

HUMAN SEXUALITY

Argosy University – Course Syllabus

Spring 2012

Class: PC6200 Human Sexuality
Program: M.A. - Counseling Psychology
Instructor: Heather Martarella, Psy.D.
Email: hmartarella@argosy.edu (preferred)
Telephone: 510-217-4739
Format: Weekly in class sessions for 5 weeks
Class Meets: Thursdays 9:30-12:30 on 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, and 2/9

Required Text:

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text Revision: DSM-IV-TR
Publisher: American Psychiatric Association, 2000
ISBN: 0890420246 (hardcover) or 0890420254 (softcover)

Course Description:

Human Sexuality is a basic course providing an introduction to a wide variety of sexual concerns, interests, and issues, which present in therapy. Portions of sexually explicit videos may be shown. Topics to be either addressed in the readings and/or discussed include: basic sexual anatomy and physiology; sexual orientation, sexuality and aging, gender and sexual diversity issues, sex and the disabled, STDs and safe sex, the impact of prescription and recreational drugs on sexuality, atypical, problematic, and illegal sexual behavior.

Course Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the basics of Human Sexuality and to increase their awareness of how issues of sexuality arise and are addressed in clinical settings.

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Ψ Know basic factual sex information: anatomy and physiology of sex, STDs and their prevention, safe sex, and how to access additional resources.
- Ψ Identify how the therapist's attitudes, biases, lack of information in sexual matters may impact therapy.
- Ψ Identify when to refer to a therapist more skilled or comfortable with a particular sexual issue or sexual orientation or a sex positive medical professional: urologists; gynecologists; endocrinologists; proctologists; internists.
- Ψ Discuss issues of the right to responsible sexual expression: (sex and the disabled, sex and aging, unusual consensual sexual interests, etc.)
- Ψ Understand the crucial role of therapist-as-educator and the importance of providing clients with accurate information and helpful resources.
- Ψ Exercise caution about assuming that a sexual problem is psychological.

Final Date to Drop the Class:

To receive a “W” grade a student must officially drop this class by the date listed below that corresponds to this course’s term and length (indicated by bold type). Students may not withdraw from this course after this date. If a student chooses to discontinue course work after the final drop date, the student may receive an “F” grade for the course.

Spring First Session: February 13, 2012

Program Outcomes: Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology:**Program Outcome One: Professional Practice****Competency 1: Assessment and Skills**

Formulate assessments of psychological functioning and apply therapeutic intervention strategies when working with individuals, couples, families, and groups, toward the development of optimal mental health.

Competency 2: Theory

Interpret and apply psychological and developmental theories to therapeutic intervention strategies.

Competency 3: Writing

Employ media and technology when presenting counseling information orally and in writing, so that the presentation is concise, organized, well supported, professional, and appropriate to the audience.

Program Outcome Two: Research

Competency 1: Analyze research, and translate research findings for improvement of counseling services using statistics and program evaluation methods.

Program Outcome Three: Interpersonal Effectiveness and Professional Development

Competency 1: Students will develop positive relationship skills that promote personal and professional development via effective communication, encouragement, empathy, respect for others, self-awareness, and other-awareness.

- a. Apply active listening communication skills in interpersonal scenarios to establish empathetic relationships.
- b. Analyze the importance of effective nonverbal communication skills in interpersonal relationships.
- c. Solicit and utilize feedback to build and maintain interpersonal relationships.

Program Outcome Four: Ethics

Competency 1: Using the American Counseling Association’s Standards of Practice /or the American Psychological Association’s Ethical Code, as well as, and local state law as it applies to the behavior of mental health professionals, identify ethical dilemmas and apply ethical decision making strategies while engaging in professional activities.

Program Outcome Five: Diversity**Competency 1: Multicultural Skills**

Provide assessment, counseling, and consultation services in work with clients by applying

psychological and multicultural theories and research to diverse populations, and modifying interventions as needed to work effectively with diverse clients.

Competency 2: Multicultural Awareness

Examine personal values and biases, reflect on beliefs, and understand how they impact work with clients and interpersonal relationships with other students and faculty.

Competency 3: Multicultural Knowledge

Identify and assess the complexity and multidimensionality of cultural/diversity theories and issues in the field of counseling psychology while working with clients and interpersonal relationships with other students and faculty.

Reading and Lecture Schedule:

1/12/12	Perspectives on Sexuality
1/19/12	Male & Female Sexual Arousal and Response DSM-IV-TR Diagnoses pg 535-582 Sexual Orientation - LGBTQI
1/26/12	Sexuality During Childhood and Adolescence Sexuality and the Adult Years Sexuality & Physical Disability Sexuality & Mental Illness (psychopharmacology)
2/2/12	Sexually Transmitted Diseases Love and Communication in Intimate Relationships Conceiving Children: Process and Choice Sexual Coercion/Rape/Sexual Abuse
2/9/12	Transgender/Transsexual FINAL EXAM

Reflection Papers:

Each student will complete 4 reflection papers. The papers will be approximately 1-2 pages in length. This assignment will be explained further during the first class.

