

Human Sexuality (PSY 341K): Overview

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Welcome to Human Sexuality. In this course, you will learn about how research on human sexuality is conducted and become familiar with some of the key historical figures in the field of sexuality research. You will learn about all the stages of the human sexual response including: sexual attraction and desire, arousal, and orgasm. You will learn what enhances and what inhibits each of these stages from both a psychological (e.g., relationships, mood, past experiences) and physiological (e.g., hormonal, neurological) perspective. You will become familiar with different sexual problems that are clinically diagnosable, and how they are treated either with psychotherapy, medical intervention, or both. My goal is to give you a broad overview of how humans function sexually. The emphasis will be on the more clinical aspects of human sexuality, although I will also present an overview of social and evolutionary perspectives where relevant. Unlike some human sexuality classes, my class will not cover in detail topics such as pregnancy, contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, or sexual orientation.

The textbook. The required reading for this course is BONK by Mary Roach (2009; Norton & Company, NY). This book is by no means your standard boring textbook. You are in for a real treat. BONK was released in hardcover the Spring of 2008 and was on the top New York Times best seller list for several months running. The book is brilliantly written, factually amazing, and wickedly funny. Be sure to read the footnotes (yes there will be questions from them on the exams).

Tests and grading. Although a course on human sexuality can be exciting (no pun intended), don't expect it to be an easy course. Having taught this class many times, I expect you to immerse yourself into the readings and lectures. You will need a lot more than your own sexual experience to do well in this class. There will be detailed examination of the anatomical and physiological aspects of sexuality as well as the more relational and social aspects.

As you can see in the syllabus below, there are 5 tests and no final. Tests are non-cumulative. The format of the tests will be 50 multiple-choice questions. You will be tested on the content of BONK, assigned articles, videos, and lectures (including guest lectures). You will be learning a lot of material, so don't let the readings pile up to the last day. Everyone is expected to take tests at the regularly scheduled time. The best 4 out of 5 exam grades will be used to determine the course grade. **You can drop any of the exams for any reason BUT YOU MUST PASS THE LAST EXAM (held on May 5).** If you do not pass the 5th exam, your score on that exam will count as one of your 4 grades. If you do pass the final exam, then the best 4 grades will be used (irrespective of your score on the 5th exam). **BECAUSE ONLY 4 OUT OF 5 EXAMS WILL DETERMINE THE COURSE GRADE, MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE ADMINISTERED WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION FOR ALL EXAMS MISSED.** If you miss one exam, the other four exams will be used to compute your grade. If you miss two or more exams, you can only take a make-up exam if you have documented significant illnesses, or personal traumas on all the exams you missed.

*Example 1: You miss one exam because you wanted to stay an extra day while on vacation
—no problem as you can just drop that exam;*

*Example 2: You miss one exam because of a documented illness/injury—no problem as
you can just drop that exam;*

*Example 3: You miss two exams through illnesses/injuries documented for both exams—no
problem, you can take one make-up exam;*

*Example 4: You miss one exam because you stayed an extra day on vacation and you miss
another exam because of documented illness—this is a problem because you used
up your get-out-of-jail card when you stayed an extra day on vacation, so one of
your exam scores will be a 0.*

The final grade is based on four exams. Your four highest exams are worth 25% each and the lowest exam is worth 0% (i.e., you do not include it in the final grade). In other words, you can do terribly on one of the exams and overcome it by doing well on the other exams.

Bonus Points. On five separate occasions throughout the semester, you will have an opportunity to earn a bonus point during class (for a total of 5 possible bonus points). To earn the point, you will either be given a short survey to fill out that is relevant to the class material, or you will be given a short quiz based on class material. Completion of the survey is completely voluntary and responses are kept anonymous. These bonus points will only be given out if you complete the quiz or survey during class, you WILL NOT be able to “make up” the bonus points if you have not attended class that day. In part, the bonus points are meant to reward students who faithfully attend class.

Computing your final grade. Assuming you pass the 5th exam, your Final Grade will be computed in the following way:

4 best exams @ 50 points each = $200 \text{ points} / 2 = 100\%$

Possible bonus points added to total score prior to % calculation

Example 1: You do not do any of the bonus class quizzes or surveys.

Your four best exam scores are 41, 45, 43, 47 = $176 / 2 = 88\%$

Your final grade is a B+

Example 2: You complete all five bonus surveys and quizzes during class.

Your four best exam scores are 41, 45, 43, 47 = $176 + 5 \text{ bonus points} = 181 / 2 =$

90.5% Your final grade is an A-

At the end of the semester, grades will be assigned in the following way:

A = 92-100

A- = 90-91

B+ = 88-89

B = 82-87

B- = 80-81

C+ = 78-79

C = 72-77

C- = 70-71

D+ = 68-69

D = 62- 67

D- = 60-61

F = 0 -59

There are no exceptions to this grading scheme.

Other support. UT runs the Learning Skills Center in Jester Hall that offers invaluable advice on studying and note-taking techniques in general. The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY. Finally, it is common for students to feel a great deal of stress when starting college. If you need to talk to someone, contact the Counseling and Mental Health Center at 471-3515.

I sincerely hope you enjoy the course. If you have any questions, please drop by my or one of the TAs offices during the office hours listed below.

Human Sexuality – Spring 2011

Location:

WEL 3.502

Instructor

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Tentative Syllabus

Required Reading: *BONK* by Mary Roach (Norton & Company Publishers) -- available at the UT Bookstore. Assigned articles will be made available online.

DATE	Lecture Topic	Chapter Readings
Jan 18	Introduction to Sex Research	Foreplay Chapter 1 Chapter 5
Jan 20	Sexual Attraction	
Jan 25	Sexual Attraction	
Jan 27	Sexual Attraction	
Feb 1	Why Humans Have Sex	
Feb 3	TEST 1	
Feb 8	Sexual Desire	Chapter 14
Feb 10	Sexual Anatomy: Men and Women	Chapter 13
Feb 15	Sexual Desire	
Feb 17	Sexual Arousal and Orgasm in Men	Chapter 7
Feb 22	Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction, Premature Ejaculation	Chapter 6 Chapter 8

Feb 24	TEST 2	
Mar 1	Sexual Arousal in Women	Chapter 2
Mar 3	Sexual Arousal in Women	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
Mar 8	Sexual Pain	
Mar 10	Body Image and Sexuality (Guest Lecture: Yaisca Pujols, M. A. & Corey Pallatto, B. A.)	
Mar 22	The Effects of Culture on Sexuality (Guest Lecture: Tierney Ahrold, M. A.)	
Mar 24	TEST 3	
Mar 29	Women's Orgasm	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
Mar 31	Women's Orgasm	Chapter 11 Chapter 12 Chapter 15
April 5	The Link Between Sexual Functioning and Well Being (Guest Lecture: Kyle Stephenson, M.A.)	
April 7	Paraphilias	Transvestic Fetisism in the General Population
April 12	TEST 4	
April 14	TBA	
April 19	Sexual Differentiation	Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation in Children with Traumatized or Ambiguous Genitalia
April 21	Sexual Differentiation	
April 26	Gender Identity Disorder	Sexual and Physical Health after Sex Reassignment Surgery
April 28	Gender Identity Disorder	
May 3	Everything Else You Ever Wanted to Know About Sex	
May 5	TEST 5	