Instructor: Amy Houlihan, Ph.D.  
E-mail: amy.houlihan@tamucc.edu  
Class location: Online  
Phone: 361-825-2971  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday  
11:00-12:00 or by appointment  
Office: Bay Hall 311

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will provide an overview of the broad field of human sexuality. Topics will be covered from various perspectives – biological, sociological, anthropological, etc., but will focus primarily on the psychological perspective. Among other topics, we will examine sexual anatomy and physiological response, love and sexual relationships, gender identity and gender roles, sexual orientation, and sexual health issues. The goal is for each student to learn factual, scientifically-based information that will provoke thought and contribute to his/her own decision-making on sexual issues outside of the classroom.

After this course you should be able to…

- identify and explain the anatomy and physiology of the male and female reproductive systems and health issues that affect each system.
- describe sexual development throughout the lifespan.
- describe the identities, characteristics, and sexual behaviors that comprise the range of sexual orientation.
- identify and describe diversity in biological sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, and gender roles.
- understand and evaluate some of the complex political, media-related, legal, and ethical issues relating to human sexuality.
- use critical thinking to evaluate popular media and research studies regarding human sexuality.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Blackboard: This course is entirely online and will use the Blackboard platform. You are expected to have access to laptop or tablet as well as reliable internet access which enables you to view electronic resources, participate in discussions, and complete online assignments and exams. Blackboard will also be used for posting important class announcements and documents, such as assignment instructions. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly to ensure completion of all required coursework. If you have technical difficulties with Blackboard, please contact the IT Help Desk, (361) 825-2692.


You will need to purchase the access card to register with Revel, where you will have access to the e-text. (If you prefer to use print version of the text, you may purchase that separately, but
you will still need to purchase Revel in order to complete class assignments). Instructions for setting up your Revel course are posted on Blackboard under the Revel tab.

**Assignments:** There will be one assignment that corresponds to the material covered in each weekly unit (except for the last week, which is a shorter week), for a total of four assignments. Instructions for each assignment will be posted on Blackboard in the unit content folder and will be due on the dates specified on the course calendar.

**Discussion:** Each week, there will be a discussion prompt posted on the Blackboard discussion board. Each student is expected to submit one original post and to respond to at least two other students’ posts. Some of the discussion prompts will require you to first watch a video clip (links will be provided on Blackboard) or complete some library-based research. Please refer to the Discussion Forum Guidelines (under the Syllabus & Information tab in Blackboard) for more details. Due dates for the discussion posts are on the course calendar.

**Revel Quizzes:** Chapter summary quizzes on Revel will be assigned weekly (see course calendar for due dates). The purpose of these quizzes is to help you gauge your understanding of the material as you prepare for the exams. Thus, these quizzes should be completed after you have read the chapters, reviewed the corresponding PowerPoint slides, and completed the assignments for the week.

**Exams:** There will be five non-cumulative exams for this course given on the dates specified on the course calendar. Exams will consist of up to 50 multiple choice questions over the material from the corresponding week (see course calendar). Please expect that any material covered in the assigned chapters, assignments, and class discussions may be included on the exams.

All students are required to use the Respondus Lockdown Browser to access exams in this course. Students may also be required to utilize Respondus Monitor for some or all of the course exams. This program uses a webcam and video technology to prevent cheating during online exams. Use of the Monitor feature requires a small fee to utilize. **Students are responsible for downloading the program, ensuring appropriate equipment to utilize this service, and paying any associated fees prior to the testing window.**

More information about accessing online tests and the testing policies for the course are provided on Blackboard under the Syllabus & Information tab.

**GRADING**

Each component of the course will be worth the following number of points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (4 at 75 points each)</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion (5 at 50 points each)</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revel Quizzes (14 at 10 points each)</td>
<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams (5 at 100 points each)</td>
<td>500</td>
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Final letter grades will be assigned based on the percentage of points you earned out of the 1190 total possible points.

- 1071 (or more) points = 90% = A
- 952-1070 points = 80-89% = B
- 833-1069 points = 70-79% = C
- 714-832 points = 60-69% = D
- 713 (or fewer) points = < 59% = F

**EXPECTATIONS**

This is a course that tends to raise sensitive issues, and students are encouraged to discuss their beliefs, experiences, backgrounds, etc. Therefore, it is extremely important that everyone is treated with respect in this class. Please help me in creating a comfortable learning environment by treating everyone, regardless of perspective or experience, courteously. During discussions, feel free to express your disagreement with ideas, but refrain from criticizing or belittling anyone with whom you disagree. If you ever feel like you are not being treated with respect in this class, please let me know.

