

# ***Human Sexuality PY 108-QL***

## ***Spring 2014***

**Instructor:** Dr. Bridgett Hill Kennedy  
**Blackboard:** [www.uab.edu/blackboard](http://www.uab.edu/blackboard)  
**E-mail:** Please email me directly through the Blackboard module.

**Required Textbook:** Sexuality Now: Embracing Diversity 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Author: Jannell L. Carroll)

**Technical support:** [AskIT@uab.edu](mailto:AskIT@uab.edu); 205-996-5555

**Office Hours:** Mon & Wed 9am-10am and 1pm-2pm ... Tues & Thurs: 9am-11am or by appointment.

**Course TA:** Meredith Henry [mahenry@uab.edu](mailto:mahenry@uab.edu)

### **\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\*\*\***

You must take a brief 10 question quiz during the first two weeks of this course. The purpose of the quiz is to: 1) help you get a feel for the online test taking environment that will be used throughout the semester and 2) assure me that you have read and understand the syllabus. The quiz score DOES NOT count towards your course grade!!!

### ***Course Objective:***

This course examines sexuality throughout the lifespan as well as the range of sexual orientation and behaviors. During the course of this class we will endeavor to learn the importance of considering the social, religious, ethnic, racial, gender, and social contexts that influence human sexuality. Students are expected to integrate their personal experiences, knowledge of psychology, and their observations of human sexuality with the content of this course.

### ***Online Learning***

In order to be successful, you should be organized and well-motivated. You should make sure you log on to our course on Blackboard several times each week. Check all “announcements” that have been posted and **check your UAB email every day**. Be sure to start early in the week reading the chapter(s) and then view the lecture(s). You should also go to the Discussion Boards early on during the scheduled discussion exercise. Make your “initial” postings and follow up with your response(s). Begin reviewing for the exams early in the term. Do not wait until the last minute and “cram” for these exams. You should review the material frequently, so you will be prepared to take the exams.

### ***Course Structure:***

One of the major advantages to an online course is its flexibility. You have the opportunity to progress through the course according to your schedule, since all course materials, assignments, and tests are available to you 24-hours a day. The course content includes readings from the primary text (Carroll) and a number of interactive activities to extend your learning and enhance your experience in the course. I am excited to have your participation in this course and I look forward to your contributions to it!

## Course Requirements:

(1) **Exams.** There will be **4 tests** (3 regular exams plus the final exam) given over the course of the semester. Test questions are multiple-choice, and include material from the text and lecture. Exams are worth 100 points each. The final exam **IS NOT** cumulative. The exams will be open book and open notes (not open friends or family). You should take the test as if you were in a classroom and allowed to use your books and notes. Even in a classroom, you still would not discuss the questions with someone else before or during the test. Even though the test is open-book and notes, **you will not be able to answer the questions correctly if you have not reviewed the assigned material** (viewing the lectures and reading the chapters). You will not have any problem with these as long as you have gone over the assigned material.

**IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO TAKE ALL EXAMS, INCLUDING THE FINAL EXAM.**

Exams will be given only on the scheduled days and times listed on the syllabus schedule. You may take the exams at any time during the specified days. There is a **1 hour and 15 minute time limit** for each exam. Students are to plan ahead to ensure they have 75 minutes of uninterrupted time so that they may take the exams.

You only have one attempt so **do not begin taking the exam online until you are ready and free from distractions. You are not allowed to stop and start the exam** so if you encounter technology problems, contact AskIT immediately ([AskIT@uab.edu](mailto:AskIT@uab.edu); 205-996-5555). If you continue to have technology problems while taking your exam, you will not be able to complete it unless I receive a verification email from AskIT. I realize computer problems can occur, so please make sure you do everything you can to assure you will not have computer problems. Additionally, I recommend that you always have a contingency plan in place. For instance, in case you lose your internet connection... know which restaurants in your area have WiFi available.

**Note: I DO NOT GIVE MAKE UP EXAMS** without official documented records (i.e., a hospital discharge record, police report, or military orders). **IT IS ALWAYS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO TAKE THE SCHEDULED EXAMS.** A "0" can absolutely destroy an otherwise good course average.

(2) **Discussion Board Contributions.** Given that this is a web-based course, your only method of interacting with your fellow classmates and your instructor will be via the Internet. In order to enrich your learning in the course beyond the course readings, you will be required to participate in 4 discussion board topics. Each of you will be assigned to groups for your Discussion assignments. You will remain in the same group for the entire semester. I will build the groups before the first Discussion Board opens.

