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370 Human Sexuality

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Recommended Citation

Schultz, Janet, "370 Human Sexuality" (2020). *Psychology Syllabi Spring 2020*. 50.
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Human Sexuality

Psychology 370

Professor: Janet R. Schultz, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Thurs 10:30 am or by appt.

Office: 108 Elet Hall

E mail: schultzj@xavier.edu

Class Meets: 1-2:15, Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Elet 205

Communication with the Professor: I am old school in that I like to talk to you face to face. There are two ways to arrange to communicate with me outside of class time. First, we can meet Wednesdays after class, no appointment necessary. Second, you can email me to request to meet with me at another time. If you do so, please suggest 3 or 4 times (with dates) that are convenient for you and I will try to match one. I usually reply to this kind of email within 24 hours.

School of Psychology Mission Statement

In keeping with the Jesuit, Catholic, liberal arts tradition, the School of Psychology educates students in the science of behavior and mental processes with sensitivity toward the diversity of all people so that students may use psychological knowledge and insight to address human concerns.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of this course is to provide an overview of the area of human sexuality through the lens of psychology. This area of human behavior is important for many aspects of social, family, interpersonal, and personal functioning.

By the end of the course, the student will:

- Recognize the role of culture and history in forming perspectives on sexuality
- Identify, compare and analyze biological, psychological and social factors that shape the development of an individual's sexuality across the lifespan
- Articulate the biopsychosocial aspects of forming and maintaining close, loving relationships and making choices about common relational events (e.g. commitment, initiation of sexual relations)
- Demonstrate critical thinking about opinions, statements and publications regarding sex and sexuality
- Recognize the defining power of gender and sexual orientation in our society.
- Recognize sexual coercion and describe its consequences
- Analyze real world data to identify "at risk" populations and identify associated health consequences

- Identify health disparities and the social determinants of health relevant to specific populations
- Outline the commercial aspects of sexuality and the values they reflect

Psychology 370 qualifies as a Diversity Curriculum Requirement (DCR) course
*Psychology 370 qualifies to be included in the **Population Health Minor***

COURSE INFORMATION:

Human Sexuality is a psychology course during which students explore sexual attitudes, values, beliefs, customs, and practices as well as the biology, personal experiences and thoughts, cultural influences, social forces, and ethical beliefs which help to shape them.

A course on human sexuality, of necessity, addresses sexual topics. Some of the educational materials, including the text, include nudity and explicit language, sometimes in slang. If a particular portion of a film is upsetting or unacceptable to you, please feel free to close your eyes until a less stressful section of the film is reached. Similarly, class will sometimes involve discussion of topics which are sexual in nature. Sometimes the topics will be controversial. While class participation is valued and encouraged, in order to allow privacy and to keep self-disclosure under the control of the student, anyone may choose not to participate in a particular discussion. At no time will you be required to reveal personal information about your own sexual experiences.

In fact, although open discussion of ideas is encouraged, students need to be careful about revealing their own experiences since members of the class cannot be held to confidentiality. All class members will be expected to treat each other and any guest speakers with respect and courtesy.

It is important to note that the sexual feelings, attitudes and behaviors of the human species include topics of considerable controversy such as birth control, abortion, incest, homosexuality, rape, and fetishism. Please understand that description and discussion do not constitute advocacy.

During all discussions the ground rules are as follows: all ideas deserve hearing and respect. Disagreements are welcomed but both courtesy and respect are to be maintained regardless of the heat generated.

If most sexual topics are upsetting or very anxiety provoking for you, this course is likely to be uncomfortable for you and you may prefer to register for a different class. Similarly, if you do not view sexuality as a topic worthy of scientific study, it is suggested that you do not take this course. **Remaining enrolled in this course constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of the course information.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Textbook: The book *Understanding Human Sexuality*, Fourteenth Edition, by Janet Shibley Hyde and John DeLamater is required reading for this class. The book was chosen for this course because it is written in a straightforward, accessible style. In the past, students have reported that friends enjoyed reading it even though they were not enrolled in the course. Because this text is quite "user-friendly," I do not intend to lecture on the material in the book except to enhance understanding. Instead, the class meetings are designed to expand on the material, provoke thought, and to engage students in discussion and at times, debate. Students are expected to read the materials assigned (including those not from the textbook) **before** class.

