

**University of Guelph – Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition**

**FRHD\*2100 DE: Development of Human Sexuality**

**Summer 2016 COURSE SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Dr. Robin Milhausen ([rmilhaus@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rmilhaus@uoguelph.ca))

Teaching Assistants:

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Final Exam Date and Time: August 11, 2016; 11:30am – 1:30pm

## **Course Description**

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This course is concerned with one of the core aspects of our lives and of our own development. It involves some of the deepest issues in human relationships, as well as addressing defining aspects of ourselves.

This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to the study of human sexuality. You will examine human sexuality from historical, cultural, developmental, behavioural, physiological, psychological, sociological, and relational perspectives. Perhaps most importantly, this course will allow you to reflect upon your own experiences, development, background and value stance with regard to sexuality.

This course is taught from a learner-centered perspective which emphasizes the exploration of meaning and knowledge through personal and interpersonal discovery. This means the course experience will be different for every one of you, as you bring to the content your own beliefs, values and experiences. We hope as you learn the content, you will explore what each topic means to you, and the assignments and online discussions will bring you to a deeper level of understanding about course content and your personal attitudes.

The course material will address a variety of topics in sexuality, therefore, be prepared some topics may challenge your beliefs systems and may create discomfort, whereas other topics may resonate and give voice to your experiences and worldview. You are highly encouraged to engage with the course material using critical self-reflection. If for whatever reason the course material creates emotional distress, you are highly encouraged to seek support from appropriate services. You will find a list of potential resources under "Resources".

## Course Objectives

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1. Develop an appropriate *depth and breadth of understanding* of the field of human sexuality, specifically the following topics: sexual science research methods, sexuality across the lifespan; relationships and communication, gender identity and sexual orientation, sexual attraction and love, sexual behaviors, anatomy and physiology, sexual pleasure and sexual problems, sexual coercion, harassment, aggression and abuse, contraception, STI's, HIV and AIDS, sexual variations, sex therapy, and the commercialization of sex; recognizing the implications of course content and putting it into a broader context;
2. Develop a *global understanding* of issues related to human sexuality, comprehending the variety of political, religious, cultural, biological, social, and historical forces that shape sexuality;
3. Develop a sense of the *historical development* of the field of human sexuality, including the changes in research, perspective and knowledge that have occurred over time;
4. *Understand and critically evaluate methodologies* used in sexuality research;
5. Come to understand that aspects of human sexuality can be *considered, and evaluated in many ways*. It is hoped that students will become more aware, open, and accepting of the diversity in human sexuality; including sexual expression, gender construct, sexual identity, and sexual value systems;
6. Develop *independence of thought*, and the ability to challenge accepted truths about human sexuality and think critically about sexuality as it appears in research and the media;
7. Develop a *love of learning*, or intellectual curiosity, regarding human sexuality, by getting personally involved with course content, and reflecting on the personal experiences that have contributed to your development as a sexual being, and the values you hold related to sexuality;
8. Understand the *personal and practical implications* of course content; becoming informed about issues related to sexuality that will aid in the development of an intelligent, responsible, and fulfilling sexual life;
9. Engage in critical self-reflection.

## Course Materials and Resources

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1. *Textbook (required)* Rathus, S.A., Nevid, J. S., Fichner-Rathus, L., Herold, E. S., & McKay, A. (2015). Human sexuality in a world of diversity (5th Canadian edition). Toronto: Pearson
2. Access to a university-level library

The [University of Guelph Library](#) provides support to distance students.

3. Computer with regular internet access
4. Online Resources

It is highly recommended that you utilize the writing and study resources of the University specifically intended for Distance Education Students (see Resources). Please take the time to explore the other resources listed there as well.

Please ensure that you have reviewed this [Learner Services and Resources](#) link for all relevant and important information as well as the [DE Handbook](#). In particular, ensure that you review the sections that pertain to Assignment Submissions and Returns, Online Quizzes or Tests and Final Examinations.

