



## Texas A&M University-Central Texas PSYC 3315-135 (Human Sexuality-80493)



**Instructor:** Robert Clark, PhD (Medical & Clinical Psychology)

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You also can use the Canvas Inbox icon (left menu) within the course to send messages within Canvas.

**Delivery:** This course is 100% online that uses TAMUCT Canvas @ <https://tamuct.instructure.com/login/ldap>

**Course Objective:** This course is designed to broaden class members' understanding of human sexuality. Careful reading for understanding and critical thinking about research and discussions is tantamount to learning.

**Course Overview:** We will cover the psychology of sexual behavior as a biological and social construct. Topics are presented in a manner that is accurate, accessible, balanced, and non-judgmental to allow class members to understand their own unique experiences in sexuality. This course will provide class members with at least a basic understanding of the environmental, physiological and anatomical, behavioral, cognitive, emotional, motivational, spiritual, relationship, and habitual and learning preference/style factors that affect sexuality.

**Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, class members should be able to

1. Discuss historical and cultural influences on contemporary sexual perspectives. [Week 1]
2. Discuss methodology and ethical issues in sex research. [Week 1]
3. Differentiate between sex and gender and explain how perceptions of gender affect sexuality. [Week 2]
4. Explain the importance of communication in sexual relationships and identify helpful communication techniques. [Week 2]
5. Identify basic aspects of male and female sexual anatomy and physiology. [Week 3]
6. Discuss various models of sexual arousal and sexual behaviors. [Week 4]
7. Discuss "nature versus nurture" as it relates to gender identity and sexual orientation. [Weeks 2 & 5]
8. Discuss cross-cultural perspectives on gender and sexual orientation, and outline how these attitudes have changed over time. [Weeks 2 & 5]
9. Discuss sexual behaviors in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. [Weeks 5 & 6]
10. Discuss various sexual problems, how common they are, and differentiation of generalized and situational sexual problems. [Week 6]
11. Distinguish between noncoercive and coercive paraphilias. [Week 7]
12. Discuss the business of sex (i.e., pornography and prostitution). [Weeks 7 & 8]
13. Discuss types of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and identify effective methods to reduce the likelihood of contracting a STI. [Week 8]

**Required Reading and Textbook(s):**

- Our Sexuality, 13th Edition by Robert L. Crooks & Karla Baur
- Publication Date: **January 1, 2016** | ISBN-10: **1305646525** | ISBN-13: **978-1305646520** | Edition: **13**
- Please purchase or rent the course textbook as soon as possible. **You cannot pass this course without the textbook.**
- Also, please do not use a previous edition of this textbook, because the textbook content changes with each edition. Course exams are composed from the content in the 13th edition only.

**Course Learning and Evaluation Requirements:**

1. Eight (8) 40-point Information Research/Critical Thinking Discussions [Total = 320 points]
  2. Sixteen (16) (AT LEAST two per week) 5-point Responses to Discussions [Total = 80 points]
  3. Four (4) 150-point Exams [Total = 600 points]
    - o Exam 1: Chapters 1, 2, 5, 7
    - o Exam 2: Chapters 3, 4, 6, 8
    - o Exam 3: Chapters 9, 12, 13, 14
    - o Exam 4: Chapters 16, 17, 15, 18
- Total Possible Points for Entire Course: 1000 points
    - o To calculate your grade, take the number of points earned and divide by 1000
    - o For example, 850/1000 = 85% = B = Good

A = Outstanding	90-100%
B = Good	80-89.9%
C = Satisfactory	70-79.9%
D = Marginal	60-69.9%
F = Failure	Below 60%

In rare/valid instances an Incomplete (I) will be given if the appropriate conditions are met. The missing work must be completed in 30 days or the (I) will automatically become an F.

I do not round grades up to the next grade and any requests for “bumping up” grades will not be given a reply.

**Posting of Grades:** Exam grades will usually post immediately upon submission on the Canvas Grade Book. You should monitor your grading status frequently through this tool. The goal is to post Discussion Board Grades within 72hrs and Final Course Grades within 48hrs.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Week	DATES	READINGS	GRADED ASSIGNMENTS
1	Week 1 27 August - 2 September	Chapters 1 & 2	Chapters 1 & 2 Discussions
2	Week 2 3-9 September	Chapters 5 & 7	Chapters 5 & 7 Discussions Exam 1 Chapters 1, 2, 5, 7
3	Week 3 10-16 September	Chapters 3 & 4	Chapters 3 & 4 Discussions
4	Week 4 17-23 September	Chapters 6 & 8	Chapters 6 & 8 Discussions Exam 2 Chapters 3, 4, 6, 8
5	Week 5 24-30 September	Chapters 9 & 12	Chapters 9 & 12 Discussions
6	Week 6 1-7 October	Chapters 13 & 14	Chapters 13 & 14 Discussions Exam 3 Chapters 9, 12, 13, 14
7	Week 7 8-14 October	Chapters 16, 17	Chapters 16 & 17 Discussions
8	Week 8 15-19 October (Friday)	Chapter 15, 18	Chapters 15 & 18 Discussions Exam 4 Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18

**Deadlines:** Online learning requires class members to be very self-disciplined so be sure you understand and are prepared to comply with all required class assignments and deadlines. For this course, the Weekly Assignments will be posted on the Course Schedule with corresponding due dates listed within the Course Schedule. All graded weekly assignments are due no later than by Sunday, 11:55pm of the associated module, except for the final module which ends on Friday, 11:55pm.

