

Bergen Community College
Division of Business, Social Sciences & Public Services
Department of Social Sciences

Departmental Policy Syllabus

PSY-110 Psychology of Sexuality

Basic Information about Course and Instructor

Semester:
Course Number:
Meeting Times and Place:

Instructor:
Office Location:
Phone:
Department Secretary:
Office Hours:
Email Address:

Course Description

PSY-110 Psychology of Sexuality emphasizes the changing concepts in human sexuality. Of importance are socialization, sexual variation, treatment and psychotherapy in the field of sexuality. Of major interest are the paraphilias, victimization, homosexuality, gender identity and psychodynamics involved in sexual expression.

3 lecture, 3 credits
Social Science Elective; Diversity Course

Student Learning Objectives/Means of Assessment

Objectives: Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:	Means of Assessment: This outcome will be measured by one or more of the following:
1. Identify the main features of the biological, cross-cultural, psychological and sociocultural perspectives on human sexuality.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
2. Discuss research methods in sexuality, and ethical issues in sex research.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
3. Describe female and male sexual organs, and the roles of the brain and sex hormones in sexual behavior.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
4. Explain differences among these phenomena: gender identity, gender roles, sexual orientation	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments

(heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality), transsexualism and transvestism. Analyze how biology, society and upbringing might influence these phenomena.	
5. Describe possible gender differences in various areas including: psychosexual development, psychosexual problems and disorders, communication styles, cognitive styles and factors affecting attraction to partners.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
6. Explain physical and psychological changes that occur at puberty, and evaluate risk factors and preventative programs for teenage pregnancy.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
7. Describe different types of sexually transmitted diseases, and methods to help prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
8. Define important concepts with regard to sexual abuse and coercion.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
9. Analyze the diversity found in gender roles, sexual attitudes and sexual behaviors and customs in the U.S. and around the world.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
10. Demonstrate critical thinking with regard to their own views about psychosexual issues raised in this course.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments

Course Content:

This course is intended to introduce the student to major current topics in the field of Psychology of Sexuality. As delineated in “Student Learning Objectives” above, students will learn about the rich diversity in gender roles, sexual attitudes and sexual behaviors found cross-culturally and within our own society. Gender differences in various areas of human sexuality will be examined.

Major topics in this course include gender roles, sexual orientation, gender identity, teen pregnancy, contraception, sexual coercion, sexually transmitted diseases, variables affecting attraction to partners, marriage, cohabitation, intimacy, and other issues that may be relevant to the lives of students. This course should help students clarify and think critically about their own views, and increase the likelihood of responsible decision-making with regard to sexuality.

Students will be required to review research and present their opinions on a variety of topics via written and discussion assignments. While not required, students also may be asked to attend and participate in special presentations given at BCC on relevant topics.

Course Textbook

The **required textbook** for this course is:

Spencer A. Rathus, Jeffrey S. Nevid, Lois Fichner-Rathus, *Human Sexuality in A World of Diversity*, 7th edition, Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.

Research, Writing and/or Examination Requirements

As a General Education course, PSY-110 has a significant writing requirement integrated into the content of the course, including the preparation of out-of-class writing assignments that necessitate research. Written examinations also are required.

Grading Policy

The final grade in the course will be determined by a student's overall mastery of the subject matter as evidenced on exams, out-of-class writing assignments and class participation. All factors considered, class participation should not account for more than 15% of the final grade in the course. Penalties for assignments turned in late, and policies regarding make-up examinations, will be determined by the individual instructor.

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATTENDANCE POLICY

All students are expected to attend punctually every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance and lateness policies and sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of each course. These will be established in writing on the individual course outline. Attendance will be kept by the instructor for administrative and counseling purposes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY IN THIS COURSE

Students are expected to attend every scheduled class and to arrive punctually. Attendance will be taken at each class session. Each student is held responsible for all material presented. Those who arrive late or leave early disrupt class. If you find that it is absolutely necessary for you to leave the class early, please consult with the instructor before the beginning of the class, and take a seat close to the door so as not to disturb others when you leave. Penalties for late attendance and absences will be determined by the individual instructor, in keeping with the sections on Grading Policy and Bergen Community College Attendance Policy described above.

OTHER COLLEGE, DIVISIONAL, AND OR DEPARTMENTAL POLICY STATEMENTS

Statement on Plagiarism and/or Academic Dishonesty - Academic Integrity

The Bergen Community College Statement on academic integrity as found in the college catalog on page 43 is the following;

In cases when students are charged with academic irregularities, such as cheating during an examination or plagiarism in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, or oral presentation, the instructor has the authority to:

1. Give the student a failing grade for the assignment if, within the course's total requirements, non-completion of that assignment would not constitute sufficient ground for failing the course; or,
2. Give the student a failing grade for the course if, within the course's total requirements, non-completion of that assignment would preclude the student's passing course.

