

# CHFD 4870: HUMAN SEXUALITY ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## The University of Georgia, Spring 2008

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Office:	McPhaul Center 203	Phone: 542-3044 (email is best)
Class Location:	Dawson Hall, Room 208	Class Time: TR 2 – 3:15 pm
Office Hours:	By appointment	

### **Required Text**

Westheimer, R. K., & Lopater, S. (2005). *Human Sexuality: A Psychosocial Perspective* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Baltimore: Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins.

Additional readings are posted on WebCT and are noted in the syllabus in italics. Password for all readings is “sex”.

### **Course Description**

This course addresses attitudes and values associated with human sexuality, based on substantive and theoretical information, with emphasis on how development and interactions across the life span are affected by familial, social, cultural, and psychological factors. CHFD 2100 is the prerequisite for this course.

### **Course Objectives**

Having successfully completed this course, the student will:

- Have an increased understanding of human sexual development, behavior, and attitudes across the lifespan.
- Examine how diverse sexual belief systems influenced by race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation and religion impact the expression of human sexuality in families, intimate relationships, and societies.
- Make a connection between course material and the “real world”, particularly with respect to personal and professional development
- Increase ability to communicate openly and effectively about human sexuality issues.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

*Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

#### **Mandatory Assignments (240 points)**

1. Class Attendance and Participation (30 points – 2 points per class, 15 classes, selected at random): Attendance will be taken randomly during selected class periods. Your total points in this category will be based on the number of days you are present when attendance is taken and if you participate in class discussion. No absences will be excused for the purpose of attendance points.
2. Exam Questions (10 points): For the two main exams (Exam 2 and Final Exam), each student will email 2 potential test questions to me by the date due. Each submission should include the student’s name, two clearly stated test multiple-choice questions, four possible answer choices, and the correct answers identified in some way. *No credit will be given for submissions received after 5pm on the due date according to the time stamp on my email.* Please be aware that sharing your exam questions with others, posting your submissions on WebCT, or transmitting your

submissions to others in any way is a violation of UGA's policy on academic honesty and will not be tolerated.

3. Examinations (220 points): Two in-class exams and one online mini-exam will be given. The mini-exam will be worth 20 points. It will consist of 10 multiple choice questions and will be taken online via WebCT. More instructions will be provided prior to the exam. Exam 2 and the final exam will each be worth 100 points and consist of 50 multiple choice questions. All questions will be derived from class lectures, assigned readings, and other class-related activities. Exams will not be cumulative, though some knowledge from previous class periods will be necessary to respond to questions. *No make-up exams will be given without a valid excuse which must be written by your doctor, a law enforcement officer, or other professional in which an explanation is given regarding the seriousness of the issue that prevented the student from completing the exam. Written explanations from family members and friends will not be accepted. Students are expected to contact the instructor by phone or email prior to the exam. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the make up exam with the instructor within three days from the original exam date.*

### **Menu of Possible Assignments (90 points)**

Select from the following options. Points possible for each assignment vary. You must select assignment(s) that total a possible 90 points. You may not select assignment(s) that total more than 90 points possible. Due dates for the assignments vary and some have multiple due dates. Please consult the assignment description for dates due. Please note that students are responsible for tracking due dates and completing assignment objectives on time. Please consult me if you have any questions.

#### Traditional Written Paper Options:

1. Class Experience Paper/Journal (45 points):  
For this paper, you will write about your experience as a member of this class. You will discuss what you've learned, what's challenged you, and how this course has impacted your thinking about sexuality. You may respond to questions listed on the grading rubric or write about those things that interest you. Follow the instructions on WebCT. The paper should be approximately 3 pages in length and typed, double spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font, and in APA format. Students may also write this paper as an ongoing journal or blog. Students who are interested in writing a blog for this assignment option should see me so that I can obtain the address for grading purposes.

Due Date: April 22

2. Reaction Papers (15 points – you may do more than one reaction paper):  
For this paper, you will write a response a film, guest speaker, or panel that occurred during class time. You have two basic choices:
  - a. Response to any film shown in class: respond to questions listed on the grading rubric following the instructions on WebCT.
  - b. Response to any in-class guest speaker or the LGBTQA panel: respond to questions listed on the grading rubric following the instructions on WebCT.

