



## PSYC332

### The Psychology of Human Sexuality Winter 2017 (3 credits)

**In-Class Meetings:** Tues/Thurs 10:00-1:45 (BPS1238)  
**Online Meetings:** Mon/Wed (at your convenience)  
**Instructor:** Kevin J. McGann, Ph.D.  
**Office Hours:** Tues/Thurs: 2:00-5:00 (by appointment only)  
**Office/Phone:** BPS 1121X; (301)405-5866  
**Email:** [kjmcgann@umd.edu](mailto:kjmcgann@umd.edu)  
**Course Website:** <http://www.elms.umd.edu>  
**Undergraduate TA:** Samantha Hamburger



#### **Course Description:**

Sex is one of the most basic human drives and plays a central role in our personal and interpersonal behaviors. In this course, students will examine the broad range of human sexual expression focusing on topics such as: the development of sexual behavior and its changes throughout life, historical and contemporary views on the psychology of sex, the role of sexuality in day-to-day interactions among individuals, and the political issues surrounding sexual preference. Students will learn how psychologists study human sexuality and develop the theories that influence our thinking about sex. Note: This is an accelerated course due to the winter format, and lectures will be split between in-class meetings and online meetings. *Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology.*

#### **About the Instructor:**

I earned my B.A. in psychology in 2005 from Loyola University Maryland and my Ph.D. in 2010 from the Counseling Psychology program here at the University of Maryland. I am an advisor, career counselor, and adjunct professor in the Department of Psychology. The other courses I have taught include: *Introduction to Psychology, Counseling Psychology, Vocational Theories and Career Development, Cross-Cultural Psychology, History of Psychotherapy, and Professional Development in Psychology.* I also have 8 years of experience as a therapist (2 years full-time, 6 years part-time), and I am currently an Affiliate Counselor at the Counseling Center on campus. In that role I see undergraduate and graduate students, and I specialize in concerns related to adjustment, life changes, grief, career/vocational issues, relationship problems, sexual and gender identity questions, family conflicts, and general anxiety and depression.

#### **Course Objectives:**

The primary objectives of this course are:

- To help you develop a basic understanding of the breadth of psychological theory, research, and practice related to human sexuality;
- To develop your critical thinking and analytical skills about the diverse viewpoints and major ethical dilemmas regarding human sexual behavior;
- To familiarize you with the professional and ethical issues confronting research and practice surrounding human sexuality;
- To sensitize you to issues of special populations and human diversity related to human sexual attraction, behavior, and identity; and
- To apply knowledge gained in the course to your own life outside of the classroom.



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### Recommended Textbook:

Carroll, J.L. (2012). *Sexuality now: Embracing diversity (4<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth. (ISBN: 9781111835811). \*Note: You can use either the 2012 or the newer 2016 text.

Besides this recommended text, all other materials will be available online for free. As such, you will be required to access and utilize the computer, word processing programs, a printer, the online library database, and various other internet and media sources and programs for this course.

### Course Format, Expectations, Informed Consent, and Assignment Policies:

**Format:** This class is taught in a hybrid format. The **in-class lectures** on Tuesday and Thursday will include group discussion of topics and readings, interactive class activities, some lecture, video and multimedia presentations, and hypothetical case examples. The **online lectures** on Monday and Wednesday will be viewed online through our ELMS website.

**Expectations:** In class, students are expected to be actively involved; education is a collaborative process and we all learn from one another. This is an upper-level course. I expect all assigned or suggested reading to be completed **before** class, as well as other assigned tasks, activities, and/or papers which are due that day. Also see the course attendance policies, later in the syllabus.

**Informed Consent and Class Atmosphere:** You are not required to take this course, but may elect to do so. As a class about sexuality, you are likely to be exposed to a wide range of sexually-explicit content in the form of sexual words and language, sexual topics, and explicit images and film (e.g., images of genitalia and people engaging in both heterosexual and same-sex partnered sexual activities). This content will be covered in class readings and in lecture. Students should not assume that covering a topic in any college class implies the instructor advocating for or condoning the sexual practice being covered. If, at any point, you become uncomfortable by the content included in this sexuality class, you may simply look away for a few moments – or you can choose to quietly excuse yourself from the classroom. Note that material that is missed by excusing yourself from class is considered standard material for college-level learning about this topic, however, and is still fair game for exams. I will do my best to create a class atmosphere of safety and mutual respect for the diversity of sexual attitudes, identities, and behaviors, and I expect you to do the same. There are times we will break out in to small group discussions or activities; note that you are only required to share what you feel comfortable sharing, and you do not have to disclose any information about yourself which you do not want your classmates to know. If, at any point, you wish to meet with me to discuss any concerns you are having about class content or your participation in the learning of class material, please schedule a meeting with me for office hours.

