

# PSCH 3312: Human Sexuality

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## Course Description

This course provides an overview of human sexuality from the perspective of academic psychology. Biological, social, developmental, interpersonal, and emotional aspects of the subject are covered in detail.

## Learning Objectives

The objectives of this course are to:

- Achieve an understanding of the important topic areas of inquiry in the psychology of human sexuality.
- Survey important topics in such a way as to enhance the utility of this psychological knowledge in daily life.
- Demonstrate the mastery of material covered in the course through successful completion of the weekly exams, final exam, and other assignments.
- Utilize the Internet as a tool in academic research and collaboration.

## Instructor

The instructor for this course is Dr. Tiffany Culver.

## Contacting the Professor

The most effective way to contact the instructor is by email at [tculver@sulross.edu](mailto:tculver@sulross.edu). On weekdays, replies to serious emails will usually be within 24 hours. Emails sent over a weekend will usually be responded to on the following Monday. To protect student privacy, send from your Sul Ross or Blackboard-registered email account. Email etiquette requires that you sign your name in every email you send and that you specify the particular course or issue to which you are referring. Do not open your message by saying "Hey." Do not expect to get a response unless you extend this courtesy.

I am also reachable by my office phone; feel free to leave a voicemail. However, I do not use text messaging at all, so text messages will not be read or replied to.

## WEBCHAT (ONLINE VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS)

On your phone/ipad

1. If you have "apps" on your phone, please search for "Wechat"
2. Install on your phone. It is free
3. Sign up
4. Go to "contracts" and click on the +
5. Put in drtiffanyculver
6. This will send me a message so I can accept you.
7. During my virtual office hours, login to "Webchat" on your phone and we can either "chat" or "video conference."

## REMIND101

To receive text messages (reminders) from me, please text the following message to me at (830)275-4910. Look below to determine what class you are in and what to write in the text.

Office Hours

My office is located in Uvalde A106. However, I will have some office hours in Uvalde and online. If these office hours, do not work for you please email me to set up an appointment.

MW 1:45-3:15 p.m.

F 1:00-3:00 p.m.


## ONLINE

MWF 3:30-5:30 p.m. (WeChat)

Course MaterialsRequired Texts

- *Our Sexuality (11<sup>th</sup> edition) Crooks*

Bargains on textbooks are often found on the websites of Internet booksellers. Amazon.com and other major online vendors accept major credit cards, checks, and money orders.

 Illegal copies of textbooks are not allowed at any time in the testing labs.

AssignmentsI. Weekly Online Participation

Students will participate in a series of short, weekly discussions on Blackboard. New topics will be posted each week. All posting should be thoughtful and literate.

Thoughtful contributions will receive credit; lame contributions will not. Below is an example of a credited versus an un-credited contribution on the topic of "Love and Friendship":

## Example of a Thoughtful Contribution - Credited:

I really enjoyed this chapter because it made a lot of my own "theories" make sense. One topic that really interested me was people marrying for money instead of love. My sister is the type of person that would marry for money instead of love and that is something that I never understood. She recently moved to California and has totally adopted a typical California attitude. Along with this, she has surprised the entire family. She is a very pretty girl, 20 years old and dating a man who is 32, very rich, but very unattractive. He is controlling and manipulative and is constantly making her change her ways of life. But he takes her to very expensive restaurants and buys her very expensive things and she thinks that makes it all better. She

thinks he is so "cool" because he drives a \$70,000 car. She even admits that she is only with him for his money. I have never understood how someone could live so unhappily just because they want to be rich. What upsets me the most is that we weren't brought up that way, and I don't understand where she got it from.

Example of a Lame Contribution – No Credit Awarded:

I don't know. I don't think I believe in love because people just want to take advantage of you and stuff. I get tired of it.

Students should **answer each discussion question and respond to at least 2 classmates.**

II. Exams

There will be four multiple choice exams in this course. They will each have 30 multiple choice questions. You will have 45 minutes to complete the exams. If you go over the 45 minutes, you will have points deducted from your score. For each minute you go over the allotted time, you will have 6.6 points deducted (or 2 test questions missed). Any student who goes who goes over 5 minutes past the allotted time will receive a "0" on the exam.

There will be **no "resets"** on the exams. However, there will be one test grade dropped in the course. Therefore, if you have a bboard issue you will use the drop grade for this exam. Do NOT assume you will not have a bboard issue and just pick a test to skip!!! In other words, pretend there is no drop grade and do your best on all the exams.

III. The Final Exam

The final exam will cover all of the material in the course. The final exam is mandatory. The exam will be timed.

<u>Course Schedule</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Sept 12	Exam 1 (chap. 1, 2)
Oct 24	Exam 2 (chap. 5, 6)
Nov 7	Exam 3 (chap. 7, 8, 9)
Dec 5	Exam 4 (ch. 14, 15, 16)
Dec 9	Final Exam (All Chapters)

Grading

The Calculation of Grades

Grades for each assignment, and for the course itself, are calculated as follows:  
 A: 90% or above; B: 80%-89%; C: 70%-79%; D: 60%-69%; F: 0%-59%.

