Psychology 255: Psychology of Sexual Behavior
Summer 2023 Syllabus

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Heather Molenda-Figueira
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Instructor Response Times: I will respond to emails within 24 hours. If you have a general course question (not confidential or personal in nature), please post it to the Course Q&A Discussion Forum found on the course homepage. I will post answers to all general questions there so that all students can view them. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions too. I will attempt to reply to and assess student discussion posts within 48 hours of discussions closing. o I will attempt to grade written work within 72 hours, however longer written assignments may take me longer to read and assess.

Teaching Philosophy: I very much enjoy sharing my knowledge on the topic of sexuality and encouraging students to want to learn more about this subject, as sexuality impacts many different aspects of one's existence across one's lifespan. However, this topic is very sensitive in nature, and care must be taken to first establish respect in the online classroom. There are several criteria that I deem essential to successful teaching of this course. First, creating an environment for optimal learning in which students are comfortable discussing their personal experiences or anecdotes on the topic of sexuality; second, establishing supportive personal interactions and availability for students, and third fostering critical thinking skills through discussions and assignments. My role is to guide students through the material, while at the same time making sure that they are active participants in the learning process. This online class will be structured as a combination of lectures, learning activities, and group discussions. My intention is to make the course material enjoyable, and easy to understand.

Course Information

Course Description: Psychological aspects of sexual behaviors, responses, and attitudes, including psychosexual development, varieties of sexual experience, basic physiology, sexual problems and therapy, and psychological factors in contraception, conception, pregnancy, and childbirth will be discussed.
Credits: 3
Prerequisite: Psyc 110

Textbook

Required Text: *Discovering Human Sexuality,* Levay, Baldwin and Baldwin, 3rd Edition, Sinauer & Associates, 2015.

Course Learning Outcomes

It is my ultimate hope that following this course, students will have gained a deeper

understanding and of their own reproductive anatomy, sexuality as well as an appreciation for the diversity in sexuality and practices of their fellow humans. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. identify and describe the function of female and male reproductive structures, as well as describe disorders related to female and male reproductive function

2. recognize different genetic sexes, gender identities (male, female, transgender, non-binary, etc.) and sexual orientations (hetero- and homosexual, bisexual, asexual)

3. summarize how sexuality changes across the lifespan, from childhood to the elderly

4. describe human sexual behavior, including attraction, the physiological sexual response, common sexual behaviors and the maintenance of relationships

5. recognize different types of sexual behaviors that are outside cultural or moral norms of society, including atypical sexual practices and attractions, abuse and selling of sex

6. recognize the diversity of sexual beliefs and practices across cultures

Student learning outcomes will be listed on the "Pages" for each individual module of the course.

You will meet the outcomes listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Participating in online group discussions
- Viewing lectures as well as supplementary videos
- Completing quizzes on lecture materials
- Completing reflections on unit topics

Student Expectations

In this course you will be expected to complete the following types of tasks.
- communicate via email
- download and upload documents to the LMS
- read documents online
- view online videos
- participate in online discussions
- complete quizzes/tests online
- upload documents to Canvas to submit an assignment

Use of Recorded Course Materials and Information Posted on Canvas

Lecture materials and recordings for Psyc 255 Behavioral Neuroscience are **protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point.** Students in this course may use the materials and

recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, **you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.** In addition, you are not allowed to record/photograph exam/quiz questions from the course. Doing so is an act of academic misconduct.

Course Structure

This course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system Canvas. You will use your UWSP account to login to the course from the [Canvas Login Page](). If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the [Manage Your Account]() page to do so.

Course Grading Policy

Grades will be based on your performance on Online Discussions with your classmates, 35 Mini-lecture quizzes, 3 Reflection Papers and Course Summary Project. Quizzes will assess your knowledge of Mini-lecture content, while Online Discussions and Unit Reflection Papers will encourage deeper thinking about class topics. The Course Summary Project will allow you to describe the most important take-away messages or lessons from this course. If an assignment is completed more than 2 days past the deadline, one point will be deducted from your score. A total of **260 points** can be earned in this course.