Required readings other than textbook materials will be available to you on Canvas. The schedule of classes indicates when to read them.

The [schedule](#) of topics and readings is self-explanatory. The schedule is subject to change, however. Significant changes will be announced in class and/or on Canvas.

Grading: Please see Canvas listing for more information on specific assignments. Grading is based on 600 possible points from 5 categories of academic work:

Quizzes: Forty points come from the Quiz scores. These open-book quizzes are administered through Canvas and cover material from assigned readings. Deadlines to take quizzes are indicated on the schedule (with a "Q") but they are subject to (announced) change. Quizzes must be taken BEFORE the corresponding class session. There are 20 quizzes, each worth 2 points. The points awarded to these quizzes are solely from completion. That is, if you take the quiz, during the specified time, you will earn the points, regardless of your quiz performance. Quiz questions are solely from material from the text and occasionally, (indicated on the class schedule) Canvas. The idea is that the quizzes can help you pay attention to important concepts and yes, details.

Exams: Three hundred points come from two exams (150 points each) covering assigned readings and in-class lecture, videos, and discussion material. All material from class and readings will be "fair game" for the exam. Format will be multiple-choice, matching, true/false and short answer. The second exam will inevitably use some terms and build upon information from the first half of the course, but is not comprehensive. Each test will be administered once, and once only. The only exceptions will be make-up tests for people who notify me ahead of the scheduled exam and provide either a University or medical written excuse. Specific arrangements must be worked out with the professor.

Group Project/Presentation: (120 points). Students will be divided into four groups, each of which will be assigned one of four sexuality related life challenges (for example experiencing sexual coercion or trauma in childhood). Each group will analyze relevant "real world" data to identify at-risk populations, consider social determinants that contribute to their vulnerability, and related health outcomes as well as ethics and costs involved. Please see the Canvas listing for details.

phone at 513-745-3280, in person on the Fifth Floor of the Conaton Learning Commons, Room 514, or via e-mail at jonesc20@xavier.edu as soon as possible as accommodations are not retroactive.

Please silence your cell phone during class. If you choose to take notes on a computer, other uses during class such as emailing or shopping may result in a loss of your privilege to take notes on the computer. I view texting, reading text messages, using internet etc. during class as rude and inappropriate under almost all conditions. During exams, such activity will be interpreted as cheating.

All Xavier University academic honesty policies apply, of course.

**PSYCHOLOGY 370
HUMAN SEXUALITY**

BY	READ FILE/ CHAPTER	ABOUT	Due
JAN	14	Introduction, Sexuality in our society, other species	Syllabus Q Quiz Due
	16	1	Cultural and religious perspectives Q
	21	2	Theoretical perspectives Q
	23	3	Sex research – ethics and design Q
	28	4, up to p 82*	Anatomy and physiology Q
	30	5	Hormones, sexual differentiation, sexes Q Project Due
FEB	4		Puberty, menstruation
	6	12, Canvas File	Gender, gender role, culture, development Q
	11	Canvas File	Gender variations, transgender Q
	13	13	Sexual orientation, heterosexism Q
	18	9	Sexuality across the life span Q
	20	10, Canvas File	Relationships: Attraction, dating, love Q
	25	11, Canvas File	Relationships: maintenance, termination Q
	27	8	Sexual relationships/Sexual arousal Q
MAR	3	7	Contraception Q (Contraception is on Exam 2)
	5		EXAM 1
	10	<i>Spring break</i>	
	12	<i>Spring break</i>	
	17	6	Pregnancy Q

	19		
	24		Pregnancy, Multicultural perspectives Unplanned pregnancy presentation
	26	7, Canvas File	Abortion
	31	18, pp 82-87	Health Issues Q HIV acquisition presentation
APR	2	15	Sexual Coercion: child abuse Q Childhood sexual coercion and/or sexual trauma presentation
	7		Sexual Coercion: Rape
	9	<i>Easter break</i>	
	14		Sexual Coercion: Sexual Harassment Career Applications Paper Due
	16	17	Sexual disorders and treatment Q
	21	16	Sex for sale Q DIY Debate Due
	23	Canvas File	Sex for sale Rating of DIY Debate Due Becoming paid-for sex workers presentation
	28	19	Ethics Q
	30		EXAM 2

* Access to book during class will be particularly useful