

Sociology K213 Human Sexuality/Fall 2015
Monday and Wednesday 5:00pm-6:15pm
Classroom D107
Office Hours: As requested

Instructor: Joseph Strazzo
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Course Description: The course is an introduction to the science of human sexuality from a sociological perspective with an emphasis on the principals which lead to a greater understanding of human behavior in relation to human sexuality.

The course will examine the behavioral, biological, and psychological aspects of human sexuality within the social context of politics, family, culture, and society. In addition, the role of human development, critical analysis of media , communication, and decision-making skills relating to sexuality and relationships will be examined.

Note: Sexuality is not just a social concept; it can be very personal. As we explore sexuality throughout this course, please be mindful of your peers' different and intersecting race, gender, and sexual identities in relation to your own.

Course Objectives:

1. To appreciate the complexity of social construction of human sexuality
2. To provide the student with an understanding of various theoretical concepts in relation to human sexuality.
3. To introduce the student to the language and terminology employed in the field of human sexuality.
4. To develop the personal security needed to discuss sexuality-related subjects maturely in appropriate situations.
5. To develop and apply critical thinking concepts and tools to enhance understanding.
6. To maintain academic distance/tolerance toward sexual behaviors different from your own.
7. To recognize and appreciate the importance of sexuality across the lifespan.
8. To develop the habit of accessing the internet for valid information regarding sexuality and relationships.
9. To develop the skills and attitudes necessary for building respectful, intimate, and loving relationships.
10. To develop a Personal Sexual Policy, and ethical/moral foundation for making decisions regarding sexual rights and expectations.

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Textbooks:

This course will involve reading from two books and articles related to the course. The amount of reading varies from week to week.

The Social Construction of Sexuality, Third Edition, Steven Seidman
Sexualities: Identities, Behaviors, and Society, Second Edition, Michael Kimmel

Grading System:

You will be graded in four areas

1. Writing Assignments (25%)
2. Quizzes (25%)
3. Class Participation and Group Presentation (25%)
4. Research Paper (25%)

Writing Assignments 25%: You will be required to complete writing assignments either in class or as homework. The in-class writing assignments are brief responses to the class lecture or discussion. The take home assignments are to be typed, double spaced with a minimum of two (2) pages. **I do not accept assignments electronically.** Homework that is late will result in a decrease in the overall grade. Expect an writing assignment every other week

Quiz 25%: To ensure that students benefit from the material in their textbooks a brief quiz will be given at the beginning of the class. This will be multiple choice, matching, or definitions related to terminology of human sexuality. Expect a quiz every other week

Class Participation 25%: Is the cornerstone of this course. You will be challenged to expand on your ideas, beliefs, and values. You earn credit by attending class, being respectfully engaged in class (no texting/cell phone use or talking to your neighbors during class) coming in on time, remaining engaged with the course material, and participating in large/small group discussions and your group presentation.

Research Paper 25%: You will be required to complete a research paper on a topic of your choice related to the course on human sexuality. The paper needs to follow American Sociological Association format and be a minimum of 12 pages.

Learning Needs

If you have difficulty with the course material, please see me during office hours or call me for an appointment. I am happy to clarify any questions you may have. *Utilize office hours!* If you have special needs (such as a learning disability, physical condition, etc.) and require accommodations to enhance your participation in the class, please contact the Learning Specialist or Student Development Office. In order to provide accommodations, I must receive documentation pertaining to your needs.

Withdrawal

If you choose to withdraw from the course, please notify the instructor via e-mail or telephone. Also, make sure you contact the Registration Office as well.

Resources

The Writing Center provides several services, including individual conferences to work on a course paper that you are writing. Writing instructors are all experienced writing instructors and students. They can help you develop ideas for the paper and organize them effectively. They can also direct you to resources that help you with mechanical problems.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Introduction

In-class Writing Assignment

Week 2

Seidman pages 1-25

Critical Thinking Hand-outs

Writing assignment

Week 3

Kimmel Part 2 pages 74-124

Egocentrism and Sociocentrism

Quiz

Week 4

Seidman 41-81

Writing Assignment

Week 5

Kimmel Pages 126-155

Quiz

Week 6

Seidman 105-143

Writing Assignment

Week 7

Kimmel 173, 198, 214, 233

Quiz

Week 8

Seidman 167-211

Writing Assignment

Week 9

Kimmel 236-267

Quiz

Week 10

Group Presentations

Seidman 231-261

Writing Assignment

Week 11

Group Presentations

Kimmel 277-330

Week 12

Group Presentations

Kimmel 381, 399,

Week 13

Group Presentations

Kimmel 428, 442, 475

Week 14

Group Presentations

Kimmel 482, 492, 504, 519, 523,

Week 15

Kimmel 571-625

Papers Due