Discussions:	50 points (10 points per discussion question)
Exam 1:	100 points
Exam 2:	100 points
Exam 3:	100 points
Exam 4:	100 points
Final Exam:	100 points

Total: 450 points (after dropping one test grade worth 100 points)

The times and dates when assignments are due and when evaluations are given will not be altered to fit your schedule. You will be expected to alter your schedule to fit class responsibilities.

In the interest of more thorough coverage of certain topics, the professor may decide to omit some of the assigned material from coverage on any particular exam. You are responsible to learn of any announced omissions.

#### The Interpretation of Final Grades

The rigor of grading varies somewhat from course to course, from instructor to instructor, from discipline to discipline, and from school to school. It is important to understand that the level of effort needed to achieve a particular grade in another course, under another instructor, in another discipline, or at another institution, might not be an accurate gauge of the amount of effort needed to achieve the same grade in this course.

The following is a general description of grades:

The grade of A is awarded for performance that is excellent to some degree – anywhere from very good to brilliant. It indicates a masterful level of performance which is far above the average. It is the grade representing a level of performance usually attained by only the top ten or fifteen percent of a typical class.

The grade of B indicates superior performance. B work is by definition better than most. It is good performance, but not outstanding. Consistent B-level performance is something to take a measure of pride in, especially if it the best one can do.

The grade of C represents adequate performance, enough to get by with, but little more. The grade of C is the grade achieved by most people; hence, it is the embodiment of mediocrity. Unless it is the consequence of one's genuine best effort, it should seldom be regarded as a satisfactory grade for persons with ambition or conscientiousness about their work in the endeavor being graded. It is the grade that pleases individuals who are content with being third-rate in their academic efforts.

The grade of D means that there are serious deficiencies in performance that makes the work product less than adequate, a marginal failure. Repeatedly earning Ds, unless they are balanced by As and Bs, is an indication of failure. Being able generally to attain only Ds is an indication that further education in the field of performance being graded may hold no value for you.

An F means that the deficiencies in performance are so serious that the resulting work product is completely unacceptable. A 59 and below means that failure has

occurred, yet there are degrees of failure. A grade in the 50s indicates some likelihood that adequate performance could have been achieved under different circumstances, but typically a grade of below 50 means that the student was so lacking in effort, understanding or competence that failure was almost a foregone conclusion without major behavioral changes or remediation of some kind.

#### The Basis of Final Grades

Grades in this course are based on performance alone. They will not be rounded upwards. It is important for every student to understand that evaluation is not based ultimately on how hard someone has worked to earn a particular grade, or whether someone needs this course to graduate. Nor are grades based on personal & family needs, or on personal conceptions about what seems to be fair. All grades, including your final course grade, will be based *solely* on your academic work in this course, according to the criteria described in this syllabus.

#### The Reporting of Final Grades

All final course grades will be posted on blackboard. Final exams is a hectic time for students and the faculty alike, so please respect the privacy of all your professors during and after this period. Please do not initiate contact with me concerning grades or course over-rides between the start of the final exams period. If I need information from you during this time, I will be the one to initiate contact.

Unrequested voicemails and emails from any student during this period will be ignored and discarded. This policy is based on years of experience: most communications from students during final exams and the grading period are based on nothing more than needless anxiety. Any issues of grading that truly must be resolved may be resolved after finals week.

#### Course Participation

Students who miss more than three class meetings will be dropped from the course.

#### Policy Concerning Missed Exams

No make-up exams should need to be given in this course due to the extended timeframe offered for testing.

#### Policy Concerning Problems with Blackboard during Exams

Blackboard is seldom to blame for problems during exams. When genuine problems occur with Blackboard technology, the problem affects multiple people at the same time. Yet some students frequently report that Blackboard has “locked up” or will not let them on. So far I have identified

1. Students will not use the Firefox browser when taking a quiz. If you do not use Firefox, you will have problems.
2. Students try to go back and change the answers to test items that they have already answered. You cannot do this. Trying to do so by hitting the back button on your browser, or by other methods, will void your quiz.
3. Students misinterpret the following statement that appears at the start of each quiz: “This Test can be saved and resumed later.” Yes, if later means in five minutes. But you will have only twenty-five minutes from the time you log on to the time you log out. Taking longer than that will result in a zero for the quiz.
4. Students try to cheat by first previewing a quiz, then logging out and claiming that they were frozen out of the quiz. They do this in the hope of getting the chance to then retake the quiz and earning a higher score. That will not happen.

### Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty and the penalties pertaining to it are described in the SRSU student handbook. In this course, all communication among students while taking exams is prohibited. Communicating material included on an exam with or in the presence of someone who has not yet taken that exam is also prohibited.

