

Human Sexuality
SOCL/PSYC 3023-101
Spring 2023 | MW 2:00pm-3:20pm
Classroom: Prothro-Yeager 100

Professor: Dr. Jennifer Pace

Office: O'Donohoe 131 (PY Building)

Email: Jennifer.Pace@msutexas.edu

**Note: I will return emails within
48 hours, excluding weekends*

Office Hours: Mon & Wed: 12:00-2:00PM

Fri: 12:00-1:00PM
& by appointment

Required Text: *Discovering Human Sexuality. By Levay, Baldwin, & Baldwin. 2021. 5th ed.*
**All additional readings will be available on our D2L course website.*

Cross-Listed SOCL/PSYC Credit Hours: This is a cross listed course (Sociology/Psychology). Students will only receive credit hours in the discipline in which they registered (Sociology *or* Psychology). Students should be very careful to check which course they are registered under (PSYC 3023 *or* SOCL 3023). Many students take this course to complete necessary credit hours in either psychology or sociology. You need to register under PSYC 3023 to receive psychology credits or SOCL 3023 to receive sociology credits.

Course Description: The aim of this course is to study human sexuality from a social and behavioral scientific perspective. Despite the fact that we live in a sex-focused information society, many people know very little about a variety of aspects concerning human sexuality (including sexual health). There are many important perspectives from which to study sexuality such as the religious, biological, medical, and moral. In this course, we will, instead, focus on the sociological and psychological perspectives. We want to know how groups of individuals interact to shape the contours of sexual behavior and sexual attitudes both now and in the past. Conversely, we want to know how the individual's expression of sexuality in turn molds society's sexual norms and cultural climate. Sexuality is fundamental to the cultural, economic, political, and social organizations of society. In the same vein, sexuality is important to social identities, behaviors, and interactions. Throughout the course, we will use sociological and psychological perspectives to understand how sexuality is socially constructed, how this construction has changed over time, and the importance of sexuality for individuals and society.

Evaluation: Grading for this course will be determined by the following breakdown:

Weekly Summaries	20%
Research Paper	20%
Exam #1	30%
<u>Exam #2</u>	<u>30%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Grades:

1) Weekly Summaries on D2L (20%): Every week by **11:59pm on Tuesday**, you should prepare for class by writing a summary of ALL of the week's readings along with three discussion questions. **Summaries are submitted on our on our D2L course site.** Your summary of the readings should be a *minimum* of 1 full page in length (double spaced, 12 point font and 1-inch margins). Summaries should demonstrate that you have read all of the readings assigned for the week. Your three discussion questions should be based on the readings for the entire week. You will use these summaries/questions to facilitate your participation in class, for group discussions, and/or to help prepare you for exams.

*There will be 12 weekly reading summaries assigned and 10 will count toward your grade. This means you get **two free “drops”** – use them wisely. There are no “make-ups” for weekly summaries. If you are sick, need to travel, oversleep, just want to skip one, etc., then you can use one of your free drops.

2) Research Paper (20%): You will develop a 6-page (minimum) research paper (not including title or reference pages) on a topic of your choice. More details are available on our D2L course site and we will also discuss the research paper in class. **Research papers are submitted on our D2L course site** (see schedule for due date).

3) Exams (60%): There will be two exams, each worth 30% of your final grade. Exam material will be drawn from lectures, readings, and other course content/activities. The exams will consist of a combination of True/False, Multiple Choice, and Free Response questions. **Both exams will be taken in class, during our regular class time.** *Exam Make-Up Policy: Missed exams can only be made up with documentation of an extenuating circumstance (see below).* *Note: If you know that you have a conflict with an exam date, it is your responsibility to set up an appointment at the beginning of the semester to discuss with me.*

*****Important Information Regarding Grades & Course Policies*****

--*Note on lateness*: Coming to class late is disruptive – you should avoid arriving late and disrupting class after we have started for the day. If you arrive late and disrupt our class, you may be asked to leave for the day.

If you repeatedly find yourself unable to arrive to class on time, then the timing of this class clearly does not work for your schedule – you are encouraged to consider dropping the course and rescheduling it at a different time that works better for you.

--*Note on excessive absences*: If you simply stop coming to class, you can be **dropped**. Students may be dropped for excessive absences (6+) at the professor's discretion. In accordance with MSU Texas policy, students will be issued one warning prior to being dropped from the class.