Answer the questions on the grading rubric and follow the instructions listed on the rubric. The paper should be approximately 3 pages in length and typed, double spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font, and in APA format. *Students must be present for the presentation/film/guest speaker/panel on which they write the reaction paper.*

Due Date: April 10

3. Stretching Exercise (45 points – you may do only one stretching exercise):

For this exercise, you will select some campus or local event or other experience that you create that pushes your definitions of sexuality or challenges your level of comfort with regard to sexuality or sexual expression (i.e. visiting a sex toy store, going to a Lambda Alliance rally, interviewing your religious leader about sexuality, etc.). You will attend/participate in this experience and write about your reaction to the experience. See the grading rubric on WebCT for examples and questions to get you thinking. The paper should be approximately 3 pages in length and typed, double spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font, and in APA format.

Due Dates: February 26 (description of the selected experience, date you will participate, and rationale for why this experience is a stretch)

April 22 (Paper describing the experience)

4. Media Paper (30 points – you may do more than one media paper):

Select a popular magazine, TV program, or current movie that is in some way related to human sexuality (i.e. the episode of *Friends* in which Ross learns that latex condoms are not 100% effective). Then, write about how this media outlet either challenges or supports your knowledge of sexuality. Discuss possible implications of this media presentation to the intended audience. See the grading rubric on WebCT for more information and questions to get you thinking.

Due Date: March 4

For all of the above:

Please consult the APA style information on WebCT for more information about this style. *Papers are due by 5pm on the due date. For each day a paper is late, 10 points will be subtracted from the possible point total. No credit will be given for papers more than 2 calendar days late.* Additional requirements, suggestions, a grading rubric, and examples of APA style are in the Course Content module of the WebCT site.

Web-Based Options:

1. Wikipedia Corrections (90 points):

It has come to my attention that Wikipedia has incorrect or incomplete information for a variety of topics related to sexuality and sexual health. For this assignment, you will select some topic related to human sexuality that has a currently available Wikipedia entry, find inaccuracies in the entry, rewrite the entry using current literature in the field, and then submit the entry to Wikipedia. For this assignment, you may choose to work with a partner or a group. If you wish to work with a partner, each person can obtain a possible 45 points. If you wish to work with a group of 3 people, each person can obtain a possible 30 points. This assignment is complex. *Those individuals who wish to complete this assignment must meet with the instructor prior to beginning their work.* Follow the instructions on WebCT. The paper that will be posted as a Wiki should be approximately 5-7 pages in length and typed, double spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font, and in APA format. It should include at least 12 references and present accurate, current information.

Due Dates: Feb. 7 (Identify and print at least 2 potential Wikipedia entries that have some errors or missing information and could be corrected or expanded; have a meeting with me by this date to discuss the student's/group's plans for correction)

March 18 (Compile a list of inaccuracies or areas that are missing information from the original entry; compile an annotated bibliography of at least 8 potential references)

April 22 (Wikipedia entry must be posted at this time)

2. Delicious Collection (60 points):

For this assignment, students are to create a collection of websites related to some topic in human sexuality using the del.icio.us program. Delicious is a website that allows individuals to bookmark particular websites and content using “tags” and to browse sites that other have bookmarked. “Tags” are words used to describe bookmarks. To complete this assignment, students must select some topic in human sexuality, identify 8-10 tags, and find at least 2 websites or web content items that fit each tag. All these items will then be collected on the delicious site and available for browsing. To accompany this project, the student will write a paper, 3-5 pages, describing the process of creating their collection. Follow the instructions on WebCT.

Due Dates: Feb. 7 (Identify a content area of the del.icio.us collection; identify “tags” that will be used to organize material)

April 22 (del.icio.us site completed; paper describing the experience is due)

### 3. Blog Analysis (30 points):

To complete this assignment, students will select a blog related to some aspect of sexual identity and analyze the content of that blog for themes and ideas. Students will select a blog that discusses some aspect of sexual identity that is different from the student’s (i.e. homosexual identity formation; transgendered person’s description of surgery; polyamorous individuals raising children). Students will then read entries of this blog to search for an identify themes. Students who complete this assignment will write a paper, approximately 5-7 pages in length, that identifies the themes and provides examples of the themes from the blogger’s entries.

