

HDFS 445: Human Sexuality
Michigan State University
Fall 2017
WF, 8:30-9:50am
300 Human Ecology Building

Instructor: Megan Maas, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: W, F-3:30pm - 4:30 pm, and by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Human sexuality is a course that explores many aspects of sexuality with a particular concentration on how one develops as a sexual being. We will examine biological, psychological, relational, social, political, cultural, and societal influences on sexual development. Given the highly sensitive nature of sexuality, please be prepared to experience a wide array of feelings, as well as a change in attitudes. On this note, please be respectful and open-minded about what you explore in this class and how others do their own exploration.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to identify major tasks of sexual competence.
2. Students will be able to describe the influence of contextual factors on adolescent human sexuality.
3. Students will be able to explain the individual-level challenges of sexual development.

COURSE FORMAT:

A good portion of class time will consist of lectures containing information from both required readings and outside sources. However, class discussion, activities, demonstrations, and videos will also be regular and important components of the course. Questions about course material are encouraged at all times, as is sharing your own experiences with the class.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Lehmiller, J. J. (2014). *The Psychology of Human Sexuality*. NEW YORK: Wiley Blackwell.

COURSE INFORMATION:

Students are responsible for all material covered in the assigned textbook chapters, as well as the information provided in class. Not all of the information from the readings will be covered in class lectures. There will be some information provided in class that will not be covered in the text. I strongly encourage you to read assigned materials **before** class meetings. This will enhance your understanding of the material being presented and help you be more prepared to ask questions in class. D2L will be the portal for accessing course documents and grades. Not all internet browsers and versions are compatible with D2L. Please check early in the first week of the course to verify that you can access all course content on D2L. It is assumed that you know how to access content and operate within D2L.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Attendance is not mandatory, but is extremely important for success in this class. Material that is not presented in the text will be given during class. If you should miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate. Class notes will not be provided by the instructor. Regular attendance and active involvement with the material will greatly benefit your understanding and mastery of this subject, particularly as it applies to your area of study.

RESPECT IN THE CLASSROOM:

A classroom environment that promotes learning is built on mutual respect between instructors, students, and peers. Behaviors that include: text messaging, cell phone use, arriving late/leaving early, checking email, surfing the Internet, sleeping and related behaviors are disrespectful and distracting to the instructor and your fellow classmates. Please do not engage in these behaviors in class. Your grade will suffer if you engage in these behaviors in class.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Exams: There will be three in-class exams (50 points each for a total of 150 points), designed to test your knowledge and understanding of material covered in class, including lectures, videos, and handouts, as well as assigned readings. The exams will be comprised of multiple choice and true-false questions. Make-up exams will be given only with a university-approved excused absence. Notification of your absence on the day of an exam must be given within 24 hours of the scheduled exam, preferably prior to the exam. **A single date/time (within one week of each exam) will be provided for make-up exams.**

Attendance Papers: Attendance papers are thoughtful papers that are based on lecture material. There are no right or wrong answers, but to receive full-credit, students' responses must illustrate thought and depth. There will be a total of 6 attendance papers, each worth a maximum of 5 points. Five papers will count towards the final grade for a total of 25 points, allowing students to miss 1 without being penalized. If students complete all 6, the sixth one will be counted as extra credit. You may not walk in at the end of class and write an attendance paper. **You must have been in attendance from the beginning of class to receive credit.** Students who arrive late on attendance paper days will lose 1 point for every 2 minutes they are late; students who arrive more than 15 minutes late will not be permitted to write a paper – no exceptions. If you arrive late, you will be asked to provide your name along with your student ID. Giving a false name will be viewed as a violation of academic integrity.

Group Debate Project: In this class, you will work in small groups to produce a 10-15-minute answer to a popular “hot topic” question that is currently being debated in the field of human sexuality:

1. Is internet pornography healthy for individuals and society?
2. Are polyamorous relationships healthy for individuals and society?
3. Should female sexual dysfunction be treated with Flibanserin (female Viagra)?
4. Should the sex offender registry be abolished?
5. Should all kinds of sex work be legalized?

You will need to defend your *yes* or *no* perspective by citing scholarly work in a handout that you will use to make your point in a group oral presentation. Both answer groups will present on the same day. There will be a total of 10 groups (5 questions x 2 answers). You will get to request your top 3 groups that you would like to be in. However, there is no guarantee that you will get to debate on your first topic of choice. Each group will have 10-15 minutes to present their initial case. There will be 5 minutes to respond with counterpoints on each side. In total, 45 minutes will be allotted to debate these hot topics in class. You will receive a maximum of 50 points for the final product as a whole (quality of references and arguments as well as oral presentation), and 15 of those points for how you worked as an individual within your group (your level of effort to help your group succeed). More information on the details of this project will be revealed in class. D2L will contain complete instructions, a grading rubric for debate day, and a group participation evaluation form.