Click the **Assignments** link in Canvas to access assignment listing, categories and weights as applicable. Click the **Syllabus** link to see a chronological listing of assignments. Click the **Grades** link to see current grades. Overall assignments and accompanying points are listed below:

Course Grade Breakdown

Activity	Total # of Activity	Points for Each Activity	% of Total Grade/Activity	Total Points for Semester	Total % for Semester
Online Discussions	6	5	2%	30	11.5%
Mini-lecture Quizzes	36	5	2%	180	69%
Unit Reflection Papers	3	10	4%	30	11.5%
Course Summary Project	1	20	8%	20	8%

Letter Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Pts	Percentage
A	242-260	93%-100%
A-	234-241	90%-92%
B+	226-233	87%-89%
B	216-225	83%-86%
B-	208-215	80%-82%
C+	200-207	77%-79%
C	190-199	73%-76%
C-	182-189	70%-72%
D+	174-181	67%-69%
D	156-173	60%-66%
F	≤ 155	≤ 59%

Assignments

COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date.* Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances. All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

DISCUSSION BOARDS

For discussion activities, you will be guided in your discussions by prompts provided in the module. It is expected that each of you answer 2 questions or provide 2 comments per discussion. You are also required to reply to at least 2 members in the discussion thread. Students will be automatically alerted when someone has posted to the discussion thread. I will join the conversations periodically as well to facilitate the discussions.

QUIZZES

Following each mini-lecture, you will complete a brief 5-question multiple choice quiz. Scores will be posted immediately, and correct answers will be available within a day after the quiz due date.

REFLECTIONS

Following completion of each 5-module unit, you will answer Reflections Questions corresponding to topics in the unit. These assignments ask you to think more deeply about the topics covered, and how they may relate to your own experiences. You are encouraged to share

your personal opinions on the reflection topics, and any personal information you may share will remain private.

COURSE SUMMARY PROJECT

At the end of the term, you will create a brief PowerPoint presentation that summarizes what important information your learned from this course as well as what you believe is important to teach others regarding sexuality.

LATE ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS

Late assignments will be accepted 24 hours past the due date. If submissions occur beyond 24 hours, a 10% reduction in your grade will occur for every additional day the assignment is late.

ASSIGNMENT FEEDBACK

Feedback, in the form of a discussion grade, will be provided using the rubric detailed within the module. I may also provide comments within the discussion thread as well. I will provide comments on the Reflections, including relevance of answers and completion of answers within 48 hours of the assignment due date. Feedback will also be provided on the Group Summary project within 48 hours as well.

GRADE POSTING

Grades will be posted to the gradebook immediately for each quiz. I will post grades for group discussions within 48 hours of the completion of the assignment. Grades for the Reflections and the final Group Summary Project will be posted within 48 hours following the due date of the assignments. Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to Grades. Click on the Grades link to view your points.

Course Schedule

Refer to the Canvas course home page for pertinent information. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding Module. As tasks come due, they will appear in your "to do" list. If you have any questions, please contact the instructor. This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement or through email.

Module	Topic	Readings	Activities	Due Date
1	Women's Bodies	Ch 2	1. Complete "Sex Slang" discussion 2. Watch all 3 mini-lectures 3. Watch Menstrual Cycle video 4. Complete all 3 quizzes	5/30/23
2	Men's Bodies	Ch 3	1. Watch all 3 mini-lectures 2. Complete all 3 quizzes	5/31/23

			3. Complete "Importance of Knowledge of Male and Female Reproductive Structures" discussion	
3	Sex, Gender, and Transgender	Ch 4	1. Watch all 3 mini-lectures 2. Complete all 3 quizzes 3. Watch transgender surgery videos	6/1/23
4	Sexual Orientation	Ch 12	1. Watch both mini-lectures 2. Complete both quizzes	6/2/23
5	Attraction, Arousal, and the Sexual Response	Ch 5	1. Watch both mini-lectures 2. Complete both quizzes 3. Watch "Why is Sex Fun" video 4. Complete Reflection #1	6/3/23 Yes, a Saturday class to cover material lost on Memorial Day!
6	Sexual Behavior	Ch 6	1. Watch both mini-lectures 2. Complete both quizzes	6/5/23
7	Sexual Relationships	Ch 7	1. Watch all 3 mini-lectures 2. Complete all 3 quizzes 3. Complete "The Impact of Technology on Relationships" discussion	6/6/23
8	Fertility, Pregnancy, and Childbirth	Ch 8	1. Watch all 3 mini-lectures 2. Complete all 3 quizzes	6/7/23
9	Sexuality Across the Lifespan-Birth to Adolescence	Ch 10	1. Watch both mini-lectures 2. Complete both quizzes 3. Watch "Love Huts" video 4. Watch Coming-of-Age ceremony videos 5. Complete the "Sex Education Experiences" discussion	6/8/23
10	Sexuality Across the Lifespan-Adulthood	Ch 11	1. Watch both mini-lectures 2. Complete both quizzes 3. Complete Reflection #2	6/9/23
11	Atypical Sexuality	Ch 13	1. Watch both mini-lectures 2. Complete both quizzes	6/12/23
12	Sexual Disorders	Ch 14	1. Watch both mini-lectures 2. Complete both quizzes 3. Complete "Do Sexual Disorders Really Exist?" discussion	6/13/23
13	Sexually Transmitted Infections	Ch 15	1. Watch both mini-lectures 2. Complete both quizzes	6/14/23