The instructor must make a written report to the Vice President of Student Services of whatever action he or she has taken and its justification. In turn the Vice President of Student Services must send a copy of the instructor's report to the student. Within ten days of receipt of such notification, the student may appeal the decision in writing to the Vice President of Student Services. The Vice President of Student Services shall be responsible for maintaining a cumulative file of all infractions of academic dishonesty.

Two such offenses shall be sufficient grounds to suspend a student from the College. Thus, should it be verified that a student has committed a second such offense, the Vice President of Student Services, will report the matter to the Committee on Academic Standing and recommend an appropriate action.

Academic Integrity Policy in this Course

The integrity of any academic discipline is essential and requires that those who engage the subject matter do so in an honest and forthright manner. In this environment cheating of any sort is unacceptable, and if uncovered, will be sanctioned. The policy used in this course is akin to that of the College. If a student is found cheating or plagiarizes on written assignments he/she will receive an F for that assignment. A written description of the incident will be forwarded to the Vice President of Student Services to be placed on file. If a second incident occurs the student will fail the course and a second written description concerning the event will be forwarded to the Vice President of Student Services. Any subsequent actions will be pursued by the Vice President and the Committee on Academic Standing.

The implementation of this policy requires that during quizzes or examinations the desk be completely clear of all books, papers, notes, computers and cell phones. All of these items should be placed on the floor under the seat and out of sight. The only item on your desk should be your quiz or exam and a pen or pencil. Students who need to use hand held computers for foreign language translation purposes, or who have to use such items because of special needs should first clear their use with the instructor.

Statement on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Bergen Community College has adopted an internal grievance procedure providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by federal

regulations implementing section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Section 504 and ADA state, in part, that “no qualified individual with a disability, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.”

Complaints should be addressed to the Manager of Training and Compliance, Office of the Executive Vice President, Room A-330, (201)612-5331, who has been designated to coordinate 504/ADA compliance efforts. (BCC Student Handbook, 2003, Page 42).

Sexual Harassment Statement

Bergen Community College is committed to providing its students and employees with an academic and work environment free from sexual harassment or discrimination. Sexual harassment in any form constitutes prohibited, unprofessional and unacceptable conduct, and is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1990, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, established case law and State policies. The policy applies to all persons. Administrators, faculty, staff, and students are all covered. (BCC Catalog, 2007-8, pages 59-60). See catalog for complete details.

Acceptable Use of BCC Technology Resources

Bergen Community College reserves the right to monitor its information technology resources and telecommunications network to protect the integrity of its computing systems, workstations, and lab facilities, and to ensure compliance with all acceptable use and related policies and procedures. To this end, the College reserves the right to inspect any and all computer systems or data that reside on its telecommunications network for violations of any acceptable use and related policies and procedures. (BCC Catalog 2007-8, pages 45-47).

The College’s entire Acceptable Use policy, administrative guidelines, and procedures may be found at <http://www.bergen.edu/acceptableuse>.

Faculty Office Hours: The Purpose and Value

All full-time instructors will reserve a minimum of three (3) hours per week for the sole purpose of meeting with students. The exact hours are to be determined by each individual instructor and posted in the department and if possible next to the instructor’s office. The purpose of this is to assist students who have questions pertaining to class assignments or who are in need of clarification of material or concepts discussed in class. All students are welcome to visit the instructor during the posted hours but if this is not possible due to scheduling conflicts the instructor at the students request will arrange for a time to meet which is mutually convenient. The faculty office hours are valuable because they provide a setting for the instructor and student to interact on a one-to-one basis where they can focus on specific individualized concerns.

STUDENT AND FACULTY SUPPORT SERVICES

Services for Students with Disabilities

A wide variety of services are available to students with documented disabilities through the Office of Special Services (OSS) [Room S-131; (201) 612-5270]. OSS is dedicated to serving students with physical, visual, learning, hearing, and emotional disabilities. If a student has been classified in high school or had a 504 plan, it is highly recommended that the student contact OSS during the college application process. A more detailed explanation can be found on the College web site www.bergen.edu Personal information is kept confidential. Examples of the types of accommodations and services include:

- Extended test taking time
- Organizational strategies
- Tutoring
- Career counseling
- Adaptive equipment computer labs
- Note takers
- Sign language interpreters

The Sidney Silverman Library

The Sidney Silverman Library is an integral part of the College's educational programs. To support the curriculum, the library acquires, organizes, and provides access to a variety of print, media, and electronic resources for individual and classroom use. The library is located on the second and third floors in the L area of the megastructure. It is open whenever classes are in session and on a reduced schedule when classes are not in session. The library is open to all students, faculty, and the general public. (BCC Catalog 2007-8, page 62).

