Course Description

Focuses on scientific investigation of human sexuality and psychological and social implications of such research. Considers socio-cultural influences, the physiology and psychology of sexual response patterns, sexual dysfunctions, and development of relationships. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course acquaints the student with research based spectrum of human sexuality from reproductive information to cultural input and expression. A wide survey of approaches, theories, and expression, both past and present, within human sexuality will be included. Some previous psychology is helpful, but not required.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Prerequisites: PSY 200, 201 or PSY 202 or divisional approval

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Explain the historical, religious, and cultural perspectives of sexuality
- Recognize the theories which form the foundation of human sexuality
- Identify and apply the major research methods used within the field of sexology and the ethical issues in sex research
- Explain and differentiate the development of gender, gender roles, and gender identity
- Explain and distinguish the intricacies of male and female sexual anatomy and functioning
- Summarize the stages of love according to various theories and discuss the role of intimacy in love and relationships
- List multiple factors that affect the formation, maintenance, and dissolution of relationships, including the types and role of communication in relationships
- Explain how sexuality develops and changes over the lifespan, for both heterosexuality and homosexuality
- Identify the sexual response patterns of Masters and Johnson and Kaplan
- Describe etiology of sexual dysfunctions and various treatments or therapeutic techniques.
- List and define STIs and techniques for the prevention and treatment of STIs
- Evaluate the differences and similarities of sexual practices and mores among various cultures

Major Topics to be Included

- Historical and religious views of sexuality
- Methodological approaches and ethical considerations to sexuality research
- Gender, gender roles, and gender identity
- Sexual anatomy of males and females
- Love and relationships
- Sexual development over the lifespan
- Sexual response patterns
- Sexual dysfunctions and treatment methods
- STIs, prevention, and treatment
- Sexual practices/mores of various cultures

Optional topics

- Pregnancy and birth
- Contraception and abortion
- Paraphilias
- Rape and sexual abuse
- Prostitution and pornography