

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS
UI 445**

Department: Human Environmental Studies

Course No.: UI 445

Title of Course: Critical Perspectives of Sexuality

New: Spring 2012

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

Critical assessment of one's sexual values and decision making and its impact on interpersonal relationships and societal outcomes. **Three (3) credit hours.**

Course Content (course content description for University Studies webpage)
Students in this course will examine sexuality through an interdisciplinary approach. Sexuality will be critically discussed, analyzed, and researched from a variety of disciplines consisting of: biology, anatomy, human development, cultural studies, history, politics, criminal justice, and philosophy. Students will gain a better understanding of their own sexual values and a greater awareness of the role of sexuality in interpersonal relationships and society.

II. Interdisciplinary Nature of Course: This course draws from the disciplines of human development, sociology, biology, physiology, anatomy, history, political science, family studies, criminal justice, and cultural studies. The main objective of this course is to integrate knowledge and gain a broader understanding of sexuality not only in our personal lives but also in our children's lives and as a society as a whole. These objectives will be obtained by critically examining human sexuality from various perspectives. This course fits under the perspectives of Natural Systems and Human Institutions. Course topics will relate to the categories of Behavioral Systems, Living Systems, Development of Major Civilization Systems, Political Systems, and Social Systems.

III. Prerequisite(s): None.

IV. Objectives of the Course:

The students will be able to:

- A. Identify, examine and interpret foundations of sexuality through the lens of biology, physiology, and anatomy. (University Studies Objectives 1, 2).
- B. Identify, research, compare, differentiate the characteristics of healthy and ethical sexual relationships, both orally and in writing. (University Studies Objectives 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8).
- C. Discuss and explain, both orally and in writing, how interpersonal dynamics of sexual intimacy change across the lifespan and vary across cultures. (University Studies Objectives 1, 3, 4, 5).
- D. Identify and assess risk factors related to sexual behavior and deviance. (University Studies Objectives 7, 9).
- E. Critically evaluate in writing the role of one's sexual values in decision making. (University Studies Objectives 2, 3, 6, 7).
- F. Through writing critically apply concepts and trends to the study of sexuality as it relates to the macro-environment: policy, politics, and culture. (University Studies Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).

V. Student Learning Outcomes

- A. Explain how interpersonal dynamics of sexual intimacy change across the lifespan and vary across cultures.
- B. Evaluate the role of one's sexual values in decision making.
- C. Identify risk factors related to sexual deviance.

VI. Expectations of Students

The students will show progress in meeting course objectives by:

- A. Students will read all assigned materials and complete all assignments in a timely, professional manner.
- B. Students will attend class regularly and participate in class discussions and group activities.
- C. Students will write several 1-2 page personal reflection papers on topics discussed in class. Students will orally present in class specific points from their reflection paper.
- D. Students will choose four interdisciplinary topics to research, analyze, and interpret. They will present their findings in written form and share with the class orally.
- E. Students will interview someone regarding their thoughts pertaining to a topic from class and summarize their findings in written form.

VII. Course Content or Outline

- A. Male and Female Sexual Anatomy and Physiology (Web) 6 hrs.
 (Objective 1)
 Identify and define the external male and female sex organs
 Identify and define the internal male and female sex organs
 Describe the female maturation cycle (menstruation and menopause)
 Describe the male maturation cycle (puberty and andropause)
 Health issues related to the reproductive system
- B. History of Sexuality in the United States of America (Classroom) 3 hrs.
 (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 9)
 Define morality and discuss the historical context of morality
 Discuss and explain the impact of the Kinsey studies on society
 Describe and discuss the social context that sparked the sexual revolution
 Describe and discuss sexuality in the 21st century
- C. Marketing of sexuality in the media (Classroom) 3 hrs.
 (Objectives 1, 2, 7, 9)
 Discuss the role media plays in shaping our values on sexuality
- D. Global Perspectives on Sexuality (Web) 9 hrs.
 (Objectives 1, 2, 5)
 Compare and contrast sexuality across various cultures (European, Asia, Middle East, Latin America, Africa, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders)
 Discuss various cultural norms and practices (matriarch vs. patriarch societies)
- E. Sexuality across Lifespan Perspectives (Classroom and web) 12 hrs.
 (Objectives 1, 2, 4)
Childhood:
 Define what is acceptable sexual exploration during childhood
 Describe the best approach to talking to children about sex
Adolescence:
 Describe the role of experimentation during adolescence
 Compare / contrast sex education and abstinence programs
 Discuss teen pregnancy and the impact on the family
Adulthood:
 Discuss premarital sex and society's values
 Describe the effects of aging on sexuality
 Seniors:
 Compare and contrast sexuality of seniors and young adults
- F. Perspectives of Ethical and Healthy Sexual Relationships (Classroom) 6 hrs.
 (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8)
 Discuss sexual scripts and sexual expression in terms of