- Late assignments are not accepted. If a class member experiences a technical problem that prevents submitting an assignment by the due date, then the class member should contact the instructor immediately.
- It is the class member's responsibility to read any announcements posted under the Announcements section of the homepage, on the discussion board, or in e-mail. Class members are expected to follow all instructions provided by the instructor for each specific assignment, precisely.

**Online Attendance:** Regular online classroom attendance is expected. The discussion board is used to monitor attendance. A class member may receive an F in the course when his/her lack of attendance prohibits him/her from meeting the course objectives, or when a class member accumulates excessive absences that prevent his/her submitting assignments by the listed due dates. Class members should not go more than two (2) days without logging on to our course to check for new announcements, reminders, and/or assignments.

**Class etiquette:** It is important for any of us to understand various perspectives on human sexuality. Class members taking this course will be provided with an engaging, personally relevant, and academically sound introduction to human sexuality. During this course, class members may find their own ideas and beliefs about sexuality being challenged, or perhaps reinforced. It is pertinent that every class member remember that what is acceptable to one person, may be deplorable to another. Therefore, class members are expected to express their opinions and beliefs in a respectable and mature manner when participating in the discussion forum. This course is designed to facilitate and be open to multiple viewpoints, even when we may not agree (i.e., agree to disagree). Respect is a reciprocal understanding between all of us, including the instructor. Class members are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom online environment that is conducive to learning for all class members. Class members should maintain appropriate and mature discussions when interacting on the discussion board or in chat rooms. All areas will be monitored. If a disruptive incident occurs, then the class member(s) may be dropped from the class.

As your instructor, I will provide information and feedback in a sensitive, nonsexist, nonjudgmental manner, and I will assume that individual class members are best qualified to determine what is most valid and applicable in his/her own life. I expect every class member to be respectful of others, regardless of varying opinions. We can all agree to disagree and to learn to appreciate positive diversity as an opportunity that allows us to gain a better understanding of the world. So please start and continue talking about our course topics, but always be kind and sensitive while presenting your observations, personal experiences, researched information, and opinions on the discussion board assignments.

### Critical Thinking Discussions:

- Class members must submit one (1) 450-600 word original critical thinking discussion posting that answers one of the critical thinking topics each week. Please include a word count of the discussion (do not include the critical thinking topic which you have selected or the reference list in that word count). Random checks of word counts will be made, especially if uncertain of the word count. The class member will receive a zero (0) if the word count is significantly lower than expected. Most word processing programs can automatically tally the word count.
- Class members also must submit two (2) substantive replies to at least two (2) other class members' postings, which should be lengthy enough to show ample time in considering the other class members' work. Discussion forum contributions to class members' original postings should be made on two different days of the week.

### Critical Thinking Discussion Instructions:

- Class members are to utilize TAMUCT Library and other online resources to include peer reviewed reference support in weekly chapter focused critical thinking discussions. Class members must include a reference to one (1) peer-reviewed journal article use for their original discussion postings in order to have potential to earn full points on their weekly original critical thinking topic posting.
- Critical thinking discussion postings also should contain ample textbook references to fully support any assertions cited using APA style. Web information support from scholarly web sites also is encouraged.
- When appropriate you can include your personal observations and opinions, supported by data, in your original posting and responses to class members' original postings.

**University Library:** The University Library (<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>) provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to class members who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at TAMUCT are available through our website to help class members navigate these resources. The on-campus library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

- Research assistance from a librarian is available 24 hrs a day through an online chat service and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, citations, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

**Peer Reviewed Articles:** For class members that are seeking an "A" each week on the discussion board assignments, it is a requirement to include at least one peer-reviewed professional journal article as reference support for their original posting about the posted topic each week, as well as ample textbook reference material. Be sure to use the most pertinent information from the peer reviewed article, if you choose to do this. If you choose to include peer-reviewed material, you can use the following guideline to retrieve peer-reviewed articles from the online library at TAMUCT.