Due Dates: March 4 (A blog is identified and submitted to me for approval)

April 22 (Paper due)

## **Extra Credit**

### Quizzes (up to 10 points)

For 5 select lectures, an optional quiz will be posted on WebCT before class. You will be notified of the presence of a quiz in the class prior to that quiz being due and via WebCT email. You may take these quizzes to earn extra credit in the course. Quizzes will cover only material from the textbook or other assigned readings. Each quiz will be 2 questions in length and will be worth 2 points. You may earn 10 points from 5 possible quizzes. Please be aware that sharing information regarding the content of quizzes with others is a violation of UGA’s policy on academic honesty and will not be tolerated.

### Other:

Other opportunities for extra credit may be presented during the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty means performing all academic work without plagiarism, cheating, lying, tampering, stealing, receiving unauthorized or illegitimate assistance from any other person, or using any source of information that is not common knowledge. Students who assist other students in academically dishonest acts are in violation of the policy. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to more detailed information about academic honesty is:

**[http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic\\_honesty/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/culture_honesty.htm)**

Please note: It is a violation of APA style to copy more than 3 unique words without a citation. Any ideas that are not your own and that are not common knowledge must be cited. Quotations of more than 3 words must be in quotation marks and cited appropriately. Failure to do so is a violation of the academic

honesty policy. Violations of the policy will be mediated by the Office for the Vice President's academic honesty panels.

#### Students with Special Needs:

Students with special needs should inform the professor immediately to ensure a class environment that will be conducive to an optimal learning experience.

#### Protection of Private Information:

If you have requested a restriction of your personal information please call or email the instructor as soon as possible and we will have another way of taking role and addressing names in class.

#### E-mail & Web Access Requirement:

All students are required to have a UGA email account and to be able to access WebCT. Students are responsible for checking the CHFD 4870 WebCT site regularly for important class announcements, readings and lecture outlines. Additionally, class announcements will be made via email through WebCT. The instructor has made the readings easily available through WebCT however; a technology problem is not an excuse to not do the assigned readings. Students who do not have a MyID need to go to the following web site: <https://www.arches.uga.edu/myid/> and follow the instructions. Once you have a MyID email it to the instructor so you can be added to the class. Please inform your instructor if you do not know how to use WebCT, or if you notice any problems with your grades as they are recorded.

#### Missed or Late Assignments:

Students will be expected to turn in assignments by 5pm on the due date. Turning in late assignments will NOT be permitted without prior approval of the instructor. If you have a conflict with any assignment due dates or test dates please see the instructor prior to January 22, 2008, to make alternative arrangements. If an assignment is missed due to a medical or family emergency, the student is expected to make every effort to notify the instructor prior to the due date (phone or email). If the student wishes to turn the assignment in late, the student must provide proof of the emergency.

#### Questions on Grading and Assignments:

If you have any questions regarding assignments listed in this syllabus or grading practices, please consult the instructor. It is your responsibility to ensure that you understand what is required for each assignment prior to submitting it for credit.

Every attempt will be made to fairly and consistently evaluate student's performance on assignments. If you would like the instructor to reconsider points that have been deducted from any assignment the request must be submitted in writing within *one week* from the day the assignment was returned or the grades were posted. The request must include both the original work with instructor's comments and grading rubric and a typewritten explanation of the reason why you believe the points should be granted.

### **Policies on Classroom Etiquette and Respect**

#### Respecting Yourself and Your Classmates:

Whenever a group of people come together to discuss value-laden topics such as human sexuality, it is inevitable that there will be strong opinions, shifting across the spectrum at different times. It is important that we all feel comfortable expressing our personal views. This means that we must respect the views of others, even if they don't match our own. All opinions or perspectives will be given voice in this class. The intent of this class is to provide information and new experiences. All belief systems will be supported in this class. *Intentionally malicious or degrading comments will not be tolerated in our learning community.*

Occasionally, material of a graphic nature may be discussed and or presented. The instructor will make reasonable attempts to provide warning in advance of graphic film footage; however, advance warning of explicit or graphic content is not always possible. *If, at any time, the material presented in class is distressing or upsetting to you, please feel free to excuse yourself from the classroom.* You are welcome to speak with the instructor regarding any concerns, questions, or problems at any time.