normal / abnormal behaviors
 Describe and identify healthy sexual intimacy and communication
 Discuss sexual orientation
 Identify and describe various contraceptive methods
 Discuss and examine personal and public opinion regarding abortions
 Describe and identify sexually transmitted diseases
 Describe and discuss issues related to sexting, pornography, internet affairs

G. Critical Issues in Sexual Deviance (Classroom and web) 3 hrs.
 (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9)

Identify the risk factors for sexual deviant behaviors
 Develop an understanding of sexual addictions
 Define and examine the negative effects of child sexual abuse
 Define sexual assaults and identify the warning signs
 Define and discuss sexual harassment

H. Political Perspectives on Sexuality (Classroom) 3 hrs.
 (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

Examine the role of government in regulating sexuality
 Identify and discuss existing laws related to sexual behavior

VIII. Required Textbooks

Carroll, J. L. (2007). *Sexuality Now: Embracing Diversity* (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

IX. Basis for Student Evaluations

Personal reflection papers	20%
Four interdisciplinary research briefs	25%
Oral presentations of research briefs	5%
One interview and written summary	15%
Two exams (midterm and final)	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

IX. Justification for Inclusion in the University Studies Program

Objective 1: Demonstrate the ability to locate and gather information.

Emphasis: Significant

Content: Students will be required to locate, gather and apply a variety of information to meet course objectives. The students will utilize textbooks, articles, and the internet to identify, examine, and evaluate factual information along with various perspectives on human sexuality in today's society.

Teaching Strategies: Students will work individually and in cooperative learning teams to research and evaluate information. Each topic will include a variety of activities such as lecture, discussion, critical sides debates and visuals aids (PowerPoint, videos).

Student Assignments: Students will complete interdisciplinary research briefs and an interview that requires locating and gathering information related to various topics on sexuality.

Student Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on the ability to gather and organize information for each topic. Students will be expected to accurately complete all assignments and activities based on the specific criteria of the instructor.

Objective 2: Demonstrate capabilities for critical thinking, reasoning and analyzing.

Emphasis: Significant

Content: Students will be evaluated on the basis of their ability to evaluate, analyze, and synthesize a variety of information relevant to human sexuality. The student's ability to think critically of one's own sexual values as well as society's values on sexuality is fundamental to the class.

Teaching Strategies: Students will be asked to critically discuss various topics through in class discussions and personal reflection papers.

Student Assignments: Assignments and examinations are designed to further the student's ability for analysis within a logical framework. Students will write reflection papers and research briefs critically analyzing various topics on sexuality.

Student Evaluation: Evaluations will assess how well the students can demonstrate critical thinking and reasoning skills pertaining to human sexuality.

Objective 3: Demonstrate effective communication skills.

Emphasis: Significant

Content: The course content presents numerous opportunities for students to exercise verbal and written communication skills. Oral and written communication skills will be demonstrated through written assignments and class discussions.

Teaching Strategies: Class discussion and written assignments will be used to improve student's oral and written communication skills.

Student Assignments: Student's assignments will be designed to achieve proficiency in oral and written communication skills and to demonstrate knowledge of effective communication skills and strategies. Students will be required to orally present points from their reflection papers and to orally present their interdisciplinary research briefs. The written interdisciplinary research briefs will include a revision process. Students will also provide a written summary of their interview.

Student Evaluation: Students must demonstrate successful completion of oral and written communication assignments. Written assignments will be evaluated based on predetermined criteria including quality, content, and proficiency.

Objective 4: Demonstrate an understanding of human experiences and the ability to relate them to the present.

Emphasis: Some

Content: Students will examine the historical and social forces that influence present day values and behaviors related to sexuality.

Teaching Strategies: Teaching strategies include assigned readings, lectures and discussions on the evolution of human sexuality. Lectures and assigned readings will provide students with a framework for evaluating and discussing the impact of societal forces on individual sexual behavior and values.