**Assignment Policies:** Ten percentage points will be deducted for each business day that any assignment is late. This is true for all assignments **except** for the sexuality diversity project paper, which is due on 1/23 at **10:00am** and is considered late (for 10% deduction) at 10:01am, but will not be accepted for credit at all after 5:00pm that day. All typed assignments are due to me through submission on ELMS before class as Microsoft Word documents with one-inch margins on all sides, and must be double-spaced using sized 12 Arial or Times New Roman font.

### ELMS Course Website:

Our class is listed at [www.elms.umd.edu](http://www.elms.umd.edu). Course materials, including supplemental readings, assignment guidelines, and online modules will be there. Supplemental electronic readings (outside the course text) that are due for class will be posted by the file name provided in the course schedule below. I will also use this website to post your grades electronically.



**Instructor Policy on Student Use of Technology and Personal Electronic Devices:**

The use of any personal electronic device by students (e.g., cell phone, laptop, tablets, etc.) in class will not be allowed; such devices are too much cause for distraction and disengagement. I will make use of various electronic and multimedia sources to promote your learning and engagement in class, but **you should take notes using paper**. I will make an exception if you have a UMD Disability Support Services form allowing you to take notes on a laptop or other device during class. If you need to use your cell phone during class time, you can excuse yourself quietly for a minute or two.

**Commitment to Multiculturalism:**

This class is committed to maintaining a multicultural learning environment, which is defined as a place where individuals' diversity and opinions are respected. Multicultural and diversity issues are integrated into course content and process, and it is hoped that you will contribute your unique perspective to this endeavor by considering and raising issues related to multiculturalism and diversity and respecting other students' cultural beliefs and values.

**Religious Observances:**

Students will not be penalized for institutionally-recognized observances of religious holidays that interfere with course attendance or with a scheduled assignment due date. Please notify me in writing or by email within the first two days of the course. You will be given an opportunity, when feasible, to make up assignments within a reasonable time frame.

**Departmental Learning Outcomes:**

This course shares and applies the learning outcomes of the Department of Psychology:

1. *Research Methods*: Understand and apply basic research methods in the psychology of human sexuality, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
2. *Critical Thinking*: Use creative and critical thinking to solve problems related to sexuality, behavior and mental processes.
3. *Communication*: Communicate effectively about psychological phenomena related to sexuality in a variety of formats.
4. *Content*: Demonstrate familiarity with the questions that gave rise to content knowledge in the psychology of sexuality, a sampling of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in the psychological study of human sexuality.

**Course Attendance:**

This is a small class, so even if I do not take formal attendance I will notice when you are not here. Each class period is designed to cover a good deal of information, and our learning depends on each other. I will present supplemental content and activities in class that will not be included in the readings, but which you can expect to appear on exams. Therefore, attendance and active participation are important, and participation will count toward your grade; see below. University policy allows a single (1) absence due to illness or injury to be excused by the instructor, with a written, signed letter attesting to the date of illness or injury and acknowledging that the information is true. I require that you provide this written documentation in order for me to waive any negative



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effect on your participation grade for that day. Multiple absences require written documentation of the illness or injury from the Health Center or an outside health care provider. Documentation for missing a class is always due to me no later than the first day of class upon your return. As a courtesy to you, **I allow one additional excused absence** which will not affect your participation grade. You must abide by the University's policies on Attendance and Assessment, in the Undergraduate Catalog: <http://www.umd.edu/catalog/index.cfm/show/content.section/c/27/ss/1584/s/1540>

\***Note: Absences will not be excused** on the following **3 major scheduled grading events**, except in the case of a major documented illness from a health care provider: **1/10, 1/12, and 1/19.**

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

The University's Code of Academic Integrity ([www.shc.umd.edu/](http://www.shc.umd.edu/)) prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic F for your course grade, and will be reported to the Honor Council of the Office of Student Conduct for further action. If you are found guilty of academic dishonesty, your F will become an **XF** on your academic transcript, which will clearly state "Failure Due to Academic Dishonesty" on your transcript.