• Unless specifically authorized, no student shall take an exam at any computer outside of the designated testing facility, and no student may print, photograph, or copy any material from any exam. Students may not share books, notes, or any other form of communication during exams. Do NOT sit next to another student who is taking the same test in the lab unless no other seats are available. No student taking an exam should have open any website other than the Blackboard site. Close all other windows. Failure to follow these instructions may, at a minimum, result in a zero for the exam and might result in an F for the course.

Plagiarism, as every student should know, involves taking the work of others and claiming it as your own. It will not be tolerated. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, excellent guidelines can be found online at [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org).

Using an illegal copy of textbook materials constitutes academic dishonesty. If a student is found to be using illegally copied textbook material during an open-book exam, the penalty will be failure of the exam. In addition, the student will have the choice of immediately surrendering the illegal copy to SRSU faculty/staff or receiving a failing grade for the course.

• The penalty for serious academic dishonesty is severe: a student who turns in a plagiarized paper or cheats on an exam may receive an F for the entire course. A plagiarized paper will be given a zero on academic grounds alone, yet the student may face the additional disciplinary penalties for academic dishonesty. You and you alone are responsible for understanding and avoiding academic dishonesty in all your work.

### The Honor Code

As members of the academic community, no student should tolerate cheating. According to the honor code, it is the responsibility of each and every student to report obvious cheating or any suspicious behavior that may compromise the integrity of the grading process. The confidentiality and anonymity of students who report such incidents will be respected.

### Statement on Intellectual Tolerance and Academic Freedom

Psychology is a field of inquiry that touches upon many controversial issues, including sexuality, evolution, gender, race, ethnicity, individual differences, parenting, divorce, crime and public policy, drug use, religion, and multicultural issues, among others. Professors and students often have strong opinions and make forceful arguments concerning these phenomena. It is often educationally productive to address and debate these matters in the context of classroom instruction and course assignments. Social taboos discouraging open discussion are inappropriate in this context and must be laid aside in the interest of intellectual inquiry.

Your grade will not be influenced in any way by expressing points of view that are in disagreement with the professor's. If time permits, students are encouraged to express their opinions and arguments whenever relevant to the subject material. The professor is free to do likewise.

Individuals who are offended by the mere exposure to concepts, opinions and arguments with which they disagree or find uncomfortable are not encouraged to take psychology courses at Rio Grande College until they have resolved the personal issues preventing them from engaging in serious intellectual discourse.

### Miscellaneous

On some written assignments, students may be asked to use a pseudonym to insure anonymity in a discussion or for blind grading. The pseudonym should be known only to you unless and until the professor needs it. To protect your confidentiality, share it with no one.

All written assignments submitted electronically must be saved in one of the following formats: .doc, .docx, or .rtf. All major word processing programs allow at least one of these options. Written assignments submitted in other formats will not be accepted; therefore, please contact the technical staff for assistance with this task *before your submission deadline* if you need help saving your document in .doc, .docx, or .rtf formats.

In web-based courses, due to the difficulty of coordinating schedules and meeting times, it will not be possible for students to meet with me and individually review their performance on weekly assignments. To improve their performance or to prepare for the final exam, students should instead review the course material directly. If, however, a student is concerned about the accuracy of a test item or a grade, the student may arrange an office appointment with me at the end of the semester; the student will be provided with an opportunity to review their performance on all assignments at that time.

In the computer labs when people are testing and in all courses taught by teleconference, it is absolutely essential that all students behave so as to minimize noise and disruption, including whispering.

### Teaching Philosophy

A college degree signifies accomplishment; it will increase a person's prestige and can help its holder acquire a job. However, once the job is taken, success depends on what has been learned—a college degree by itself is merely a sheet of paper. If a student takes full advantage of the opportunity of education, the sheet of paper signifies skills and knowledge that will improve one's value as a worker and as a member of the community. If not, the student might find himself or herself with a sheet of paper only, without additional skills, useful knowledge, or value to employers. RGC psychology courses are designed to provide students with knowledge and skills that will help them in their careers, in their relationships, and in their capacity to be responsible members of a community.

### Contacting Technical Support

Most technical problems that students experience using Blackboard can be avoided by using *Firefox* as your web browser rather than *Internet Explorer*. Firefox maybe downloaded for free at [www.mozilla.com/firefox](http://www.mozilla.com/firefox).

If you have a problem with technical issues such as downloading a file or taking an exam, contact an Office of Information Technology (OIT) staffer for assistance or call the OIT Helpdesk. The Helpdesk is available seven days of the week.

- From on-campus, call 8765.
- From off-campus, call (888) 691-5071.

If you are downloading syllabi and other documents, you should update your computer for compatibility with Microsoft Office 2007. The free update is available

at: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=941B3470-3AE9-4AEE-8F43-C6BB74CD1466&displaylang=en>

Human Sexuality: Text the following **@humansexua**

Please understand that I can only send you text reminders. Unfortunately, you will NOT be able to contact me through this app. However, you may email me, call my office, visit me in person or visit me during my virtual office hours through the "Wechat" app.

If you do not have the devices needed to run these apps, you will NOT be penalized. These apps are just "extras" that we can use to develop better communication.