

# SOC 291 Syllabus – Spring 2008

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>SOC 291 Human Sexuality</b>
<b>Semester</b>	Spring 2008
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	Tuesday/Thursday 10:20 to 11:30 a.m.
<b>Location:</b>	Room 117
<b>Instructor</b> <b>Office Hours</b> <b>Phone</b> <b>E-mail</b>	Melanie J. Davis, M.Ed. Tuesday afternoons by appointment 908-722-1632 Melanie@honestexchange.com

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Sexuality is a core aspect of the human experience. From before birth through death, individuals are sexed, gendered and overloaded with messages about sexuality. This course employs interactive class work, lecture, and readings to increase students' understanding of lifespan human sexuality; to engage them in critical thinking about sexual messages and issues; to help them identify and critique their own sexual values; and to enable them to make informed sexual decisions. Due to the nature of the topic, classroom discussion and educational materials may incorporate language and images that will challenge students' comfort and attitudes.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course, students will have

- A broader and deeper understanding of human sexuality by having engaged in critical reflection of their individual experiences and socio-cultural influences.
- Greater understanding about diverse sexual attitudes and behaviors, as evidenced by class discussions and completed assignments.
- Increased accuracy and comfort in communicating about sexuality, as reflected in classroom discussions and reported communication with others outside of class.
- Increased awareness of their own sexual values and beliefs and the legitimacy of others' perspectives.
- Greater knowledge about sexual health and protection against unwanted consequences of sexual behavior.
- Demonstrated facility in writing about sexual topics.

**Disclaimer** - This syllabus is subject to change. Students will be notified of any changes.

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

*Sexuality Now: Embracing Diversity* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) by Janell Carroll. Available from the campus bookstore and Amazon.com. Be sure to get the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

## REQUIRED SUPPLIES

- 28 3x5 white index cards, lined or unlined
- 2-pocket folder with your name or student ID # written on the front cover

## EVALUATION

Your grade for this course is based upon your level of scholarship reflected in completed assignments, your participation and demonstration of knowledge in class, and your demonstration of self-assessment and reflection.

Attendance and participation	5%
Discovering Optimal Sexuality Paper	5%
Journal	10%
Midterm exam	20%
Personal Experience Essay	25%
What I've Learned Paper	25%

Points earned for assignments and attendance will be scaled to 100 before being factored into your final grade.

### Grading Scale

A = 100 – 94	B+ = 89 – 88	C+ = 79 – 78	D = 60 – 69
A- = 93 – 90	B = 87 – 83	C = 77 – 73	F = 59 – 0
	B- = 82 – 80	C- = 72 – 70	

## POLICIES

### Academic Fraud

Cheating, plagiarism, and all other forms of academic fraud are serious and unacceptable. Use the *Publication Manual of the A.P.A. (5<sup>th</sup> ed, 2001)* as a resource for correct citation. It is a violation of the standards of academic integrity to either use or submit a paper written by anyone else. It is your responsibility to follow the college's standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism and cheating are grounds for course failure.

### Accommodations

If you need accommodations to maximize your learning in this class, please let me know. I will make accommodations for students with physical and/or learning differences.

### Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes and to participate in class. Classes are not taped and dynamic learning cannot be made up. You will earn 2 points per class period for a total of 56 attendance points. Habitual lateness and early departure will be reflected in your grade, so please arrive promptly.

### Courtesy

The use of personal electronics (phones, iPods, Blackberries, etc.) is prohibited during class. All ringers must be turned off. Laptops are permitted only for students unable to take hand-written notes.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

You are expected to complete the each day's readings prior to class. In addition to textbook chapters, you will be reading from handouts and online sources.

You will be assigned three papers, a mid-term exam, and a final paper that will serve as your final exam. You will receive an evaluation rubric for each paper.

### **Assignment Submission**

All assignments must be turned in on the due date. Journal entries are to be placed in your course folder each Thursday. Graded entries will be returned to you in your folder. Proofread all of your work; sloppiness will affect your grade.

Format: White paper, typed double spaced in 12-point Times Roman font. Margins should be 1" on all sides. Recycling is encouraged: You may use paper that has typing on the back – just make it clear which side you want met to read. Staple multiple-page assignments in the top left corner. Your name or ID# should be on every assignment.

Late papers will not be accepted except in the case of emergencies and extenuating circumstances. Please note that romantic difficulties and demanding work schedules do not count as extenuating circumstances.