### **Students with Documented Disabilities:**

The University of Maryland, College Park is committed to equal access for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive the appropriate academic accommodations, please notify me in writing within the first two class meetings of the semester, and provide documentation from the Disability Support Service which describes the accommodations needed.

### **University Support Services:**

These are just a few of the support services and resources available for students at the University of Maryland, College Park:

The Disability Support Service:

0106 Shoemaker Building

<http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/>

Phone: 301-314-7682

The Learning Assistance Service:

2201 Shoemaker Building

<http://www.counseling.umd.edu/LAS/>

Phone: 301-314-7693

The Writing Center:

0125 Taliaferro Hall

<http://www.english.umd.edu/writingcenter>

Phone: 301-405-3785

The Counseling Center:

Main Lobby, Shoemaker Building

<http://www.counseling.umd.edu/CS/>

Phone: 301-314-7651



### **Inclement Weather or Campus Emergency:**

You will be able to find out if the university is closed due to inclement weather or a campus emergency by checking the university homepage ([www.umd.edu](http://www.umd.edu)). If the university is closed for a weather event or other emergency, class will be cancelled. Due dates for assignments submitted online through ELMS should not be affected, unless internet is affected due to the inclement weather and/or campus emergency (in which case, the assignment will be due once internet access is restored). If class is ever cancelled, I will be in touch with you at the email address that you have registered with the university, with any important course updates.

### **Course Evaluations:**

As a member of our academic community, one of your important responsibilities is to submit your online course evaluations near the end of each term through CourseEvalUM, in order to help faculty and administrators improve teaching and learning at the University of Maryland. You can use this internet link to access the submission system: [www.courseevalum.umd.edu](http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu). Please remember to submit your evaluation. I care about making this course better!

### **Assignments and Grading:**

#### **Attendance and Active Participation (20% of final grade)**

Attendance and active participation in class activities and discussions is necessary for you to get the most out of what this course offers, and for you to both learn from and contribute to other students' learning. I will include a grade for each student after each class period for this requirement, which will be averaged at the end of the semester to make up the active participation portion of your final grade. Your grade for active participation includes showing up to class on time and leaving on time, paying attention, and contributing actively to in-class activities and discussions. Excused absences (per the policy stated above) will not affect your active participation grade.

#### **Midterm Exam (20% of final grade)**

The midterm exam will be given in class on 1/10. It will cover all course topics before that point. The midterm will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short essay. I will provide a list of general exam topics the class period before the midterm exam.

#### **Sexuality Topic Presentation (20% of final grade)**

Our class period on 1/12 will be devoted to brief (e.g., 10-12 minute) informal student presentations on a sexuality topic of interest to you. Your presentation will be a relaxed, verbal summary to the class regarding recent research and scholarship on your topic, including your informed opinion regarding why the topic is important to the psychology of sexuality. Formal guidelines, a timeline for this assignment, and sample topic ideas will be posted to our website and discussed in class.

#### **Final Exam (20% of final grade)**

The final exam will be given in class on 1/19, and is 2 hours in length. It will cover all topics after the midterm exam. The final exam will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short essay. I will provide a list of general exam topics the class period before the final exam.

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### Diversity of Sexuality Project (20%)

This project and 4-6 page paper will require you to compare and contrast your own sexuality with someone who is different from you, using theoretical and research support. The guidelines for this paper will be posted on ELMS, but you will be asked to describe your personal attitudes and values about sexuality, to reflect on your sexual identity and preferences, and to compare and contrast these attitudes, values, identity, and preferences with someone who is different from your own sexual identity or behavior in at least one way (e.g., gender, sexual orientation, sexual behaviors, sexual attraction). To be able to compare and contrast yourself with someone different from you, you will interview one of the following individuals *of your choice*: a friend, a significant other, a sibling, a family member, a classmate, a coworker, a stranger, etc. You will choose a theoretical perspective on sexuality from class to back up your paper, as well as lectures/class text and at least 1 peer-reviewed scientific research article about human sexuality. The final project paper will be due on ELMS on **1/23** by **10:00am**. Late deduction of 10% will be taken starting at 10:01 am that day. Since 1/23 is the final day for our course, late project papers will not be accepted after 1/23 at 5:00pm (for 10% deduction), unless in the instance of a major **documented** health reason that is approved by me. After 5:00pm on 1/23, if the project paper is still not submitted on ELMS, a grade of "0" will be given to you for this assignment.