The Library's Web page, <http://www.bergen.edu/library>, is available for up-to-date information regarding library collections and services.

Other Student and Faculty Services

Academic Advising Center [Main Building, Room A-101; (201) 612-5480]
Cooperative Education and Career Development Center [Main Building, Room C-100, (201) 447-7171]
Child Development Center [East Hall]
Counseling Center [Main Building, Room A-118; (201) 447-7211]
Dental Hygiene Clinic [Main Building, Room S-327; (201) 447-7180]
The Distance Learning Office {Main Building, Room C-334; (201)612-5581]
English Language Resource Center [East Hall, Room E-126]
Health Services [Main Building, HS-100; (201) 447-9257]
Math Lab [Main Building, Room C-110]
Multimedia Lab [Main Building, Room S-250]
Online Writing Lab (OWL) <http://www.bergen.edu/owl>
Office of Testing and Assessment [Main Building, Room S-127]
Public Safety [Main Building; Room L-154; (201) 447-7116]
Tutoring Center, a.k.a. Learning Assistance Center [Main Building, Rooms L-125; (201) 447-7489]

Note to Students: This **Course Outline and Calendar** is tentative and subject to change, depending upon the progress of the class.

Week	TOPICS	TEXTBOOK READINGS	STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES
UNIT I			
1	Theoretical Perspectives on Human Sexuality; Thinking Critically about Sexuality; Research in Sexuality; Ethics in Sex Research	Rathus: Ch 1 & Ch 2 (selections)	1, 2, 9, 10
2	Female Sexual Anatomy and Physiology (subtopics include sex organs, functions and hormones; problems/disorders)	Rathus: Ch 3 (selections)	1, 3, 9, 10
3	Male Sexual Anatomy and Physiology (subtopics include sex organs, functions, and hormones; problems/disorders)	Rathus: Ch 4 (selections)	1, 3, 9, 10
4	Sexual Arousal and Response (subtopics include roles of the brain and hormones in sexual behavior; role of the senses in attraction)	Rathus: Ch 5 (selections)	1, 3, 9, 10
UNIT II			
5	Gender Identity and Gender Roles (Part I) (subtopics include influences of “nature” and “nurture”; diversity of gender identity and gender roles across cultures/ethnicities)	Rathus: Ch 6 (selections)	1, 4, 5, 9, 10
6	Gender Identity and Gender Roles (Part II) (subtopics include gender differences in communication, behaviors, attitudes, cognitive styles; transsexualism, transvestism; psychological androgeny)	Rathus: Ch 6 (selections)	1, 4, 5, 9, 10
7	Sexual Orientation (subtopics include theoretical perspectives; heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality)	Rathus: Ch 10 (selections)	1, 4, 9, 10
8	Attraction and Love (subtopics include variables involved in attraction; gender differences in attraction to mates; aspects of romantic relationships; types of love)	Rathus: Ch 7 & Ch 8 (selections)	1, 9, 10
UNIT III			

9	Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence (subtopics include sex education, puberty, teen pregnancy)	Rathus: Ch 13 (selections)	6, 9, 10
10	Sexuality in Adulthood (subtopics include types of and reasons for marriage; diversity in attitudes toward marriage; cohabitation)	Rathus: Ch 14 (selections)	1, 5, 9, 10
11	Contraception (subtopics pros/ cons of different types of contraception; talking with your partner about contraception)	Rathus: Ch 12 (selections)	9, 10
UNIT IV			
12	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion (subtopics include types of and ethical issues regarding assisted reproduction; attitudes re. childbirth and abortion)	Rathus: Ch 11 & Ch 12 (selections)	1, 3, 9, 10
13	Sexually Transmitted Diseases (subtopics include signs and preventative measures)	Rathus: Ch 16 (selections)	7, 9, 10
14	Sexual Coercion (subtopics include childhood sexual abuse, myths re. rape)	Rathus: Ch 18 (selections)	8, 9, 10
15	Review and Summary		1-10

Dates for Exams: To be scheduled by individual instructors

Date for Written Assignments: To be scheduled by individual instructors

