

PSYC 372: Human Sexuality (52562R)
Fall 2016

PSYC 372 Human Sexuality (4 units) - Course Description (from USC Catalog): Psychological and physiological base of sexuality; gender identity, childbearing, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases; dysfunctions and treatments.

Course Notes: This is an intensive course, with a lot of readings, media presentations and guest speakers. The main objective is to learn about basic principles of sexual behavior, gender roles, and their evolutionary and cultural contexts. The course covers topics and issues which are necessarily personal and sensitive. It will be important to attend class, remain open-minded and keep up with the readings (about 50 pages a week).

Instructor: Professor Laura Baker
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Office hours: Wednesday 2-3:30 pm, and by appointment
Lecture: MW 4-5:50
Location: VPD 116

Important Dates: Class meets: Aug 22-Nov 30; Last day to drop without a W and receive refund: Jan 29; Last day to drop with a W: Oct 7; USC Holidays (no class): Sept 5; Thanksgiving recess: Nov 23-27; Final exam: 4:30 pm Wed Dec 7

Readings: There are two required readings, a textbook (Discovering Human Sexuality, 3rd edition) and a tradebook (Sperm Wars, by Robin Baker). The textbook can be purchased in either electronic or print form: DISCOVERING HUMAN SEXUALITY (3rd edition) by Levay, Baldwin & Baldwin (2015). Print copies will be available in the USC Bookstore, or you can use the link below to purchase the online copy:
http://www.coursesmart.com/IR/2099804/9781605352756?_hdv=6.8
Sperm Wars can be purchased online through various sources, including Amazon.com.

Grading:

15 Chapter Quizzes (on-line)	150
5 Midterm Exams	600
Student presentations	150
Class participation/discussion	100

Chapter quizzes: Students must register at the companion website for quizzes and study guide: <http://sites.sinauer.com/discoveringhumansexuality3e/> There are quizzes for each chapter of the textbook, which you need to complete outside of classtime. Immediate feedback is provided at the end of each quiz, and you can retake each quiz as many times as you want. The best (percentagewise) of 15 quizzes (up to one per chapter) will be used for the quiz portion of your grade.

Exams: There will be five in-class exams, based on both the readings and class presentations. Each is worth 150 points, and best four exams will be used in the final grade. Keeping up with the course readings and doing the on-line quizzes will be important for succeeding on these exams. ***The final exam is not cumulative.***

Student presentations: Working in groups of 3-4, students will provide a critical review of the book, *Sperm Wars*. Each group will choose one chapter or claim of the book, summarize the claim, and present research to evaluate the extent to which the claim is supported by research. The group presentations will be made using Powerpoint or some other presentation tool during the last three days of class.

Approximate Schedule:

Aug	22	Course Overview: Introductions, Learning Objectives, Mechanics
		Sexuality: Pathways to Understanding (Chapter 1)
	24	Women's Bodies (Chapter 2)
	29	Men's Bodies (Chapter 3)
Sept	31	Sex, Gender and Transgender (Chapter 4)
	5	Labor Day – NO CLASS
	7	EXAM 1
	12	Attraction, Arousal and Response (Chapter 5)
	14	Sexual Behavior (Chapter 6)
	19	Sexual Relationships (Chapter 7)
	21	Fertility, Pregnancy and Childbirth (Chapter 8)
	26	<i>Internet Dating: Dr. Julie Albright, culture and communications expert, USC Viterbi School of Engineering</i>
	28	EXAM 2
Oct	3	Contraception and Abortion (Chapter 9) <i>Raquel Arias (Keck Medical School)</i>
	5	Sex and Evolution (Appendix A and <i>Sperm Wars</i>)
	10	Sexuality across the Lifespan – Childhood and Adolescence (Chapter 10)
	12	Sexuality across the Lifespan – Adulthood and Aging (Chapter 11)
	17	EXAM 3
	19	<i>Guest speaker: Michelle Enfield (APLA Health & Wellness / Commissioner on HIV, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health) – Transgender issues, Two-spirit Etymology and History</i>
	24	Sexual Orientation (Chapter 12)
	26	Atypical sexuality (Chapter 13)
	31	Sexual disorders (Chapter 14)
Nov	2	EXAM 4
	7	Sexual assault, harassment, and partner violence (Chapter 16); <i>The Hunting Ground</i>
	9	<i>Mindful Sex Workshop / Diana Medsker (USC Office of Wellness and Health Promotion)</i>
	14	Sexually transmitted infections (Chapter 15)
	16	Sex as a commodity (Chapter 17)
	23	Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASS
	21-30	Student Presentations – please post slides on your Wiki Group page
Dec	7	EXAM 5 <i>NOTE THE TIME IS 4:30-6:30 pm</i>