



PSYC 333 Course Syllabus

Term Dates

Term: January 9 - April 7, 2017

Examination: April 13 - 27, 2017

Course Description

An introductory survey to human sexuality, including different theoretical perspectives on human sexuality, the research methodology used to study human sexuality, and sexual behaviours, interests, and responses.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Recognize, appreciate, and describe examples of diverse aspects of human sexuality, including sexual orientation, sexual identity, sexual behaviours, sexual function, age, and ethnicity
- Explain and evaluate the methods and results of research that has contributed to our knowledge about sexuality
- Apply knowledge to defend or critique scientific results and theory to objectively participate in academic discussions about sexuality while also employing responsible decision-making techniques from the perspective of a voting citizen and community member

Course Introduction

Sexuality is something that affects virtually everyone, in one way or another. I always say that every person here is evidence that sex happens. Because of its ubiquitous nature, sexuality is an issue that requires understanding. In this course, we explore basic information about sex and sexuality, including the history of sex research, theories of sexuality, sexual anatomy, sexual development, and the nature of the sexual response. We also discuss potentially controversial issues, such as fertility, contraception and abortion, sexually transmitted infections, sexuality across the lifespan (including sexuality in children and elderly people), sexual dysfunctions, and the use of sexuality in negative ways, such as sexual assault.

This course will help learners expand their knowledge by examining common research techniques in relation to theory, as well as biological, social, and cultural influences. Furthermore, learners will employ critical thinking skills to objectively analyze, evaluate, and discuss sexuality research in an open, academic, and professional forum together with their online peers. This is an undergraduate level course with particular attention paid to Western sexuality research and theory.

Because of the nature of the material, and the importance of understanding sexuality, we will discuss sexuality and sexuality research frankly. It is important to keep in mind that lectures and any additional materials (e.g., readings, videos, etc.) may be sexually explicit, and are intended to facilitate discussion and the learning process. Please consider the nature of the course material deciding to continue in this course.

****NOTE: If you suffer from issues related to sexuality, you will likely not benefit personally from this class other than gaining information. If you are in need of resources, please contact the instructor.**

****NOTE: Although this is an online course, keep in mind that it cannot be completed entirely at your own pace. You will be required keep up with the course material via online participation (e.g., quizzes, forum discussions, assignment, and midterm) within certain time frames.**

Textbook

The required textbook for this course is:

Pukall CF (ed). *Human sexuality: A contemporary introduction*. Oxford University Press, Toronto, Canada, 2014.

Assessment

Written Assignment	10%
Online Participation	30% (2% for each of 5 quizzes, 20% for forum discussions)
Online Midterm Exam	20%
Proctored Final Exam	40%

See [timeline](#) for due dates. Please note that all times are in Kingston local time.

Exams (60% of overall grade; 20% midterm and 40% final)

The midterm will cover material from the first 3 modules of the course (**see the [course timeline](#) for a breakdown of which material is covered in each module**). It may consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, definition, matching, short answer, long answer, or other types of questions. More details on the breakdown of the midterm will be provided. The midterm will be written online through OnQ. You will be given a 3-day period during which you can write the exam at any time. The exam must be written in one sitting; once you start the exam, you must complete it.

****In keeping with the Psychology Department's policy concerning correspondence courses, you must write and pass the final exam in order to pass the course.****

Assignment (10% of overall grade)

The assignment will consist of written responses to questions. Information regarding the length of the assignment will be included in the description. Please ensure that you submit your assignment through OnQ on time. This method is now being used to ensure that no assignments are lost. Assignments will not be accepted in hard copy format to the Continuing & Distance Studies Office. Please leave time before the deadline to avoid any technological difficulties with your submission upload.

You do not have to use sources other than the materials required or provided for the course. These include the (awesome) textbook, any supplementary materials provided, and the videos. Although in psychology it is often encouraged to do research to support your ideas, the inclusion of additional sources in your assignment will require the instructor/marker to track down the source and read it critically in order to evaluate your assignment. This will lead to a longer process of marking your assignment and therefore we cannot guarantee that your assignment will be returned to you before the next assignment is due. Because of this, please only include additional sources in your assignment if it is mandatory for our understanding of what you have written.