### Evaluation Summary:

Final course grades will be assigned as follows, and calculated automatically on ELMS:

94-100: A	84-86: B	74-76: C	64-66: D
90-93: A-	80-83: B-	70-73: C-	60-63: D-
87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: D+	0-59: F

### Other Course-Related University Policies:

It is your responsibility as a student to familiarize yourself with the university's course-related policies affecting students and faculty. This course abides by these policies as well, so please review them as soon as possible: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

### Provision of Changes to the Syllabus:

If absolutely necessary, I reserve the right to adapt or modify aspects of this syllabus. Some potential examples could include a campus emergency, a weather event, class activity conflicts, technology malfunctions, or instructor illness/emergency. I will make every effort to keep you aware of any needed changes, the reasons these changes are needed, and any potential impact on you regarding due dates.

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## Course Schedule:

Date	Main Topics/Activities Today (CAMPUS or <b>ONLINE</b> )	Suggested Readings	Assignment Due Today
Tues 1/3/17	<b>(CAMPUS):</b> <i>Let's Talk About Sex, Baby</i> Welcome and Introductions Course Overview Sex Stories & Movie (pt. 1)	N/A	N/A
Wed 1/4/17	<b>(ONLINE):</b> <i>History Repeating</i> History of Sexuality Theories and Research: Sex and Behavior Attraction	Class Text, Ch. 1 Class Text, Ch. 2 Sanders et al., 2010	Online Lecture: <i>It's All Just a Little Bit of History Repeating</i>
Thurs 1/5/17	<b>(CAMPUS):</b> <i>Born This Way</i> Childhood Sexual Development Gender Development Sexual Orientation and Sexuality	Class Text, Ch. 4 Class Text, Ch. 8 Class Text, Ch. 11	N/A
Mon 1/9/17	<b>(ONLINE):</b> <i>How Many Licks?</i> Female Sexual Anatomy and Sexuality Male Sexual Anatomy and Sexuality Adult Sexual Behavior and Relationships	Class Text, Ch. 5 Class Text, Ch. 6 Class Text, Ch. 9	Online Lecture: <i>How Many Licks?</i>
Tues 1/10/17	<b>(CAMPUS):</b> <i>Don't Go Chasing Waterfalls</i> <u>Midterm Exam (Major Graded Event)</u> Sexual Risk-Taking Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)	Class Text, Ch. 15 Cunningham et al, 2009	N/A
Wed 1/11/17	<b>(ONLINE):</b> <i>Til it Happens to You</i> Contraception and Abortion Coercion, Rape, Incest, and Recovery	Class Text, Ch. 13 Class Text, Ch. 17	Online Lecture: <i>Til it Happens to You</i>
Thurs 1/12/17	<b>(CAMPUS):</b> <i>I Smell Sex and Candy</i> <u>Student Presentations (Major Grade Event)</u> Movie Screening and Discussion	N/A	Sexuality Topic Presentation
Mon 1/16/17	No Class – Happy MLK, Jr Day	N/A	N/A



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Tues 1/17/17	( <b>CAMPUS</b> ): <i>Blurred Lines</i> Pornography Varieties of Sexual Expression Cheating and Relationships	Class Text, Ch. 16 Class Text, Ch. 18 Stewart & Szymanski, 2012	N/A
Wed 1/18/17	( <b>ONLINE</b> ): <i>We Can Work it Out</i> Sex Therapy Aging and Sexuality	Class Text, Ch. 14	Online Lecture: <i>We Can Work it Out</i>
Thurs 1/19/17	( <b>CAMPUS</b> ): <i>That's a Wrap</i> <b>Course Wrap-Up and <u>Final Exam</u>, In Class: Arrive at 10:00am</b> ( <u>Major Graded Event</u> )		
Mon 1/23/17	( <b>ONLINE</b> ) Sexuality Diversity Project Submission Due by 10:00am on ELMS (Late deduction of 10% off starts at 10:01am; not accepted after 5:00pm)		