Class Participation & Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Unless special arrangements are made ahead of time with the instructor, the student’s final grade will be negatively impacted by any absences. Students will earn up to 10% per class for attending and participating in a meaningful way during the five class meetings. School policy dictates minimal attendance required to earn credit for any class. Missing more than 3 hours of this 15 hour course will equal a failed course and the student will receive an “F” for the course and need to retake it.

Final Exam:

The exam may include multiple choice questions and brief essay questions.

Grades will be based on the following: Participation & Attendance: 50% 4 Reflection Papers: 20%	Grading: 93-100 = A
	90-92 = A- 87-89 = B+ 83-86 = B

Final Exam: 30%	80-82 = B- 77-79 = C+ 73-76 = C 70-72 = C- 69 and below = F
-----------------	---

Criteria for Class Participation

Grade	
A = 90+	Student actively participated in discussions in >80% of class sessions; nearly all comments were thought provoking and incorporated material from the assigned readings
B = 80 – 89	Student actively participated in discussions in >80% of class sessions; most of the comments were thought provoking and incorporated material from the assigned readings
C = 70 – 79	Student participated in discussions in >70% of class sessions; comments/questions demonstrate a surface level understanding of course topics
F = <70	Student participated in <70% of class sessions; comments/questions did not demonstrate an understanding of course topics, or student did not participate in class discussions.

Library

All resources in Argosy University’s online collection are available through the Internet. Students can access the online collection by logging into the student portal and clicking on the library link. Library Resources: Argosy University’s core online collection features over **48,889 full-text journals and 23,000 electronic books** and other content covering all academic subject areas including Business & Economics, Career & General Education, Computers, Engineering & Applied Science, Humanities, Science, Medicine & Allied Health, and Social & Behavior Sciences. Many titles are directly accessible through the Online Public Access Catalog at <http://library.argosy.edu>.

In addition to online resources, Argosy University’s onsite collections contain a wealth of subject-specific research materials searchable in the Online Public Access Catalog. Catalog searching is easily limited to individual campus collections. Alternatively, students can search combined collections of all Argosy University Libraries.

Academic Policies

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism: In an effort to foster a spirit of honesty and integrity during the learning process, Argosy University requires that the submission of all course assignments represent the original work produced by that student. All sources must be documented through normal scholarly references/citations and all work must be submitted using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition (2009)*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association (APA) format. Please refer to Appendix A in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition* for thesis and paper format. Students are encouraged to purchase this manual (required in some courses) and become

familiar with its content as well as consult the Argosy University catalog for further information regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

Scholarly writing: The faculty at Argosy University is dedicated to providing a learning environment that supports scholarly and ethical writing, free from academic dishonesty and plagiarism. This includes the proper and appropriate referencing of all sources. You may be asked to submit your course assignments through “Turnitin,” (www.turnitin.com), an online resource established to help educators develop writing/research skills and detect potential cases of academic dishonesty. Turnitin compares submitted papers to billions of pages of content and provides a comparison report to your instructor. This comparison detects papers that share common information and duplicative language.

Americans with Disabilities Act Policy

It is the policy of Argosy University to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a student with disabilities needs accommodations, the student must notify the Director of Student Services. Procedures for documenting student disability and the development of reasonable accommodations will be provided to the student upon request.

Students will be notified by the Director of Student Services when each request for accommodation is approved or denied in writing via a designated form. To receive accommodation in class, it is the student’s responsibility to present the form (at his or her discretion) to the instructor. In an effort to protect student privacy, the Department of Student Services will not discuss the accommodation needs of any student with instructors. Faculty may not make accommodations for individuals who have not been approved in this manner.

The Argosy University Statement Regarding Diversity

Argosy University prepares students to serve populations with diverse social, ethnic, economic, and educational experiences. Both the academic and training curricula are designed to provide an environment in which students can develop the skills and attitudes essential to working with people from a wide range of backgrounds.

Instructional Contact Hours/Credit

Students can expect 15 hours of instructional engagement for every 1 semester credit hour of a course. Instructional engagement activities include lectures, presentations, discussions, group-work, and other activities that would normally occur during class time. Instructional engagement activities may occur in a face-to-face meeting, or in the eclassroom.

In addition to instructional engagement, students can expect to complete 30 hours of outside work for every 1 semester credit hour of a course. Outside work includes preparing for and completing readings and assignments. Such outside work includes, but is not limited to, all research associated with completing assignments, work with others to complete a group project, participation in tutorials, labs, simulations and other electronic activities that are not a part of the instructional engagement, as well as any activities related to preparation for instructional engagement.

At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph above shall be applied for other academic activities as established by the institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.