- a. Although you will answer each question individually, you will be able to see the answers given by the other members of your group and you are able to respond to each other's answers (elaborate, agree/disagree, etc.). **Discussion board contributions are worth 25 points each x 4 for a total of 100 possible points; see explanation below:**
- b. Original Discussion Post (**4... each worth 15 possible points**): At scheduled times, you will be required to post to the relevant discussion board question. Please note that there are **NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS** to these discussion board posts; they are designed to give you the opportunity to reflect more deeply, and to develop your own opinions and positions regarding key contemporary issues in the field of Psychology and Sexuality.

- i. Note that your discussion board posts will be evaluated on the following criteria: *critical analysis of the issue AND reflection of your opinion based on your experiences and the readings*. Basic requirements include: well thought out answers to each part of a Discussion board and a minimum length of at least 200 words in length PER original post. Contributions below this length will result in a point(s) deduction--- NO EXCEPTIONS.
  - ii. Discussion questions are to be posted by the scheduled dates and times. There is **ABSOLUTELY NO WAY** to make up for a missed discussion assignment.
- c. Responses: (4...each worth 10 possible points): In addition to posting your initial (or original posts) to the discussion questions, **you are also required to respond to at least one other student's (group member's) posting**, either agreeing with the comments or expressing an alternate opinion in **1-2 paragraphs**.
- i. NO EXCEPTIONS. **Your response to another student's posting is to be posted by the scheduled dates and times.**
  - ii. Try to respond to postings which haven't already been responded to, or which have fewer responses. Please do not respond to a classmate by only saying, "I agree with your post, great job!" You need to elaborate as to "why" you agree or disagree and try to support your response/feedback with references as well. The discussions are designed to help you clarify your thinking and compare your opinions to those of others. Any opinion, backed by solid research, lends itself to a stronger position.

When posting your answer and your responses to other students' answers, be sure to use correct grammar, punctuation, and syntax. All posts should be checked for spelling and grammatical errors before posting them. Remember that you are communicating with others and correct English usage is critical because you are expecting others to understand what you are saying. It would be helpful to type out your answer/response, do a spell/grammar check, and then proofread once more before posting. Improper grammar, punctuation, and/or syntax may reduce your grade.

Also be aware that **derogatory comments, bad language, and rudeness WILL NOT be tolerated**. Disagreement is fine and open discussion is encouraged, as long as it is done with respect and tact. **Postings that are derogatory in nature will be removed, immediately, and your grade will be significantly reduced.**

### **Extra Credit:**

You may earn up to 10 points by writing a one page entry on early personal experiences that have influenced your own sexuality. Information shared in your life story will be kept strictly confidential. Extra Credit must be submitted **in the form of a Blackboard Journal Entry by 11:59 April 14th.**

## **Course Grade:**

Your final grade and course assignments will be graded on the following scale and the grades will be calculated according to the points below:

### **Grading Breakdown:**

Regular Exams	(300 points)
Final Exam	(100 points)
Discussion Posts 4@ 15 points	(60 points)
<u>Discussion Resp. 4@ 10 points</u>	<u>(40 points)</u>

TOTAL 500 points

**Your Score = (Total Points / 500) \* 100**

***Note:** The Extra Credit points ARE NOT tagged onto your final course grade. Extra Credit is averaged into your grades. Look at it as adding points to your lowest exam score.*

### **Grading Scale**

**A = 90-100**

**B = 80-89**

**C = 70-79**

**D = 60-69**

**F = 59 & below**

### **Grade Disputes:**

If you object with a grade you receive, you must submit your complaint in writing, along with supporting evidence or arguments, to me within one week of the date that I first posted the grade on Blackboard.

### **Dropping and Withdrawing:**

The Office of the Registrar has set the last day to drop this course without paying full tuition and fees as January 13, 2014. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of "W" is March 31, 2014.

### **Disability Related Accommodations:**

If you are registered with Disability Support Services (DSS), I should have or will be receiving your information from the DSS department. However, if you have not received a password (for your DSS version of the exams) a week before Exam 1, please email or make an appointment with me as soon as possible. If you have a disability but have not contacted DSS, please call 934-4205 or visit the DSS office.

