

SOC 251 Syllabus – Spring 2012

Course Title	SOC 251 Human Sexuality
Semester	Spring 2013
Date & Time	Tuesday/Thursday 8:55 to 10:05
Location	PPH 233
Instructor	Melanie J. Davis, PhD, CSE
Office Hours	By appointment: T-TH Thursday on-campus; other days by phone/Skype
Office Location	Rm. 310, Sociology Department, PPH Academic Complex
Phone	908-722-1632 (off campus)
E-mail	Memjd01@moravian.edu Call, if your issue is time sensitive.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The physical, psychological, relational, and cultural aspects of sexuality influence us from before birth through death. This course will employ interactive class work, lecture, and readings to increase your understanding of lifespan human sexuality; to engage you in critical thinking about sexual messages and issues; to help you identify and critique your sexual values and attitudes; and to enable them to make informed relational and sexual decisions. Due to the nature of the subject matter, classroom discussion and educational materials may incorporate language and images that will challenge your comfort and attitudes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will

- Gain a broader and deeper understanding of human sexuality from a biopsychosocial perspective
- Critically reflect upon your sexual values, experiences, attitudes and beliefs
- Understand diverse sexual attitudes and behaviors
- Increase your knowledge about sexual health and behaviors

Disclaimer - This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester; you will be notified of any changes.

Text & Supplies

- *Human Sexuality* (3rd Ed.). By Roger Hock. Prentice Hall Press. ISBN-10: 0205225225 ISBN-13: 978-0205225224
- 3x5 colored index cards
- 2-pocket opaque folder with your name at the top of the front cover (Standard, not over-sized)
- Recommended supplementary text: *Guide to Getting it On* (6th), by Paul Joannides (www.Goofyfootpress.com)

EVALUATION

Reading & Reflection Worksheets (10)	30%
Personal Experience Paper	27%
Blackboard Archives Review	20%
Group Project	15%
Attendance	5%
<i>How Will We Love</i> Viewing and Answers	3%

Grading Scale

A = 100 – 94	B+ = 89 – 88	C+ = 79 – 78	D = 69 – 67
A- = 93 – 90	B = 87 – 83	C = 77 – 73	F = 66 – 0
	B- = 82 – 80	C- = 72 – 70	

ASSIGNMENTS

Due dates and readings are listed in the Course Assignment Calendar posted on Blackboard > Assignments. You are expected to complete each day's readings/videos/assignments prior to coming to class. Late assignments will receive a starting value of 75% for the first 24 hours and 50% for the next 24 hours. They will not be accepted after 48 hours.

Assignment #1: READING & REFLECTION WORKSHEETS

You will complete 10 worksheets relating to assigned readings in your Human Sexuality text to help you master the content. No citations required. The worksheets are posted in the Blackboard > Assignments area; due dates are on the Assignment calendar.

Assignment #2: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE PAPER

Write at least 10 pages about something related to sexuality that you are experiencing for the first time. Describe it, explain why you chose it, and address how it may have differed from or met your expectations. Assess how it related to or challenged your values

(sexual, personal, cultural, religious) and how it challenged your thinking. You are neither required to nor expected to participate in sexual activities or to do anything that would compromise your values or morals. You may attend a meeting of the campus' Spectrum group or be tested for sexually transmitted infections, if either of these would be new experiences. You may explore art, media, literature, or have a discussion about sexuality with someone important to you. Your experience is up to you, although the professor must approve your proposal. Your grade will depend in part on your willingness to think deeply about how your sexual values, attitudes and morals affected your choice of and participation in your experience. You must include an addendum that supplements your paper with 1-2 pages of cited, scholarly research and analysis on a related topic.

Assignment #3: BLACKBOARD ARCHIVES REVIEW

Review the resources available in Blackboard > Course Documents. Select three articles/videos/websites from different areas of the archive and write a three-page essay comprised of one page of analysis per resource.

Assignment #4: CLASS PROJECT

STI testing carries stigma, i.e., students tend to fear that peers will see them as sexually promiscuous or damaged if they are seen getting tested. However, sexually active people who get tested regularly are actually caring and responsible about their own and their partner's (s) sexual wellbeing. To combat the stigma of testing, students in the class will participate in a group project intended to decrease STI testing stigma and to inspire Moravian College students to get tested for STIs. The class may work collaboratively with the Student Health Center on this project. Grading will be based on your contributions to all phases of this project, including your own self-assessment.

Assignment #5: HOW WILL WE LOVE VIEWING AND ANSWERS

This online assignment requires you to watch a documentary about couples who successfully maintain long-term relationships. You will answer several questions posted in Blackboard > Assignments.

Make-Up Assignments

If you have unexcused absences that you would like to make up, you may do one or more of three extra assignments. They may not be used as extra-credit to make up for low grades on regular assignments.

POLICIES

Academic Honesty

It is your responsibility to follow the college's standards of academic honesty as published on page 8 of your Student Handbook. Plagiarism and cheating are prohibited and will result in failure on the assignment in question.

Accommodations

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Attendance

Attendance in class is expected and required, as the interchange and involvement in class sessions is an integral part of learning and cannot be replicated through other means. More than one unexcused absence will result in the deduction of 2 points per missed class from your attendance grade. Chronic lateness and early departures will factor into your attendance grade.

Course Contract

Please sign and return this to Professor Davis by the start of the second class.

I have read this syllabus independently, and/or I have reviewed the content with Dr. Davis. I understand that this syllabus serves as a contract between me and Dr. Davis. I further understand that by virtue of handing in any assignments for this course, I am acknowledging that I fully understand and will abide by the Academic Honesty Policy of Moravian College.

I accept the responsibility to enroll in the SOC 251 Blackboard account by the end of the first week of class. This is required, as it is the way I will receive communications about the course and any changes in the calendar or syllabus.

I understand that this class offers an opportunity to learn how to work in a professional environment. I agree to be prepared each class meeting, to work collaboratively with my peers and professor, to ask questions that increase my understanding of course topics, and to submit assignments on time.

I understand that during this course, I will be engaging with materials, discussions, websites, and reflections of a sexual nature which I may find personally or emotionally challenging. I understand that this is part of the learning process. I agree that if I am experiencing distress or have concerns, I will approach Dr. Davis directly and promptly.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contact Information:

Moravian email address: _____

Phone: _____

Is there anything that you would like me to know about you?