Student Assignments: Through examinations, students will be tested on their knowledge regarding the historical context of sexuality. Students will be asked to complete a research brief examining the historical context of a specific topic related to human sexuality.

Student Evaluation: Students will be evaluated based on their ability to demonstrate an understanding of the historical context of human sexuality. Student's writing skills will be evaluated based on grammar, content and organization of information.

Objective 5: Demonstrate an understanding of various cultures and their inter-relationships.

Emphasis: Significant

Content: The content provides students the opportunity to identify, compare, differentiate, and distinguish cultural norms and laws related to human sexuality. Students will develop an understanding of their own cultural values in relation to others.

Teaching Strategies: Readings and discussion will be used to achieve this objective.

Student Assignments: Students will be asked to complete a research brief examining the sexual norms and laws of a specific culture.

Student Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on their knowledge of different culture's sexual values and norms. Written assignments will be evaluated on quality, content and organization.

Objective 6: Demonstrate the ability to integrate the breadth and diversity of knowledge and experiences.

Emphasis: Significant

Content: The course content provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to integrate the breadth and diversity of knowledge and experience. The course content blends a variety of topics

including biology, anatomy, human development, cultural studies, history, politics, criminal justice, and philosophy as seen in the perspectives of Natural Systems and Human Institutions and the categories of Behavioral Systems, Living Systems, Development of Major Civilization Systems, Political Systems, and Social Systems. The interrelationship of these diverse topics will be examined through the lens of human sexuality.

Teaching Strategies: Students will be given the opportunity to explore and discuss the intersection of these various topics and its impact on their own lives and society.

Student Assignments: Written interdisciplinary research brief assignments will provide students with an opportunity to research, analyze and demonstrate their ability to integrate and apply the course content to their own value system and understanding of human sexuality. Students will then orally present their research brief.

Student Evaluation: Written assignments will be evaluated on quality, content and organization.

Objective 7: Demonstrate the ability to make informed, intelligent value decisions.

Emphasis: Significant

Content: Through readings and class discussions students will examine their own sexual values and behaviors. Students will hopefully be able to make informed intelligent value decisions pertaining to their own sexual behaviors as well as evaluating various policies and laws for addressing sexual deviance in our society.

Teaching Strategies: Readings and class discussions will present issues that involve moral, ethical, aesthetic, and practical implications.

Student Assignments: Student assignments will consist of personal reflection papers requiring students to research, critically evaluate and defend their own perspectives / opinions related to specific topics on sexuality.

Student Evaluation: Students will be evaluated based on their ability to identify and support their values and decision making process. Students will be required to complete writing assignments that will be evaluated on quality, content, and organization.

Objective 8: Demonstrate the ability to make informed, sensitive aesthetic responses.

Emphasis: Some

Content: The subject matter provides valuable information for students to enhance their appreciation of the various historical, cultural, developmental, and social aspects of human sexuality.

Teaching Strategies: Reading assignments, discussions and lecture will direct students toward an aesthetic appreciation of the various historical, cultural, developmental, and social aspects of human sexuality.

Student Assignments: Reading assignments and class discussions will provide the appropriate emphasis upon aesthetics.

Student Evaluation: Students' performance will be evaluated based on diversity of observations and conclusions during class and group discussions.

Objective 9: Demonstrate the ability to function responsibly in one's natural, social, and political environment.

Emphasis: Some

Content: The course content will provide students with a greater understanding of the roles media, culture, and government play in regulating sexual behavior. This in return will help students make responsible informed decisions regarding their own sexual behavior, their children's sexual behavior and the types of government regulations that they support.

Teaching Strategies: Reading assignments, lecture, and class discussions will be used to help define / clarify responsible sexual behavior.

Student Assignments: Student readings and research assignments will be designed to review and evaluate various media influences and government regulations regarding sexual behavior.

Student Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on their ability to critically evaluate and clarify their position regarding specific government laws that regulate sexual behavior.

X. Instructor's Background

The instructor should have an advanced degree in family studies, human environmental studies, human sexuality, psychology, sociology, health educator or counseling. A strong commitment to University Studies Objectives and strengths in written and verbal communication are required.

All instructors will receive training on the course content, cooperative learning teaching strategies, and the University Studies requirements.

XI. Class Size

The recommended class size will be 15 students.

Due to the nature of the course and the emphasis placed on classroom discussion, the class size should not exceed 15 students.