



Graduate College of Social Work SYLLABUS

WWW.SW.UH.EDU

COURSE TITLE / SECTION: SOCW 7373 (Section # 19232) summer, 2012
Human Sexuality

TIME: Wednesday 6-9

FACULTY:

Meryl Cohen, MEd, LCSW

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I. Course

- A. **Catalog Description:** [Credit 3 (3-0)]. Knowledge for integrating human sexuality in the practice of social work.
- B. **Purpose:** This course explores the biopsychosocial and historical variables associated with human sexuality across the lifespan. The course integrates sexuality in the thinking and practice of social workers. Through examination of sexual expression and behavior from the social work perspective, the student will be better prepared to assume a significant role in helping clients address issues of human sexuality.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explore the biopsychosocial, historical, political, and cultural contexts of human sexuality;
2. Examine biases, range and diversity of attitudes and practices, interpersonal obstacles, beliefs, and values in the area of human sexuality;
3. Identify the differences between personal and professional values and ethics, and identify possible means of reconciliation pertaining to sexuality issues;
4. Describe the biological aspects of sexuality, including the sexual response cycle, anatomy and physiology, and development of sexually transmitted infections;
5. Develop a framework for understanding human sexuality across the lifespan and the need for intimacy and healthy relationships;
6. Explore sexual and gender diversity including orientation, gender identity, gender role, and biological sex;
7. Analyze the misuse of sexuality to influence, manipulate, and control others
8. Identify the role of social work in advocating for social justice and human rights and to addressing oppression in the arena of human sexuality.

III Course Structure

This class will utilize several methods of instruction including lectures, small group exercises, group discussion, guest lectures, video material, role-plays and/or case studies, self-reflection exercises and the use of individualized readings. Group and individual presentations and projects will be required.

IV Course Requirements

Reading Assignments

The course outline contains topics to be covered and reading assignments to be completed on a weekly basis. Class time will be designed to provide application for assigned readings. It is critical that students remain current with all reading assignments and fully participate in class.

Class Attendance & Participation (20%)

Class attendance and participation are critical factors for success in this course and will be evaluated based on regular and on-time full class attendance and participation in interactive discussions. Self-awareness of personal sexual learning, attitudes and values is an important component of this course. Though personal privacy will be respected, it is expected that through self-reflection exercises, students will actively assess their personal values and how these values will impact their professional work and how they can minimize conflict using Social Work Ethical Principles.

Assignments

Reading Reflection (25%)

Reflection on support reading due weekly 300-500 words submitted in class 6/13, 6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25 and on 8/1 reflect on how you are different since completing the class; Text online <http://www.kinseyinstitute.org/ccies>; The readings should compare the USA with one other country in the CCIES and you may also add other current articles dealing with the issue assigned. Cite the sections read and article citation. Your writing may include personal responses to topics from class discussion.

Group Film Assignment (20%)

View a video with sexuality themes (not pornography) and present analysis to class. The group will present to the class (10 mins.) how the film dealt with

each of the 5 circles in the holistic model of sexuality. **Due in class June 27.**

Individual Assignment (15%)

Do one thing outside your comfort zone and report in class the experience (not to include any sexual behavior) (buy a condom, visit an erotic shop, take a field trip, teach a class, have a conversation, etc). Write 250- 400 words on your reflections and description of what you did by **July 11.**

Final Group Assignment (20%)

Twenty to thirty minute presentation with power point and outline identifying the role of social work in advocating for social justice and human rights and in addressing oppression within the areas of intimacy, sensuality, sexualization, sexual identity, or reproductive and sexual health.