If you cite any of the materials (e.g., the textbook), you should include a reference list with your assignment. If you do cite references, please use the format described in detail in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 6th Edition.

There is also a standard way to cite sources in the textbook and course notes. Regardless of whether you use only the required text or whether you consult other authors, you must cite sources of direct quotes. You must also acknowledge the source of ideas and arguments that you mention but that are not your own. Here are some examples:

These kinds of people are usually "friendly and easy going with an optimistic outlook" (Smith & Brown, 1988, p. 409)

Smith and Brown (1988) studied people from several different rural communities. In 1988, Smith and Brown concluded that....

Remember it is considered to be plagiarism if you use direct quotations or large sections of paraphrased material without citing a reference. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty and will not be tolerated. If you are unsure of when to cite or not, err on the side of caution and use citations. Assignments, however, that are made up of mostly a compilations of others' quotations—even if cited appropriately—will not receive passing grades.

Online Participation (30% of overall grade)

Participation marks can come from participating in the OnQ discussion forums and completing OnQ quizzes.

1) Quizzes (10%)

The quizzes will be worth 2% each, and the best 5 out of 6 will be counted. You will have two attempts over 3 days only, and your best attempt counts as an actual grade. You have 1.5 hours to complete an attempt.

2) OnQ Discussion Forums (20%)

The instructor/marker will post a question for discussion. **You will be required to post a minimum of three times for each forum discussion (aside from the introductory discussion). A post will only be marked if it makes a meaningful contribution to the discussion.** You will be required to post:

- At least one response to the main question posted by the instructor/marker (minimum 75 words)
- At least one of your own questions about content from the module (it can follow up the main question or be on a different topic, provided it covers material in the module)
- At least one response to another student's question (at least 75 words)

Students in the course will be randomly assigned to a discussion forum group which will have a maximum of 7 students, to allow you more opportunities to discuss your ideas.

OnQ forum topics will be posted at the beginning of each module. You will have to respond to the main question and post your own question for other students to answer within approximately 10 days of the forum opening. You will have more time to answer another student's question. Please refer to the [Course Timeline](#) on OnQ for specific dates and the [Discussion Rubric](#) for exact marking guidelines.

***RECOMMENDATION:** Type your OnQ posts/comments in Notepad or a similar program and save frequently. OnQ does not allow you to save posts as you type, so if your power fails, you may lose your work if you haven't saved it in a text editor.

Evaluation of Online Participation

Merely asking questions of clarification can facilitate discussion, but will not be sufficient enough to receive all of the participation marks. You will be expected to demonstrate your knowledge of the material, express your thoughts and reactions to the material, make connections between the material and other content from the course or real-life, and interact with other students regarding the material. If you make postings on the discussion forums and other students respond to your comments, it would be beneficial to follow-up on their comments so as to create back and forth discussion. A post will only be marked if it makes a meaningful contribution to the discussion.

The following is the breakdown for your online participation mark:

Item	Contribution to Final Mark	Details
Quizzes	/10	6 quizzes overall; only 5 quizzes count.
Module 1 Forum	/1	Introductory forum; simply answer the questions posted to introduce yourself to your fellow classmates.
Module 2-5 Forums	/16	These forums are each worth 4 marks; you must respond at least once to the main question, post at least one of your own questions that another student will answer, and post at least one response to another students' question(s). Please refer to the discussion rubric for specifics.
Module 6 Forum	/3	This forum is worth 3 marks; it will be similar to the forums from modules 2-5, but worth less to accommodate the final exam period.
Total	/30	Note: See the Course Timeline on OnQ for specific opening/closing dates to ensure you complete the tasks on time.

Note: Please see the forum discussion rubric in the "Read Me First" section to guide your posts.