Sociology A255-051
Human Sexuality

Three Credit Hours
Fall 2010
Monday 6:20 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.

Brooks Zitzmann, GSW

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Complementary, inclusive, and sometimes conflicting perspectives inform the human sexuality context in our society. This tension allows for an exploration of the ways in which sexuality is situated and managed within communities. The course is designed to acquaint students with the necessary factual and diverse information required to understand how connections within and between individuals, couples, and communities are demonstrated through sexual expressions. Students will have the opportunity to learn theories and formulate concepts related to their own values, beliefs, and morals. Within the context of critical awareness, students can explore their own level of comfort with sexuality as it relates to topics covered throughout the semester. The course also expects students to extend their knowledge to the area of sexual disorders. Awareness and treatment modalities for the spectrum of sexual disorders is based on a fundamental knowledge of human sexual behavior, including biological aspects, developmental characteristics over the life cycle, courtship, marriage, sex roles, contributions from feminist thinking, masculinity, and healthy relationships.
COURSE DESIGN AND PURPOSES:

This is a three-hour course, which considers human sexual functioning from biological, socio-cultural, psychological, interpersonal, and religious perspectives. It explores various ways that sexuality is expressed, mediated, shaped, utilized, and abused. The course provides content on various aspects of sexual behavior, problems and difficulties, and diversity of sexual experience. The course format includes professor lecture, student discussions and presentations, role-play, and use of films and music. Students are encouraged to discuss central issues and practice critical thinking in class. Guest lecturers who are experts in some area of human sexuality will provide additional content.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course the student will have gained:

1. An understanding of the diversity of human sexual experience; the many forms that sexual interest may take; the relationship of self and intimacy needs and its manifestation in sexuality.

2. Some self-awareness skills to conveying attitudes about sexuality and an ability to discuss sexual concerns, behaviors, and problems in a straightforward manner.

3. The capacity to understand specific sexual disorders and become aware of sexual oppression and socially constructed barriers to sexual fulfillment.

4. An ability to analyze and integrate scientific literature on sexual issues.

5. An ability to recognize the continual challenge, which sexual issues raise in regards to ethics and values in our society.

6. Greater knowledge about human sexuality and human relationships including information pertaining to technology, STD’s, disabilities, minorities, gays, and older persons.

TEXTS:

Required:

Optional:
GRADED ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected to attend all classes, participate in class discussions, and do required readings, which correspond with lectures.

Exams: There will be 3 exams, two throughout the semester and one during finals week. Each test will cover lecture, class handout, and textbook chapter materials. The exams are objective and are each worth 20% of the final grade. (60% of total)

Papers: The course will require two papers throughout the semester. Each paper will need to be between two and four pages in length, double-spaced, and make appropriate use of editorial formatting.

(1) In the first, each student will research two current (i.e. 2007-present) peer reviewed journal articles or professional periodicals applicable to class topics. The student will provide a critical analysis of the articles and present personal, integrative comments. (15% of total)

(2) In the second paper, each student will provide a personal reflection integrating and applying concepts from class in an assessment of their own beliefs, values, and behaviors. (10% of total)

Genogram: Each student will construct a family genogram highlighting gender roles, orientations, and values regarding sexuality. (5% of total)

Class Participation & Reflection: Participation and reflection will include providing thoughtful written reflections and actively engaging in discussions and class activities. (10% total)

Grading Scale:

93–100 = A
90–92 = A-
87–89 = B+
84–86 = B
80–83 = B-
77–79 = C
74–76 = C-
71–73 = D+

Punctuality And Attendance

To maximize learning and course grade, each student is strongly urged to attend each class. Attending class requires arriving on time (arriving late is a distraction to fellow peers), being present throughout the class, and following the rules of participation as outlined below and discussed in class. Consideration for earning class participation and reflection points will be based upon punctual attendance active engagement. If an unforeseen emergency happens, inform the instructor immediately. Informing the instructor of a planned absence does NOT constitute its being excused.


Participation in Class

The course instructor encourages every student to actively participate in class. There will be a variety of opportunities for participation throughout each class. Students are strongly encouraged to read PRIOR to class and to integrate reading material into class discussions. Higher education also mandates that every student hear the opinions of others thoughtfully, pose questions for increased understanding, and disagree assertively and respectfully.

No distracting activities—such as on-going chatter, use of computers, activated cell phones or beepers, sleeping, emotional outbursts, or other inappropriate behaviors—are allowed in the classroom. Persistence in such behaviors may result in dismissal from the class.

Late Or Inadequately Prepared Assignments

Falling behind in readings or other assignments can be deadly for academic success. In the highly unlikely event that you must turn in any assignment late, you must speak to the instructor immediately for constructive feedback and contracting for a new deadline. Late assignments automatically drop one category in final grading of the assignment. (Example: A short paper of “B+” quality would receive a “B” grade. Cheating or plagiarism will result in considerable disciplinary action and be reflected in the final grade.

Disability Services and Accommodations

A student with a disability that qualifies for accommodations should contact Sarah Mead Smith, Director of Disability Services at 865-2990 (Academic Resource Center, Room 405, Monroe Hall). A student wishing to receive test accommodations (e.g., extended test time) should provide the instructor with an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services in advance of the scheduled test date.

BlackBoard & LORA

The course syllabus will be posted on LORA for review throughout the semester. Electronic copies of course materials pertaining to information NOT covered by the textbook will be posted on BlackBoard for reference. Additionally, the instructor may utilize BlackBoard periodically to communicate with students via message postings. If a message is posted, the instructor will email students to alert them to the new message. It is the student’s responsibility to regularly check their Loyola email account for academic related communication. Course grades will be posted on LORA.
COURSE CALENDAR

August 30th  Introduction, syllabus review & course overview
Conceptualizing human sexuality: Scripts, attachment, Catholic thought
Perspectives on Sexuality (Ch.1)

September 6th  LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

September 13th  History of the forefathers of sex research
Sex Research: Methods and Problems (Ch. 2)
Female Sexual Anatomy and Physiology (Ch.3)

September 20th  Male Sexual Anatomy and Physiology (Ch. 4)
Sexual Arousal and Response (Ch. 6)
GENOGRAM DUE

September 27th  Gender Issues (Ch. 5)

October 4th  EXAM 1

October 11th  Sexual Orientations (Ch. 9)
Sexuality During Adolescence (Ch.12 – p.350-370)

October 18th  FALL BREAK - NO CLASS

October 25th  Sexual Coercion (Ch. 17)
Interpersonal Violence in Intimate Relationships
Sexual Trauma
  * Take Back the Night (10/27/10 – Event)

November 1st  Love and Communication in Intimate Relationships (Ch. 7)
JOURNAL PAPER DUE

November 8th  Contraception (Ch. 10)
Conceiving Children: Process and Choice (Ch. 11)

November 15th  EXAM 2

November 22nd  Atypical Sexual Behavior (Ch. 16)
Sexual Difficulties and Solutions (Ch. 14)

November 29th  Sexually Transmitted Infections (Ch. 15)
Sex for Sale (Ch. 18)

December 6th  Sexual Behaviors (Ch. 8)
PERSONAL REFLECTION PAPER DUE

December 13th  EXAM 3