#### Etiquette and Sexual Decency:

Please note that several assignments will require students to discuss openly ideas related to sexuality. It is expected that all students will be respectful and decent in their written work. Intentionally malicious, degrading, or distasteful material will not be tolerated. If you have any questions regarding the decency of your material, please contact me.

#### **Student Support**

Occasionally some of the class materials can bring personal issues to the surface for some students. If you become distressed you may choose to seek assistance from one of the following local services:

McPhaul Family Therapy Clinic	542 4486
Center for Counseling and Psychological Services	542 2273
Women's Clinic	542 8691
UGA Health Center	542 8666
Health Promotion Department	542 8690
Sexual Assault Crisis Center	353 1912

#### **Grades**

<b>CALCULATION</b>		<b>GRADING SCALE</b>
Attendance	30	
Menu Assignments	90	A (93-100%)
Exam 2 Questions	5	A- (90-92%)
Final Exam Questions	5	B+ (87-89%)
Mini-Exam	20	B (83-86%)
Exam 2	100	B- (80-82%)
Final Exam	100	C+ (77-79%)
		C (73-76%)
		C- (70-72%)
TOTAL POINTS	350	D (60-70%)
		F (59% or below)

### Tentative Schedule & Assignments

Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

TOPIC	DATE	TOPIC	READING & WORK DUE
Introduction to Human Sexuality	Jan. 8	Introduction – Orientation to class	
	Jan. 10	History and the Study of Sexuality	Chapter 2 <i>Laumann</i>
	Jan. 15	Film: Kinsey	
	Jan. 17	Film: Interview with Kinsey's Colleagues Current Trends in Sexuality Research	
	Jan. 22	Female Anatomy	Chapter 3, pages 53-75
Biology and Sexuality	Jan. 24	No class – Rachel at UConn <b>MINI EXAM 1</b>	
	Jan. 29	Male Anatomy	Chapter 3, pages 75-88
	Jan. 31	HSRC	Chapter 7 <i>Critique of the HSRC</i>
	Feb. 5	Gender and Sexual Identity Development	Chapter 4
	Feb. 7	Film: You Don't Know Dick	<b>Wikipedia Selection Due</b> <b>Delicious Ideas Due</b>
	Feb. 12	STIs	Chapter 17
	Feb. 14	Happy Valentine's Day! Happy National Condom Day! With Special Guest: Kelly Campbell	Chapter 6 (skim) Chapter 8 (skim)
	Feb. 19	Contraception	Chapter 11
	Feb. 21	Sexual Health With Special Guest: Tammy Webb, PA-C, The Women's Clinic at the UHC	Chapter 5
	Feb. 26	Pregnancy and Childbirth	Chapter 10 <b>Stretching Explanation Due</b>
	Feb. 28	Review!	
	March 4	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>Media Paper(s) Due</b> <b>Blog Selection Due</b>
	March 6	(Catch up day)	
<i>Spring Break March 10-14</i>			
Sexuality and Culture	March 18	LGBTQ Issues With Special Guests: Lambda Alliance Panel (tentative)	Chapter 9 (Note: Gender Orientation is an old term, Sexual Orientation is preferred) <b>Wikipedia References Due</b>
	March 20	Parenting as a Sexual Minority With Special Guest Panel	<i>In the Shadow of the Arch</i>
	March 25	Healthy Sexuality in Childhood	Chapter 12
	March 27	Sex Education in America	
	April 1	Sexuality in Older Adulthood	Chapter 13 Chapter 16
	April 3	Sexual Assault, Rape, and Sexual Victimization	Chapter 19

	April 8	Sexual and Relationship Violence Prevention With Special Guest: Larry Gourdine, MPH, Office for Violence Prevention	
	April 10	Sex and the Media	<b>Reaction Paper(s) Due</b>
	April 15	Sexual Problems	Chapter 14
	April 17	Paraphilias	Chapter 18
	April 22	Sex Therapy	Chapter 15 (skim) <b>Class Experience Papers Due</b> <b>Stretching Papers Due</b> <b>Wikipedia Entries Due</b> <b>Delicious Collections Due</b> <b>Blog Analyses Due</b>
	April 24	(Catch up day)	
<b>FINAL EXAM – Thursday, May 1, 3:30 – 6:30pm</b>			