## Evaluation

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Your performance will be evaluated based on the following:

Assignment	Value
Research Paper (due Week 5)	<b>35%</b>
Discussion/Reflection Assignment (due Week 10)	<b>25%</b>
Final Exam	<b>40%</b>

### Submission of Assignments

All assignments are due on Sunday at 11:59 pm of the week in which they are due

All assignments for this course are to be submitted online using the "Dropbox" function on the course website

## Late Policy

**Late research papers and reflection assignments** will be accepted **up to one week following the due date with a penalty of 10%**. No special permission is needed to use the extra week.

Papers received between one week and two weeks late will receive a 25% penalty. Papers received two weeks after the deadline up to the last day of classes will receive a 50% penalty. Assignments will not be accepted after the last day of classes.

Late penalties will be assessed if an assignment is received even one minute after the posted deadline (11:59pm), so aim to submit your paper early to avoid receiving a penalty, should you encounter technical difficulties.

## Regrading Requests and Grade Issues

If you have any concerns about a grade you receive, please communicate this in writing to the course instructor **within 1 week of your grade being posted**. Indicate clearly where you think marks were deducted that shouldn't have been. Requests for regrades made after one week following the grade being posted will not be considered. If you have specific questions about your grading, contact your TA for further information.

## Return of Marked Assignments

Unofficial assignment marks will be available in the Grade section of the course website. Your two assignments will be marked and returned electronically via the course website.

## **Discussion/Reflection Assignment (25%)**

### **Due Sunday, Week 10 @ 11:59 pm**

This is a two-part assignment. The first part is your **mandatory** participation in your study groups in discussions one through six. The second part is a written reflection discussing various elements related to your learning experience within each discussion period as well as the overall experience. You will be unable to complete the written portion of this assignment if you have **not** participated in the assigned discussions.

The goal for this assignment is to reflect on your learning and contributions about a topic discussed during the discussion period.

You are **required** to engage in discussion with other group members during the period. Weekly discussions. A minimum of 4 postings, on four different days, during each of the discussion periods is required. You are required to participate in 4 of the 6 discussions,

however, you are welcome to participate in all 6. Use the questions posed as guidelines for your discussion.

**Length:** 3-4 pages, double-spaced (deductions will not be taken if the paper is within 4 lines of the 3-4 page limit)

## **Research Paper (35%)**

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**Due Sunday, Week 5 @ 11:59 pm**

This paper is a "research based paper" requiring your use of academic journals found through the University library. Each person prepares an individual and independent paper **based on four to six peer reviewed, primary source journal articles.**

### Assignment Guidelines

- The paper will be *five double-spaced pages* (not including title page or references).
- Use proper grammar and follow appropriate APA style guidelines (APA Style 6th Edition).
- You must use four to six recent (no more, no less) **primary source** academic research journal articles published within the last ten years. The course text book **may** be used within the research paper only to support your critical evaluation of the research papers – only content from Chapter 2 may be used. You may **not** use websites, books, dissertations or theses.
- Demonstrate clear understanding and mastery of the subject gained through reading, research, reflection and critical thinking.
- Use and synthesize the academic literature associated with the subject in a clear and concise manner.
- Integrate research findings with general principles of human relationships.
- Critically evaluate your sources in terms of methods and findings (outcomes) (refer to Chapter 2 of the textbook which focuses on Research Methodology).

## **Final Examination (40%)**

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The final examination is a 2-hour in-person proctored exam.

With the exception of cases of emergency or unforeseen circumstances, students must inform course instructors of the need for accommodation in testing or examination as early as possible (preferably in the first two weeks of the semester).

Individual requests, made to the instructor, for examinations to be written on an alternate date cannot be accommodated. Students are expected to write the exam on the date scheduled. Students unable to write the exam on date scheduled by the university will need to apply to write an exam during the deferred exam period - [Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures; Deferred Privileges](#)

Unless you return a completed *Final Examination Information Sheet*, we will assume that you will come to the University of Guelph to write your final examination.