1. Go to <http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>
2. Click A-Z Databases
  - Left side of page, "Contact" box/widget
3. Choose database
  - For example, scroll way down to "P" and choose Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection]
  - You may be asked to login using normal log in credentials if you are off campus
4. Type in search topic in top box just under the name of the database
5. Make sure the box says Peer Reviewed AND Full Text under Limit Results
6. Click Search
  - If you do not find any relevant articles, then try a different search word
7. Cite the article in your reference list using APA formatting
8. Please save a copy of the article or at least know how to retrieve it again should I ask you to provide the article

**Critical Thinking Assignments:** The following criteria will be considered in evaluating online posts.

1. Accuracy: Do statements or ideas have evidence or are they merely opinions?
2. Clarity: Is writing clear and easy to follow?
  - It helps to read the written assignment out loud to catch incomplete sentences, grammar errors, typos, and/or lapses in thoughts.
3. Depth: Are each of the issues and implications of the topic thought out and explored in the writing?
4. Originality: What is the thesis (the main point or points of the writing)? Are your own views present and well articulated?
  - Use your own words and opinions. Do not copy material directly from any readings or other sources without giving the author(s) proper credit by citation in the paragraph and full reference at the end of the paper. If you want to use exact words, then put them in quotations and correctly cite the source material. Quoted material must not exceed 10% (~45 words) of the written assignment or it may be considered plagiarism
5. Supporting Evidence: Support ideas/opinions/observations with empirical evidence when appropriate.
  - Evidence is crucial of any well written writing assignment. You may support ideas with theories, previous research, or other information from books and other reputable sources (e.g., journal articles, online psychological SME articles, interviews with someone you know or meet, etc.). You also may use personal experiences and observations as supporting evidence when appropriate.
6. References: Are there appropriate references to support the main points of the writing?
  - You may look in the course readings or a textbook and find references listed in the bibliography that might support your writing, then find and read those referenced journal or book articles. Be sure that you have these referenced articles if you use them, which means that you have the articles on hand, you read them, and can provide them if asked. Make sure that your references strongly relate to and support the points you are making.
7. Form, composition, spelling, etc: Try to make writing error free. It helps to run spell/grammar checker before submitting work and/or have a spelling/grammar competent peer/friend read over work before submitting it.
  - Use proper paraphrasing (see the handout on Proper Paraphrasing that I have provided). Please ensure that any paraphrased material included in the writing also is cited and referenced correctly or it will be considered plagiarism, considered a violation of academic integrity, may be reported to the academic honor board, and the class member will be given a zero (0) on that assignment.
8. APA Style: Follow the formatting rules of the APA for your writing, citations, and full references found in the APA publication manual. You may also want to visit the APA ([www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org)) or any other appropriate website for formatting information including OWL (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>).

This document is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Class members will be notified of any grade affecting, critical changes prior to implementation of the changes.

**Technology:** This course will use the TAMUCT Canvas learning management system @ <https://tamuct.instructure.com>

Contact Help Desk Central for log-in problems. Please let the support technician know you are a TAMUCT class member.

- Times: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Phone: (254) 519-5466
- Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)
- Web Chat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

For issues with Canvas, select “chat with Canvas support,” submit a support request to Canvas Tier 1 or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953. Links to all are found inside of Canvas using the “Help” link.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of assignment and evaluation deadlines.

**Drop Policy:** Faculty members cannot drop class members from courses as it always is the responsibility of class members. If you discover that you need to drop this course, then you must contact or go to the Registrar’s Office and complete a Drop Request Form ([https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf)).

- The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be returned, completed and signed. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar’s Office and wait 24 hours, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, then follow-up with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid any potential penalty for absence. Should you miss the deadline or fail to follow the procedure and you do not appropriately participate in the course, then you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

**Academic Integrity:** TAMUCT values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. TAMUCT expects its class members, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

- Any deviation by class members from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a class member’s academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another class member’s work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university’s Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university’s standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

**Academic Accommodations:** We value an inclusive learning environment where every class member has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that class members with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities.

- If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, then please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at 254-501-5836 or WH 212. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. Please visit <https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>.
- In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist class members who are seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Class members may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these requirements and guidelines, the please visit <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>.

**Tutoring:** Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT class members, both on-campus and online.

- On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center (<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html>) in 111 Warrior Hall. If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-501-5836 or by emailing Larry Davis at [lmDavis@tamuct.edu](mailto:lmDavis@tamuct.edu).
- Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas class members to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

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**University Writing Center (UWC):** Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. Although tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist class members in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for class members' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret class members' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, class members may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

- WH 416: 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library on Mondays from 6-9pm
- Class members may arrange one-on-one sessions (30 or 60 min) with trained and experienced writing tutors by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours or by making an appointment via WOnline (<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>).
- If you have any questions about the UWC, please contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu).

**Sexual Violence:** Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. University faculty are mandated reporters which means that faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while at TAMUCT. Sexual violence can occur on campus because predators often feel emboldened and victims often feel silenced/shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments to show predators we do not agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we support them. Your actions matter. Be an agent of change.

- The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. You can discuss any of these issues confidentially through Student Counseling at 254-519-5403 or WH 207L.
- For additional information on campus sexual violence policy and resources visit the Title IX webpage (<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php>).

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**911 Cellular:** 911 Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives TAMUCT the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All class members are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their email accounts. Use <https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management> to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out.

**Important Fall 2018 Dates & Deadlines:** Please see the academic calendar (<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar-18-19.html>) for a list of important Fall 2018 dates and deadlines.