14	Sexual Assault, Harassment, and Partner Violence	Ch 16	1. Watch both mini-lectures 2. Complete both quizzes	6/15/23
15	Sex as a Commodity	Ch 17	1. Watch both mini-lectures 2. Complete both quizzes 3. Complete Reflection #3 4. Complete Course Summary project	6/16/23

Technology

Protecting your Data and Privacy

UW-System approved tools meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. For a list of approved tools, visit this website. https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests/

Tools not listed on the website linked above may not meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. If you have questions about tools, contact the UWSP IT Service Desk at 715-346-4357.

Here are steps you can take to protect your data and privacy.
- Use different usernames and passwords for each service you use
- Do not use your UWSP username and password for any other services
- Use secure versions of websites whenever possible (HTTPS instead of HTTP)
- Have updated antivirus software installed on your devices
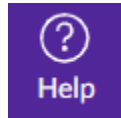
Course Technology Requirements

- View this website to see minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for Canvas.
- You will also need access to the following tools to participate in this course.
  - o Web browser such as Google Chrome or Internet Explorer
  - o Access to Google Docs
  - o Access to Office 365
  - o a stable internet connection (don't rely on cellular)

UWSP Technology Support

- Visit with a Student Technology Tutor
- Seek assistance from the IT Service Desk (Formerly HELP Desk)
- IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
- IT Service Desk Email: techhelp@uwsp.edu

Canvas Support
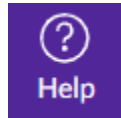
Click on the [Help] button in the global (left) navigation menu and note the options that appear:

Support Options	Explanations
Ask Your Instructor a Question Submit a question to your instructor	Use **Ask Your Instructor a Question** sparingly; technical questions are best reserved for Canvas personnel and help as detailed below.
Chat with Canvas Support (Student) Live Chat with Canvas Support 24x7!	**Chat**ting **with Canvas Support (Student)** will initiate a *text chat* with Canvas support. Response can be qualified with severity level.
Contact Canvas Support via email Canvas support will email a response	**Contact**ing **Canvas Support via email** will allow you to explain in detail or even upload a screenshot to show your particular difficulty.
Contact Canvas Support via phone Find the phone number for your institution	Calling the Canvas number will let Canvas know that you're from UWSP; phone option is available 24/7.
Search the Canvas Guides Find answers to common questions	**Search**ing the **Canvas guides** connects you to documents that are searchable by issue. You may also opt for **Canvas video guides.**
Submit a Feature Idea Have an idea to improve Canvas?	If you have an idea for Canvas that might make instructions or navigation easier, feel free to offer your thoughts through this **Submit a Feature Idea** avenue.

All options are available 24/7; however, if you opt to email your instructor, s/he may not be available immediately.

● Self-train on Canvas through the Self-enrolling/paced Canvas training course

Course Policies

Netiquette Guidelines

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:
- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as ☺ or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable

Adapted from:

Mintu-Wimsatt, A., Kernek, C., & Lozada, H. R. (2010). *Netiquette: Make it part of your syllabus.* Journal of Online Learning and Teaching, 6(1). Retrieved from http://jolt.merlot.org/vol6no1/mintu-wimsatt_0310.htm

Shea, V. (1994). Netiquette. Albion.com. Retrieved from: http://www.albion.com/netiquette/book/.

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if the instructor has documentation of medical need or other extenuating circumstances. All incomplete course assignments must be completed by the end of the following academic term.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the Disability and Assistive Technology

Center and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

The Disability and Assistive Technology Center is located in 609 Albertson Hall and can be contacted by phone at (715) 346-3365 (Voice) (715) 346-3362 (TDD only) or via email at datctr@uwsp.edumailto:datctr@uwsp.edu

Statement of Policy
UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center in 609 ALB, or (715) 346-3365.

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures
UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles
The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.
UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.
(1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:
(a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
(b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
(c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
    (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
(e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or
(f) Assists other students in any of these acts.

(2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Religious Beliefs

Relief from any academic requirement due to religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03, with notification within the first three weeks of class.