

PSYCHOLOGY 2309: Human Sexuality
SPRING 2017/SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S
Office hours: by appointment (call 432-837-8203 or 432-386-6973)
Email: rgw14dl@sulross.edu

Class Meetings: M/W: 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm
LH 200

Required Text: Our Sexuality, 11th Edition, Crooks & Baur.

Purpose of Course: This course offers a comprehensive and academically sound introduction to the biological, psychosocial, behavioral, and cultural aspects of sexuality. It seeks to aid students in gaining an appreciation for human diversity by becoming aware and appreciating one's own and others' diverse experiences and attitudes on relevant sexual issues.

Grading: Grades will be based on:
1) a) Attendance; b) Weekly Discussion Board Comments (1/6 grade);
2) Suicide Prevention Course (online) (1/6 grade);
3) Class Presentation (1/6 grade);
4) Research Paper and class presentation (1/6 grade);
5) Mid-Semester Exam (1/6 grade);
6) Final Exam (1/6 grade).

Class participation will be considered for students whose final grade is on the 'cusp' between two major grades.
GRADE SCALE: 90–100 = A; 80–89 = B; 70–79 = C; 60–69 = D; 0–59 = F

Activities Explained: 1) a) Attendance: Each class day students will sign their own names on the roll sheet that is passed around the class. The names are in alphabetical order (by last name), so find your name and sign there. Attendance is important, so make sure your name is on the roll sheet each day you are in attendance. It is **the student's responsibility to make sure you sign your name** on the roll sheet if you are present for class. **Having another student 'sign-in' for you (when you're missing a class) will result in disciplinary action for BOTH students (so don't do it!).** Students will be dropped from the class after missing nine class periods (university policy), unless discussed with Wren, is considered a university excused absence, and the reason must be documented (proof required).
b) Discussion Board Comments: Due **every Friday by MIDNIGHT**. You will be able to write and post your work after class on Wednesdays, but be sure you post them no later than Fridays at 11:59 pm. You will write your thoughts about what you learned throughout that week. You will be graded on your **personal reflection/reaction to what you learned**. Responding to other students' comments will get you some bonus points IF it is acceptable thoughts. **I will NOT accept late work.**
c) Suicide Prevention Course: Complete the Cognate Suicide Prevention course at <https://texas.kognito.com/> Make an account for yourself: put in your first name, last name, and Sul Ross email address, then make your own password. After that is completed go to the drop-down menu under, "Choose Your Training POV" and click on 'University or College Students/RA,' and complete the Student Training. When completed, print or save a downloaded 'completed certificate,' and either hand in (hardcopy you printed) to Wren, or **POST IT ON BLACKBOARD: ASSIGNMENT.**

- Activities Explained:** 2) Class Presentation: Each student will participate in a group presentation at the assigned date to do so. Presentations will cover the subject chosen (within the context of Human Sexuality), and **incorporate audio and visual** (from Internet or other sources) examples, may include power-point presentations, etc. Presentations will be for 20-30 minutes. A written outline of the presentation will be given to Wren at the start of the presentation. Wren will discuss this in further detail in class.
- (Continued)
- 3) Research Paper & Class Presentation: This paper is due **Monday, March 6, 2017.** Presentations will be scheduled on this date. This paper will be over a subject in psychology regarding human sexuality. You will need to have at least three (3) references from professional journal articles or books* (NOT websites or pop-psych magazines, etc.) in this paper, and you will follow APA guidelines. Please email Wren (see above) with the subject for approval **before you get started.** Three (minimum) to five (maximum) pages each paper, double-spaced, no larger than 12 pt. font. Post your papers as an attachment to Blackboard/Assignments by NOON on the due date. You may turn it in sooner, if you wish. **I will NOT accept late work.**
- 4) Mid-Semester Exam: Wednesday, March 8, 2017.
- 5) Final Exam: Comprehensive. Exact date and time will be announced later (May 8-11, 2017).

Psychology Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course/semester, students will be able to:

1. master a broad and accurate knowledge base about sexuality;
2. understand the biological basis of sexuality and the complex political, media-related, and ethical issues of sexuality;
3. understand the various influences on the development of one's sexual knowledge, attitudes, relationships, and behaviors;
4. demonstrate increased comfort in talking about sex;
5. integrate knowledge gained from the course lectures, discussions and exercises to articulate current trends, and changes that influence sexual attitudes and values.

Students with Special Needs:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student's responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact Ms. Mary Schwartze, Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Room 112), at 432.837.8302; mailing address is P.O. Box C-171 Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

Classroom Respect and Disruptions:

You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in class discussions, ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts. Please treat each other with dignity and respect and avoid disruptive behaviors. You are responsible for knowing what behaviors are acceptable versus unacceptable as referred to in the Student Conduct and Discipline section of the SRSU Student Handbook (http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student_conduct_discipline.pdf).

Academic Integrity:

Any instance of academic misconduct such as turning in an identical written assignment for another course without approval, cheating and plagiarizing written assignments, collusion, or misrepresenting facts will be punished to the full extent of the university's disciplinary policy and/or through legal action if indicated. You are responsible for reading the statement on Academic Honesty in the SRSU Student Handbook

(http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student_conduct_discipline.pdf). The faculty considers academic dishonesty to be a serious matter and will act accordingly. Students caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will receive no credit for assignments/exams and more severe penalties may be pursued, including but not limited to failing the course.

Technology Policy:

Out of respect for your fellow students, your professor, and the educational process, all technology devices (cell/smart phones, I-pods, tablets, laptops, etc.) must be powered down and put away, not on the desk or in your pocket, or on your lap, during class. **Do not come to class if texting, using social media, and attending to tasks other than the class material is more important than being fully present** (this is NOT an excused absence). If you feel you have an emergency situation that requires your phone to be on vibrate, please inform me before class begins. Students who disregard the policy will be asked to leave class.

PLEASE READ: *During the course of this class, Students may have strong emotional/psychological reactions to the course material and/or discussions. If you feel that you are having difficulty with the learning environment, please discuss this with me immediately before continuing the course. Counseling and Accessibility Services (<http://www.sulross.edu/section/2408/counseling-accessibility-services>) can provide brief, short-term individual and group counseling or refer you to off-campus providers. You have already paid for these services through your Student Service Fee, whether you use them or not. If you have any issue or concern, I would appreciate you speaking with me first. If you feel we cannot come to a reasonable resolution, know that you can speak with the BASS Department Chair, Dr. Mark Saka (432.837.8157) regarding your concerns. I endeavor to maintain a safe as possible learning environment for all and expect the highest standard of conduct from each one of us and the collective. I welcome constructive feedback in the service of this goal. This syllabus is accurate to the best of my ability, but I reserve the right to modify it at any time and will inform you as soon as possible. If I do make any changes, I aspire to do so for the reasons of student fairness and/or circumstances beyond my control.*