In general, late work in this class will not be accepted. If an emergency arises that prevents you from completing an assignment, discussion post, or exam, you must notify me (either by email or phone) within 24 hours of the missed assignment/exam. At my discretion, I will arrange with you an alternate time for you to take an exam or extend an assignment deadline for you. You may be asked to provide documentation, such as a doctor's note, to verify the reason for your missed assignment/exam.

In addition to checking Blackboard for announcements and information, you are expected to check your Islander email account on a regular basis. This is the fastest and most efficient way for me to disseminate information to the class.

**CONTACTING ME**

I am committed to making myself available to answer questions, discuss concerns, and to provide/accept feedback concerning the course. I check my email frequently (less often during nights and weekends) and will nearly always respond to you within 24 hours. I also encourage you to visit during my office hours or to set up alternative meeting times with me. Remember that should you begin to struggle in this course, it is always better to talk to me about it sooner rather than later; if you wait until the very end of the semester there is usually little I can do to help you.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

All forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. This includes, but is not limited to: handing in another's work as your own, using unauthorized materials on an exam, collaborating with others on an exam, copying another’s answers for an exam, turning in the same papers for two different classes, purchasing or otherwise obtaining papers written by another and turning that work in as your own. You are expected to avoid plagiarism (whether intentional or unintentional) by carefully citing your sources in your research paper. Any information used in your assignments that is not your own idea should be appropriately referenced using APA style (seek help if you do not know how to reference your sources; I can help you, and there are other resources available on campus). If academic dishonesty occurs, you will receive a zero on the assignment, and the incident will be reported as described in the TAMUCC student code of conduct.
If for any reason, I suspect your work is not your own or that you have not adhered to the academic integrity guidelines in completing assignments or exams, I reserve the right as your instructor to challenge an exam or assignment grade. In the case of suspected problems, I will ask the student to meet with me to complete a random selection of oral exam questions as an indicator of his/her knowledge of the material. If the student is unable or unwilling to complete the requested questions, a grade of “0” for the exam/assignment in question will be given and report of academic dishonesty will be submitted.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DROPPING THE CLASS
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class; however, it is sometimes in a student’s best interest to do so. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. **Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form.** Simply no longer attending and participating in the class will NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. July 23 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the
process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website: [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**ACADEMIC CONTINUITY**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane, in which classes cannot be held on the TAMUCC campus, this course will continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., email, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

This calendar is tentative. If changes occur, a revised version will be re-posted on Blackboard. All assignments (including discussion posts and quizzes) are due by 11:59pm on the assigned day, unless otherwise indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Research Methods, Sexual Anatomy, &amp; Sexual Response</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Original discussion post: Tue 7/3 Response posts: Wed 7/4 Assignment: Thur 7/5 Revel quizzes: Fri 7/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon July 2 – Fri July 6</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Sexual Attraction, Sexual Behavior, &amp; Paraphilic Disorders</td>
<td>4, 6, 14</td>
<td>Exam 1 (Ch 1, 2, 3): Mon 7/9 Original discussion post: Tue 7/10 Response posts: Wed 7/11 Assignment: Thur 7/12 Revel quizzes: Fri 7/13</td>
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<td>Mon July 9 – Fri July 13</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Gender, Sexual Orientation, &amp; Sexual Development</td>
<td>10, 11, 12</td>
<td>Exam 2 (Ch 4, 6, 14): Mon 7/16 Original discussion post: Tue 7/17 Response posts: Wed 7/18 Assignment: Thur 7/19 Revel quizzes: Fri 7/20</td>
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<td>Mon July 16 – Fri July 20</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Pregnancy, Contraception, &amp; Sexually Transmitted Infections</td>
<td>9, 5, 8</td>
<td>Exam 3 (Ch 10, 11, 12): Mon 7/23 Original discussion post: Tue 7/24 Response posts: Wed 7/25 Assignment: Thur 7/26 Revel quizzes: Fri 7/27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon July 23 – Fri July 27</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Sexual Aggression, Pornography, &amp; Prostitution</td>
<td>13, 15</td>
<td>Exam 4 (Ch 9, 5, 8): Mon 7/30 Original discussion post: Tue 7/31 Response posts: Wed 8/1 Revel quizzes: Thur 8/2 Exam 5 (Ch 13, 15): Fri 8/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon July 30 – Fri Aug 3</td>
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