For those who must write at an off-campus location you must complete the *Final Examination Information Sheet*.

## **How This Course Is Organized**

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This 12-week course is organized into the following units:

1. Introduction and using Theory and Research to Understand Sexuality
2. Female and Male Anatomy and Sexuality Across the Lifespan
3. Sexual Arousal and Response and Sexual Dysfunction
4. Attraction and Love
5. Relationships, Intimacy and Communication
6. Sexual Orientation
7. Gender Identity and Gender Roles
8. Sexual Behaviour and Fantasies
9. Sexual Coercion and Commercialization of Sex
10. Contraception and Abortion, STI's, HIV, and AIDS
11. Sexual Health Education
12. Review

## **SPECIAL ALERT: The Nature of Visuals**

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Given the focus of this course on human sexuality, some of the visuals that will appear on your screen from time to time during Web searches could be found to be objectionable, if not downright sexually harassing, by a neighbor sitting beside you at the library or at a coffee shop.

For this reason, it is clearly desirable that you should have a personal or private space in which to conduct at least some of your internet work.

If, however, you are going to be dependent for your internet access on public spaces like the library or a coffee shop, you will need to give special attention to how you will handle your personal responsibility not to offend or sexually harass others through the material appearing on your publicly visible screen.

## **Undergraduate Policies and Resources**

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As a student of the University of Guelph, it is important for you to understand your rights and responsibilities and the academic rules and regulations that you must abide by.

If you are a registered **University of Guelph Degree Student**, consult the [Undergraduate Calendar](#) for the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for current and previous academic years.

If you are an **Open Learning Program Student**, consult the [Open Learning Program Calendar](#) for information about University of Guelph administrative policies, procedures and services.

### Email Communication

#### **University of Guelph Degree Students**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their uoguelph.ca e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

#### **Open Learning Program Students**

Check your email account (the account you provided upon registration) regularly for important communications, as this is the primary conduit by which the Open Learning and Educational Support will notify you of events, deadlines, announcements or any other official information.

## When You Cannot Meet Course Requirements

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise your course instructor **in writing**, with your name, ID number and email contact.

## Copies of Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

## Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment.

### **University of Guelph Degree Students**

Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [SAS](#) or [visit the SAS website](#).

### **Open Learning Program Students**

If you are an Open Learning program student who requires academic accommodation, please [contact the Academic Assistant to the Director](#). Please ensure that you contact us before the end of the first week of your course (every semester) in order to avoid any delays in support. Documentation from a health professional is required for all academic

## Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to



remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## Copyright Notice

All content within this course is copyright protected. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters and articles) have either been licensed for use in this course, or have been copied under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

The fair dealing exemption in Canada's Copyright Act permits students to reproduce short excerpts from copyright-protected materials for purposes such as research, education, private study, criticism and review, with proper attribution. Any other copying, communicating, or distribution of any content provided in this course, except as permitted by law, may be an infringement of copyright if done without proper license or the consent of the copyright owner. Examples of infringing uses of copyrighted works would include uploading materials to a commercial third party web site, or making paper or electronic reproductions of all, or a substantial part, of works such as textbooks for commercial purposes.

Students who upload to CourseLink copyrighted materials such as book chapters, journal articles, or materials taken from the Internet, must ensure that they comply with Canadian Copyright law or with the terms of the University's electronic resource licenses.

For more information about students' rights and obligations with respect to copyrighted works, see [Fair Dealing Guidance for Students](#).

## Statement of Students' Academic Responsibilities

Your success as a student depends above all on your own response to the opportunities and responsibilities that the university environment provides. The University of Guelph is committed to supporting you in your intellectual development and responding to your individual needs. To this end, a broad network of advising, counselling, and support services is provided to assist you in meeting your personal and academic goals.

For more information on your responsibilities as a student, see [Statement of Students' Academic Responsibilities](#).