313-10 Christian Sexual Ethics

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I. What is this course about?

This course explores the place of human sexuality in a healthy Christian life. Open, respectful, and informative discussion is fostered.

II. What will we aim to accomplish in this course?

1. This course situates sexual behavior amidst the larger context of a loving and healthy Christian lifestyle.

2. This course provides information for discussion from a number of sources, including various theological approaches and Christian Churches, the psychological and biological sciences, and numerous case histories.

3. As a part of Xavier’s E/RS focus, this course especially encourages the student to develop a more informed conscience concerning matters of sexual ethics.

III. What will we read?

Numerous articles posted on Blackboard. (See Schedule of Required Readings)

IV. How will we use these readings?

1. STUDY THE TEXT: The student will be expected to know the basic facts and ideas discussed in all the readings. This by no means implies that the student must agree with everything stated by the authors. Instead, the student is encouraged to create some of her or his own ideas all the while enlightened by the framework presented in the readings.

2. TAKE THE QUIZ: Along with studying the assigned readings the student must complete short quizzes (posted on Blackboard) for each and every reading.

   a. The quizzes must be completed on the student’s own time.
   b. Each quiz must be completed in a timely manner: each quiz is available only prior to when the associated reading for the quiz to be taken is to be discussed in class.
   c. The time limit for each quiz is fifteen minutes.
   d. The student will be expected to find a system (including a computer that has reliable access to Blackboard) that works reliably for that student.
   e. Given the fact that computer problems sometimes arise (making it difficult for a student to complete the quiz in a timely manner), students will be allowed miss one quiz due to technical problems. In this cases, the incomplete quiz will not affect the student’s overall grade. To receive this one-time exemption, the student must at least attempt the quiz, and then have it aborted due to technical problems. Beyond this one-time technical problem exemption, incomplete quizzes due to technical problems (for the second and beyond quiz) will result in a grade of “0”.

   NOTE: One of the most common problems with taking quizzes results in the student opening up multiple windows while taking a quiz. This almost always results in some malfunction. To avoid this problem, do not shift in and out of the quiz while taking it.
   f. Missed quizzes, that is, quizzes in which no attempt was made at all, result in a grade of “0”.
   g. Students cannot make up missed quizzes.
3. **BE READY TO DISCUSS MATERIAL IN CLASS:** The professor will assume that every student has read the readings, and is ready to contribute to the class conversation.

V. **What will classes be like?**

Classes will revolve around conversation based on the readings and videos. The professor, and, on occasion, the students will initiate the discussion (often through the material presented in the quizzes). All students will be expected to contribute to the conversation.

VII. **What will be expected of me in class?**

Because of the dynamic nature of the class, **each student’s attendance is essential every class.** All students must attend every class.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. A student who arrives after the professor has taken attendance will be marked as “late” if that student comes to the professor at the end of class to ask that the absence be changed to “late.” In general, three “late’s” equal one absence, that is, assuming the tardiness was less than half an hour.

Students who are forced to miss any class should explain their absence to the professor, ahead of time if possible.

Absences do not excuse a student from knowledge about the material discussed or about any announcements or syllabus changes.

Absences are excused only with the provision of a doctor’s note, athletic schedule from your XU coach, or other serious reason with documentation.

Though the student should find out what they missed during an absence, much of what happens in a given class cannot simply be summarized. In short, if a student misses a class, it becomes very hard simply to recreate the class dynamics. Quizzes and tests will include material discussed in class, and not necessarily found in the readings. Therefore, if a student misses a class, that absence naturally will be reflected in poorer quiz and test scores.

Part of the student’s final grade will be based on class attendance and participation. The class attendance/participation grade will reflect the student’s individual contribution, as well as the student’s participation in various group exercises. If a student attends all classes and is attentive during each class, that student will merit the highest class attendance/participation score.

Especially due to the unique schedule of this course (10 classes over 10 days, 2 weeks) students must attend every class. For every missed class, the student’s final grade will be lowered by 10 points (or 1/10 of the classes).

Especially because texting is not only a distraction to the student texting, but also to other students in the classroom, texting (along with any other kind of electronic communication) is not allowed in class.

Especially because leaving the classroom not only hurts the student’s attentiveness, but also is a distraction to other students in the class, students are not permitted to leave the classroom (to visit the rest room, for example) except under an emergency.

Especially because eating in the classroom not only hurts the student’s attentiveness, but also is a distraction to other students in the class, students are not allowed to consume any food during class.

Given the unusual length of this class, periodic breaks will be taken, as determined by the professor.
VI. What else will be expected of me?

1. **DISCUSSION STARTER**: One time during the course each student must initiate the conversation on the reading. (See Schedule of Discussion Starters). Students should address the following questions:
   
   a. What are some of the key insights (ideas, theories, facts, statistics, etc.) presented in this reading?
   b. What are some of the strengths of this reading?
   c. What are some of the weaknesses of this reading?

2. **MOVIE REVIEW**: Each student (usually working with other students) must initiate a discussion after viewing a movie in class. The student must respond to prompts raised by the professor. (See Schedule of Movie Reviews).

3. **MUSIC PROJECT**: Each student must present a song of their choice to the class for class discussion. The song must expand on some aspect of Christian Sexual Ethics that we explore in class. On the day on which the student is to present (see Schedule of Music Presentations) the student must:
   
   a. Provide copies (20) of the lyrics for all students
   b. Provide and play a version of the song to the class
   c. Explain how the song relates to our class
   d. Invite further discussion on the song.

4. **TESTS**: Two in-class tests will be administered. The first will be administered the beginning of class on Monday, May 13, and the second the end of class on Friday, May 17. Each test will include objective, short answer questions, and longer essay questions. Each test will take 45 minutes. Both tests will cover the required readings (including the Blackboard quizzes) and material covered in class.

VIII. How will I earn my grade?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Blackboard Quizzes</th>
<th>40%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Discussion Starter</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Movie Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Music Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Test One</td>
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<td>6. Test Two</td>
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For further policies of Theology Department on Grading, see [http://www.xavier.edu/theology/grading_policy.cfm](http://www.xavier.edu/theology/grading_policy.cfm)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 M</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Bishop Thomas Gumbleton Frontline Interview.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6 M  | Female | Donna Freitas, “Welcome to College--Meet Amy Stone…” in Sex and the Soul (Oxford 2008) 3-21  