Evaluation and Grading

a. Grades will be based on the following:

Attendance and participation	20%
Reflections on readings	25%
Group Film	20%
Individual assignment	15%
Group Presentation	20%

b. Final course letter grades are based on the following standard grading scale for all courses taught in the College:

A = 96 - 100	C+ = 76 - 79.9
A- = 92 - 95.9	C = 72 - 75.9
B+ = 88 - 91.9	C- = 68 - 71.9
B = 84 - 87.9	D = 64 - 67.9
B- = 80 - 83.9	F = Below 64

c. Attendance and Class Participation

Attendance and class participation are considered to be absolutely **critical** to successful learning in this course. Maximum participation as demonstrated by regular attendance of full class period, actively engaging in class discussions, and ongoing involvement in class work and exercises is **crucial** to the class participation grade in this course. Both attendance and class participation will be observed and recorded.

d. Late Assignments

Instructor will allow for submission of late assignments **only** if the student has made prior arrangements to do so and for appropriate and compelling reasons. Late assignments (granted permission for late submission) however will automatically result in the lowering of the otherwise earned grade.

e. Pagers, Cell Phones, and Laptops

Please show respect and consideration of colleagues and instructor by taking responsibility for keeping pager and cell phone interruptions to a minimum.

Laptop use will be allowed solely for note taking purposes and those students needing to do so must make formal written request to the Instructor at the beginning of the course.

f. Policy on Grades of Incomplete

Please refer to the UH Graduate and Professional Studies Bulletin for the university policy regarding a grade of Incomplete (I). Incompletes will be given only in accordance with this policy.

VI. Policy on Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

Students are expected to demonstrate and maintain a professional standard of writing in all courses, do one's own work, give credit for the ideas of others, and provide proper citation of source materials. Any student who plagiarizes any part of a paper or assignment or engages in any form of academic dishonesty will receive an "I" for the class with a recommendation that a grade of F be assigned, subsequent to a College hearing, in accordance with the University policy on academic dishonesty. Other actions may also be recommended and/or taken by the College to suspend or expel a student who engages in academic dishonesty.

All papers and written assignments must be fully and properly referenced using APA style format (or as approved by the Instructor), with credit given to the authors whose ideas you have used. If you are using direct quotes from a specific author (or authors), you must set the quote in quotation marks or use an indented quotation form. For all direct quotes, you must include the page number (s) in your text or references. Any time that you use more than four or five consecutive words taken from another author, you must clearly indicate that this is a direct quotation. Please consult the current APA manual for further information.

Academic dishonesty includes using any other person's work and representing it as your own. This includes (but is not limited to) using graded papers from students who have previously taken this course as the basis for your work. It also includes, but is not limited to submitting the same paper to more than one class. If you have any specific questions about plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please raise these questions in class or make an appointment to see Instructor. This statement is consistent with the University Policy on Academic Dishonesty that can be found in your UH Student Handbook.

VII. Consultation

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor regarding questions about the course content, assignments, or any other academic issues related to this course.

VIII. Americans with Disabilities Statement

Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the University of Houston will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. For

more information and/or assistance, please contact the Center for Students with DisAbilities at 713-743-5400. Instructors may not provide accommodations without supporting documentation from the UH Center for Students with DisAbilities.

IX. COURSE OUTLINE, READINGS, and ASSIGNMENTS

Text <http://www.kinseyinstitute.org/ccies>

Outline

June 6 Sexuality – Holistic Model

June 13 Biological Component

Assignment due: Reflections from readings section 1, 2

June 20 Sexual Diversity

Assignment due: Reflections from readings section 9,10

June 27 Sexuality through the Lifespan: Childhood Sexuality

Assignments due: Reflections from film and readings 6, 7

Assignment due in class: Group presentation on film

July 11 Sexuality through the Lifespan: Adolescent Sexuality

Assignments due: Reflections from readings 3, 4, 5

Reflections on individual challenge project

July 18 Sexuality through the Lifespan: Adult Changes and Intimacy

Assignments due: Reflections from readings section 11 plus selected readings from <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/default.aspx>

July 25 Sexualization

**Assignments due: Reflections from readings section 8, 12
2 group final presentation**

August 1 Final Reports

**Assignments due: Final reflection on what has changed for you
6 group presentations**
