

FRHD*4200 01 - Issues in Human Sexuality

Winter 2026 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.5

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

Calendar Description

An advanced analysis of sexual development. Specific attention will be given to sexual problems, and the concepts, methods and issues associated with sex education and counselling.

Prerequisite(s): 13.00 credits including FRHD*2100

Restriction(s): Restricted to students in BASc.

Department(s): Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition

Course Description

An advanced analysis of sexual development. Specific attention will be given to sexual problems, and the concepts, methods and issues associated with sex education and counselling.

Instructor Notes: This 400-level Sexuality course is an issues-based course. This means that we will not cover the breadth of the field of sexuality, rather, we will examine key issues in sexuality that are current, topical, and controversial. Topics have been chosen to stimulate your thinking about sexuality and challenge your beliefs, values, and attitudes. It is hoped you will approach every class with an open mind, and an attitude of respect and tolerance for those who may think differently than you do and live their lives differently than you do.

I intend for this course to be exciting, thought- provoking, and personally meaningful. In this course, we will explore and address sensitive and/or controversial sexual issues such as sexual abuse, sexual orientation, sexual difficulties, and variations of sexual expression to name a few. If any of these topics might create personal, unmanageable distress on an intellectual and/or emotional level, it is advised that students not enroll in this course at this time. It is also recommended, if any of the presenting topics create some concern for students, that students seek support through Counselling Services, Phone (519) 824-4120 ext. 53244. Please check in with yourself as you are in the best position to decide whether this course is appropriate at this time.

Instructor Information

Dr. Deanna Behnke-Cook PhD

Email: dbehnkec@uoguelph.ca

Office location: TBA

Winter 2026 Office Hours: Appointments on Demand

Required Readings:

Human Sexuality in a Diverse Society by McNicols and Numer. TopHatmonocle Corp. 2022
Join Code is 754053 (This is identified as **Reader** in the Teaching and Learnings Schedule)

This is a highly interactive e-reader co-authored by Dr. Matthew Numer (Professor of Health Promotion in the School of Health and Human Performance/Gender and Women's Studies, Dalhousie University) and Dr. Nicole McNicols, (Department of Psychology, University of Washington).

This reader focusses on contemporary issues and topics relevant in both Canada and the US.

The cost of the E-Text is \$116.00.

We will be using Top Hat to access the digital textbook: if you already have a Top Hat account, you can go to (<https://app-ca.tophat.com/e/754053>) to be taken directly to our course digital textbook.

If you are new to Top Hat:

Go to <https://app.tophat.com/register/student>

Search for our course textbook with the following join code: 754053

For more information about the interactive features in the textbook, click here: <https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Using-Your-Textbook>

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com) or through the in-app support button. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.

Any additional or supplemental readings will be made available via our Counselink.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Week	Topics	Assigned Readings	Due Dates
Jan 6 th & 8 th	Introduction to the Course: The Purpose of Sex Education.. and Who gets to decide...	Module 1: Human Sexuality in a Diverse Society (Reader)	Readings for Class
January 13 th &15 th	Theoretical Approaches to Sexuality	Module 2: Scientific Theory, Psychoanalytic Perspective, Behaviourist, Cognitive, Sociological Perspectives, Feminist Perspective and more (Reader)	Readings for Class
January 20 th & 22 nd	Sex Research	Module 3: Methods, Research Designs, Ethics, Prominent Figures in Research and Surveys (Reader)	Readings for Class
January 27 th & 29 th	Sex and Gender	Module 6: Stages, Development, Differences, Current Trends concerning Intersex Children, Biological Perspective, Social Constructionist View, Social Learning Perspective, Trans People and Sports and more (Reader)	Readings for Class Quiz #1 on January 29 th via the Quizzes tool

February 3 rd & 5 th	Sexual Behaviour	Module 9: Sex and Happiness, Sex Recession, Contemporary Trends in Sexual Behaviour, Sex and (Dis)Ability (Reader)	Readings for Class
February 10 th & 12 th	Sexual Relationships	Module 10: The Purpose of Sex and why it matters (Evolutionary and Sociological Perspectives) Hookups, On-line Dating, Sociosexuality, Emotional Consequences, Love, Love Stories, Desire over Time, Social Exchange Theory, Equity Theory (Reader)	Readings for Class Take Home Paper due in Dropbox February 12 th
February 17 th & 19 th	No Classes	Winter Break	None
February 24 th & 26 th	Sexual Development: Childhood - Adolescence	Module 14: Development over Years; Childhood, Preadolescence, Adolescence, Social Influences on Teen Sexual Behaviour, Social Media, Pornography (Reader)	Readings for Class Quiz #2 on February 26 th via the Quizzes tool
March 3 rd & 5 th	Sexual Development from Adulthood- Old Age	Module 15: Functions and Forms of Marriage, Evolutions and Trends in Marriage, Polyamory, Households, Divorce, Sexuality and Aging (Reader)	Readings for Class
March 10 th & 12 th	Movie Club	Group Presentations	No assigned readings
March 17 th & 19 th	Movie Club	Group Presentations	No assigned readings Personal Reflection due March 19 th via Dropbox
March 24 th & 26 th	Movie Club	Group Presentations	No assigned readings Quiz #3 on March 26 th via the Quizzes tool
March 31 st & April 2 nd	Movie Club and Course Wrap	Group Presentations	No assigned readings

Assessment Breakdown

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Movie Club Presentation	25%	Varies Throughout
Take-Home Exam	20%	February 12 th in Dropbox
On-Line Quiz 1	15%	January 29 th via Quizzes tool
On-line Quiz 2	15%	February 26 th via Quizzes tool
On-Line Quiz 3	15%	March 26 th via Quizzes tool
Personal Reflection	10%	March 19 th in Dropbox

Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Winter 2026 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: April 6, 2026. After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

Course Standard Statements

Land Acknowledgement

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Course Website

There is a course website here (<http://courselink.uoguelph.ca>). All components of this course will be housed on the CourseLink (<http://courselink.uoguelph.ca>) site including this course outline, assignments, and links to further resources. Your assignments will be submitted through the Dropbox function. Marks and feedback will also be released on the site. Please familiarize yourself with this website as soon as possible and visit it regularly throughout the semester.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted up to 5 days following the due date and will receive a penalty of 10% per day EXCEPT under grounds for compassionate consideration. Assignments submitted more than one week late without documented grounds will receive a grade of zero. If you are going to hand an assignment in late, you must contact your course instructor to inform them when you will be submitting your assignment.

Receipt of Grades

After you receive a grade on CourseLink, please review your feedback. Any inquiry or dispute over the grade must be made within two weeks from the date they are posted. If you fail to protest any grade during this time limit, changes to the grade will not be considered. Grades will be based on the Grading Procedures outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Turnitin Software

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.

CSAHS Academic Misconduct Policy

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar. 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.

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.

Instructors shall not determine if academic misconduct has occurred. This is up to the Associate Dean Academic's office. Instructors shall not assign a grade of zero even if they believe that the student has committed some form of academic misconduct (e.g., copied material from a website like CourseHero) on an assignment or exam.

Instructors can determine if a student has poorly paraphrased and/or improperly cited material and can provide a grade accordingly as long as this is clearly identified as part of the assessment criteria via a rubric or other assessment tools.

Standard Statements for Undergraduate Courses

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Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas/>)

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>).

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

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

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulationsprocedures/dropping-courses/>).

Email Communication

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

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigators/>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year/>). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and

procedures for Academic Consideration. (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulationsprocedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>)