### **Academic Integrity Policy:**

*"The Department of Psychology considers academic dishonesty to be a very serious matter. Cheating devalues the honest efforts of other students, consumes enormous amounts of faculty and staff time, and is never justifiable. The undergraduate catalog presents the university's policy on Academic Misconduct, which the Department scrupulously follows. Note that academic dishonesty*

can take various forms, including cheating on an exam, assisting someone else in cheating, and plagiarizing or presenting someone else's written material as your own. The Department routinely uses sophisticated mathematical and computer-based techniques to detect cheating and plagiarism in its classes. Students may be asked to present evidence of independent scholarship or re-take an exam if cheating or plagiarism is suspected. In general, the Department of Psychology will seek the most severe penalty for acts of academic misconduct that are detected. First offenses typically result in an "F" in the course. Second offenses typically result in expulsion from the university. For further details, consult the catalog."

## Course Schedule:

<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>Jan 6 - 13</b>	<b>Introduction Quiz</b>	<b>Syllabus</b>	<b>Quiz must be completed before 11:59 pm on January 17th</b>
Jan 6	Course Intro	Syllabus	
Jan 8	Exploring HS: Past and Present	Ch.1	
<b>Jan 13</b>	<b>Drop Deadline</b>	*****	<b>Last Day to Drop without Paying full Tuition and fees</b>
Jan 13	Understanding HS: Theory and Research	Ch.2	
Jan 15	Communication and Sexuality	Ch.3	
<b>Jan 17</b>	<b>Introduction Quiz Closes</b>		<b>Quiz must be completed before 11:59 pm on January 17th</b>
Jan 20	Gender Development, Roles, and Identity	Ch.4	
<b>Jan 22-24</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Ch.1-4</b>	<b>Exam must be completed between 12:01 am on Jan 22nd and 11:59 pm on Jan 24th</b>
Jan 27	Female Sexual Anatomy and Physiology	Ch.5	
Jan 29	Male Sexual Anatomy and Physiology	Ch.6	
<b>Jan 29-31</b>	<b>Discussion 1 Response 1</b>		<b><i>Discussions and Responses must be completed by 11:59 pm Jan 31</i></b>
Feb 3	Love and Intimacy	Ch.7	
Feb 5	Childhood and Adolescent Sexuality	Ch.8	
Feb 10	Adult Sexual Relationships	Ch.9	
<b>Feb 12-14</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Ch.5-9</b>	<b>Exam must be completed between 12:01 am on Feb 12 and 11:59 pm on Feb 14</b>

Feb 17	Sexual Expression	Ch.10	
Feb 19	Sexual Orientation	Ch. 11	
Feb 24	Pregnancy and Birth	Ch.12	
Feb 26	“.....”	Ch.12	
<b>Feb 26-28</b>	<b>Discussion 2 Response 2</b>		<b><i>Discussions and Responses must be completed by 11:59 pm Feb 28</i></b>
March 3	Contraception & Abortion	Ch.13	
March 5	Challenges to Sexual Functioning	Ch. 14	
<b>March 5-7</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Ch.10-14</b>	<b>Exam must be completed between 12:01 am on March 5 and 11:59 pm on March 7</b>
March 10	STI's HIV/AIDS	Ch.15	
<b>March 12-14</b>	<b>Discussion 3 Response 3</b>		<b><i>Discussions and Responses must be completed by 11:59 pm March 14</i></b>
March 12	STI's HIV/AIDS	Ch.15	
March 17	Varieties of Sexual Expressions	Ch. 16	
March 19	“.....”	Ch.16	
<b>March 24-28</b>	*****	*****	<b>Spring Break *****Be Safe*****</b>
March 31	Power and Sexual Coercion	Ch.17	
<b>March 31</b>	*****	*****	<b>Last Day to Withdraw with a “W”</b>
April 2	“.....”	Ch.17	
April 7	Sexual Images and Selling Sex	Ch.18	
<b>April 9-11</b>	<b>Discussion 4 Response 4</b>		<b><i>Discussions and Responses must be completed by 11:59 pm April 11</i></b>
April 9	“.....”	Ch.18	
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Extra Credit</b>		<b>Extra Credit must be submitted in the form of a Blackboard Journal Entry by 11:59 April 14</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Final Day of Class</b>	*****	<b>*****Study Well*****</b>
<b>April 23-25</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Ch.15-18</b>	<b>Exam must be completed between 12:01 am on April 23 and 11:59 pm on April 25</b>