23-27	<b>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 - EXAM 1 on chs. 1-5</b> Ch. 6. Sexual Response (Lisa is at SPSP on Friday, Feb 27) <b>Paper due Wed, Feb 25</b>
Week 5: Mar 2-6	Ch. 7. Attraction, Dating, and Hooking Up and Ch. 8. Love
Mar 9-13	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
Week 6: Mar 16-20	Ch. 8. Love and Ch. 9. Committed Relationships and Communicating With Your Partner
Week 7: Mar 23-27	Ch. 10. Sexual Orientation & readings on Moodle <b>Wed, March 25 discussion</b>
Week 8: Mar 30-Apr 3	<b>MONDAY, MARCH 30 - EXAM 2 on chs. 6-10</b> Ch. 11. Consensual Sexual Behavior <b>Paper due Wed, April 1</b>
Week 9: Apr 6-10	Ch. 12. Contraceptive Choices and Ending Pregnancy & readings on Moodle <b>Wed, Apr 8 discussion</b>
Week 10: Apr 13-17	Ch. 13. Conception, Pregnancy, and Birth and Ch. 14. Sexually Transmitted Infections <b>Paper due Wed, April 15</b>
Week 11: Apr 20-24	<b>MONDAY, APRIL 20 - EXAM 3 on chs. 11-14</b> Ch. 15. Variations in Sexual Behavior
Week 12: Apr 27-May 1	Ch. 16. Sexual Coercion and Violence & readings on Moodle <b>Wed, Apr 29 discussion</b>
Week 13: May 4-8	Ch. 17. Sex for Sale <b>Paper due Wed, May 6</b>
Week 14: May 11-15	<b>MONDAY, MAY 11, 9:00am-11:00am – EXAM 4 on chs. 15-17</b>

**DATES YOU MAY WANT TO REMEMBER**

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| Feb 10: last day to add a course                    | <b>Apr 10-12: SWPA in Wichita, KS</b>           |
| Mar 8-16: Spring Break                              | Apr 14-16: Fall registration                    |
| <b>Mar 21-22: AC Student Scholarship Conference</b> | May 9: last day to drop with WP, WF or WU grade |
| Mar 30: last day to drop or change grading system   | May 12-16: Exam period                          |
|   | May 18: Commencement                            |