

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY**  
**PSYC 3334 – Human Sexuality**  
**Fall 2017**  
**The Woodlands Center**  
**Wednesday 6:00-8:50 p.m.**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Denise R. Boyd, Ed.D.

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**PHONE:** 713-614-6687 (urgent)

**EMAIL:** [drb012@shsu.edu](mailto:drb012@shsu.edu) (non-urgent)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study is made of the biological, social, emotional, cognitive, and spiritual elements of our human sexuality. Topics such as sexual health, sexual dysfunction, sexuality education, and intimate relationships are covered.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

Your learning materials for this course will be delivered online via Pearson Collections. Click on the link below to purchase access to the course materials. If you already have a Pearson user account, sign-in with your username/password; if you do not, you will be asked to create a Pearson account prior to purchasing the course materials.

<https://collections.pearsoned.com/#purchaseebook/1323700773>

You may order a print version of the text through the SHSU bookstore. The title is *SHSU Human Sexuality*. The ISBN is 1323703861.

**ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS**

**Chapter Exams.** Chapter Exams will become available on Blackboard on the dates shown in the Course Calendar. They have no time limits and can be reopened as many times as you like prior to the due date (See Course Calendar). Only one attempt is allowed. Each exam consists of 50 multiple-choice questions. Thus, Chapter Exams count a total of **200 points** toward your course grade.

**In-Class and Online Video Reflection Journals.** Students will view videos both in class and online. After viewing each one, students will write a summary of the video and their reactions to it. Journal entries must be at least 250 (about one double-spaced page) words long. Video Reflection Journals will count 30 points each for a total of **300 points**.

**Essay.** Sex comedies often make audiences feel more comfortable with taboo topics. Sex dramas often affirm audiences' view of a *just world* with regard to conventional sexual

morality. Students will write a 3- to 5-page essay in accordance with the instructions below. The essay will count **400 points**.

### **Essay Instructions**

1. To get a feel for the characteristics of each film on the list below, search YouTube for the theatrical trailers that were used to advertise them when they were originally released.
2. Choose one of the films and watch it.
3. If you choose a comedy, write a 4- to 6-page essay that explains how the film's humorous treatment of a sexual taboo is likely to have caused the audience of the 1950s feel more comfortable openly discussing it.
  - a. Your cover sheet should indicate the title and year of the film.
  - b. Your essay must begin with an introductory paragraph that briefly (in one to three sentences) summarizes the characters and plot of the film.
  - c. The introductory paragraph must end with this thesis statement, "The humorous treatment of [*sexual taboo*] in [*name of the film*] probably made audiences of the 1950s feel more comfortable discussing it."
  - d. The thesis statement should be followed by three paragraphs in which you cite examples from the film that support your thesis statement.
  - e. Your essay must include a concluding paragraph in which you briefly review the evidence and thesis of your essay.
4. If you choose a drama, write a 4- to 6-page essay that explains how the film's treatment of sexuality issues reinforces sexuality-related moral standards in the context of *just world beliefs*, the idea that individuals who behave immorally (i.e., violate society's moral standards for sexual behavior) will ultimately be punished for their wrong-doing.
  - a. Your cover sheet should indicate the title and year of the film.
  - b. Your essay must begin with an introductory paragraph that briefly (in one to three sentences) summarizes the characters and plot of the film.
  - c. The introductory paragraph must end with this thesis statement, "The dramatic treatment of [*socially unacceptable sexual behavior*] in [*name of the film*] probably reinforced the belief among audiences of the 1950s that sexual misconduct is likely to be punished."
  - d. The thesis statement should be followed by three paragraphs in which you cite examples from the film that support your thesis statement.
  - e. Your essay must include a concluding paragraph in which you briefly review the evidence and thesis of your essay.

### **Sex Comedies of the 1950s**

*Some Like It Hot*

*The Seven Year Itch*

*Pillow Talk*

## Sex Dramas of the 1950s

*Sunset Boulevard*

*A Place in the Sun*

*Niagara*

Standard	Points
Criteria a-e	250 (50 points each)
Appropriate selection of supporting material	75
Logical coherence of arguments	75
<b>Total</b>	400
Language mechanics penalty	-4 points per error; maximum -40 points
Late penalty	-20 for each day late

**Course Grades.** Grades will be based on total points:

Points	Grade
900+	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
<600	F

### **Final Exam**

The Final Exam will consist of 100 multiple choice questions, 25 from each chapter of the custom text. The exam has a two-hour time limit and will only be available on the dates shown in the Course Calendar. Two attempts are allowed, but students will be presented with a different set of questions for each attempt. The highest score will count. The Final Exam will count **100 points** toward your grade in the course.

### **COURSE CALENDAR**

See last page

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

### **CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students

may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

**STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:**

Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for the absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

**VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:**

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS:**

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

**\*\*NOTE: INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS\*\***

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

Date	Activities	Readings	What's Due
8/23	Introduction		
9/6	Lecture 1	Chapter 1: Human Sexuality and Gender	
9/13	In-Class Video 1		
9/20	Lecture 2		Chapter 1 Exam
9/27	Lecture 3	Chapter 2: Sexual Development	
10/4	In-Class Video 2		
10/11	Lecture 4		Chapter 2 Exam
10/18	Lecture 5	Chapter 3: Sexual Orientation	
10/25	In-Class Video 3		
11/1	Lecture 6		Chapter 3 Exam
11/8	Lecture 7	Chapter 4: Intimate Relationships	
11/15	In-Class Video 4		Chapter 4 Exam Final Exam Opens
11/29	Lecture 8		Essay Online Video Journals
12/6	In-Class Video Makeup		Final Exam closes