COURSE GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Attendance Papers (5 points each)	25 points
Debate project	50 points
Exams (50 points each)	150 points
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Total points for Course	225 points

The final grade will be determined as follows: 93%-100% = 4.0, 88%-92% = 3.5, 83%-87% = 3.0, 78%-82% = 2.5

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Participation in this course assumes that you will adhere to the statements set out in the statement as well as the University Policy on academic integrity. MSU's policy is covered in the *Spartan Life* handbook, found on the *Spartan Life* web site at: <http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu>.

If the instructor suspects a student has violated the University policy on academic integrity, the instructor will proceed as guided by University policy. The student will be approached by the instructor. For advisory purposes, the instructor may also consult faculty members who serve on departmental, College or University committees that address academic integrity, the department chairperson, the academic dean, or the Ombudsman; in all of these interactions, the instructor will keep the student's identity confidential. The goal of these consultations is for the instructor to seek guidance to aid her in arriving at a decision about whether the suspicion merits an allegation of academic misconduct. The student may or may not be informed that the instructor is seeking advisement pertaining to a situation involving the student (the student's identity will not be disclosed). The student may be contacted by the instructor for the purpose of arranging a meeting to discuss the circumstances that prompted suspicion.

If after consulting the University policy, there may still remain details that you may need further clarification on. You are encouraged to seek answers to your questions from an appropriate source. For more information on the University policy, first consult the online handbook. If you have any remaining questions and the instructor cannot adequately address them, the instructor will refer you to a knowledgeable source. The Office of the Ombudsman is a knowledgeable and neutral source (and students may post confidential inquiries with this office, see <https://www.msu.edu/~ombud/> for more details), and can also serve as a point of first contact.

RESOURCES:

I am a mandated reporter, so any experience of sexual violence you disclose to me, I must disclose to authorities. However, please don't let that be a deterrent to come to me for help. Here are some other resources that may be of help to you too:

- Intimate partner violence, stalking, harassment: MSU Safe Place: <http://safeplace.msu.edu/>
- MSU Sexual Assault Program: <http://endrape.msu.edu/>
- Counseling and Psychiatry Services (CAPS): <http://counseling.msu.edu/>
- Women's Resource Center: <http://wrc.msu.edu/index.html>
- MSU LGBTQ Resource Center: <http://lbgtrc.msu.edu/>
- Center for Gender in Global Context: <http://gencen.isp.msu.edu/>
- Women's Center of Greater Lansing: <http://www.womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org/>
- Sexuality and gender trainings
 - QuILL: <http://lbgtrc.msu.edu/quill/>
 - Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Prevention Program
 - (SARV): <http://sarv.msu.edu/>
- Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives:
<http://www.inclusion.msu.edu/education/learn-at-lunch.html>
- Self Defense: <http://recsports.msu.edu/instructional-programs/Self%20Defense.html>
- Transforming Theatre Ensemble:
<http://www.inclusion.msu.edu/education/transforming-theatre-ensemble/index.html>

ACCESSABILITY:

Michigan State University seeks to ensure that its programs are accessible to all persons. Students in need of special assistance or an accommodation regarding any of the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus and other course content are advised to notify the instructor immediately. We will meet privately to discuss a resolution of your matter, which may or may not include an appropriate referral. Confidentiality will be maintained regarding these discussions. For more information on University policy and accommodations, please consult the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities: www.rcpd.msu.edu.

STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY:

Michigan State University and the Department of Human Development and Family Studies affirm the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THE COURSE SYLLABUS IF NECESSARY. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTING THOSE CHANGES. CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND ON D2L.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Sept	1	The study of human sexuality	1, 2
	6-8	Human sexual anatomy and puberty	3
	13	Human sexual response video lecture [NO CLASS]	4
	15	Human sexual response	4
	20	Sexual attraction	7
	22	Sexual attraction video lecture [NO CLASS]	7
	27	EXAM 1	
	29	Culture and sexuality	10, 11
Oct	4-6	Gender & gender identity	5
	11	Sexual orientation	6
	13	Sex in media	
	18	Sexual attitudes [PORN DEBATE]	9
	20	Sexual behaviors	9
	25-27	Romantic relationships across the lifespan	8
Nov	1	Pregnancy and post-partum sex [POLYAMORY DEBATE]	8, 10
	3	EXAM 2	
	8	Sexual dysfunction video lecture [NO CLASS]	12
	10	Sex therapy	12
	15	Sex education [FEMALE SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION DEBATE]	10, 11
	17	Sex education	10
	22-24	Happy Thanksgiving! [NO CLASS]	
	29	Sexual violence	13, 14
Dec	1	Variations in sexual behavior [SEX OFFENDER DEBATE]	13, 14
	6	Sex work and sex trafficking [SEX WORK DEBATE]	14
	11	FINAL EXAM 7:45-9:45am	