--*Note on syllabus and policies*: This syllabus serves as the notice of course policies, including those listed above. Students are responsible for reading this syllabus and understanding these policies. Students are always welcome to attend office hours for clarification of course policies. Having not read this syllabus and/or post-hoc declarations of not understanding course policies will not be considered justification(s) for not following these policies and will not be considered justification(s) in arguing for a higher grade/not being dropped from the course.

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

Confidentiality & Consent: Discussions in class or in group may occasionally involve sensitive self-disclosure. No student will be required to reveal personal information that makes him or her feel uncomfortable. It is critical that anything of a personal nature that is disclosed in this class not be discussed with anyone outside of this class. Many of you hope to become counseling professionals and this rule of confidentiality remains a central one for those seeking careers in the social and behavioral sciences. Additionally, we will formally consent to joining this class with these understandings. To stay in the class, you will need to sign our classroom consent form before the end of the second week of the semester.

Extenuating Circumstances:

Emergencies and other extenuating circumstances happen. If you experience an extenuating circumstance and you want to submit a request for a special allowance (missing an exam, etc.), you must provide documentation and ATTEND OFFICE HOURS to discuss. Emailing a request and/or documentation without attending office hours to discuss will not be considered an approved request for special allowance. You are REQUIRED to provide documentation and discuss your request IN OFFICE HOURS. If you are unable to attend in person, you may request a Zoom appointment. See MSU Texas [Student handbook – Class Attendance Policy](#)

Documentation for University/Texas State Regulated Extenuating Circumstance:

- Written evidence of attending a mandatory university-sponsored activity (band, athletics, etc.), documentation must come from college dean, Athletic Director, and/or Provost

- Official documentation of mandatory military service
- Religious observance or Holy Day(s) (ask professor about documentation)

Documentation for Extenuating Circumstance given at the discretion of the faculty member:

- A written note from a physician or MSU infirmary (including for COVID-19 related circumstances)
- A written note from the MSU Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (including for COVID-19 related circumstances)
- A written note from a physician for a family member/loved one's illness (as professor about possible alternative documentation)
- Official documentation of required jury or court appearance
- Death of a family member/loved one (ask professor about documentation)

Notes on Other Special Circumstances:

EMERGENCIES (MSU Texas Student Handbook, pp. 61-62):

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities - For personal emergencies such as hospitalization or family emergency, or a prolonged absence, a student should notify the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

ILLNESS (MSU Texas Student Handbook, pp. 61-62):

Vinson Health Center - When a student's illness warrants verification, the student may seek medical treatment through the Vinson Health Center, after which the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and/or faculty members will be notified by the Vinson Health Center.

COVID-19:

If you are concerned that you may test positive for or may have been exposed to COVID-19, follow the instructions outlined on the MSU Texas website: <https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus/> If you have been directed to quarantine, you will need to provide documentation from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR). Be sure to follow the medical guidelines and contact OSRR for assistance with contacting your professors and managing your classes. The OSRR will send an email to your professors notifying them of your situation. University policy states that individual faculty have the option to make allowances for absences of this nature at their discretion. This is up to individual faculty and you will need to discuss with your professor.

For this class, if you have a cumulation of 6 or more absences (including COVID or otherwise related), you may be advised to drop the class and/or may be dropped by the professor, at the professor's discretion. You will be contacted by the professor and given a warning before this occurs. Six absences equal two entire weeks of the course. This is only a 15-week course. Two weeks of missed content negatively impacts quality education. Being dropped from the class under these circumstances is not a punishment. When missing this much class, even for extenuating circumstances, it is best to prioritize quality education and retake the class in the future.

ACADEMICALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES (MSU Texas Student Handbook, pp. 61-62):
 MSU Texas Student Handbook policy states: “*Academically-related activities (class field trips, attendance at conferences, etc.) which result in absences require the cooperation of individual faculty members. Even though such activities are educational in nature, they do not qualify as university-sponsored activities. Faculty members who organize such activities should assist their students in contacting and informing relevant faculty of the planned activity. Excused absences for such activities may be given at the discretion of the faculty member whose class is missed.*”

Students may submit requests for consideration of special allowance for academically related activities by ATTENDING OFFICE HOURS (not via email). Such requests must be made prior to the event. Keep in mind, requests are not automatically granted. Requests will be granted at professor’s discretion.

Grading Scale:

Letter	Percentage	Description
A	90-100	Exceptional: Exceeds all required elements of the assignment, and the quality of the work is considerably greater than what is required.
B	80-89	Good: Meets all required elements of the assignment, and the quality of the work is better than what is required.
C	70-79	Average: Meets all required elements of an assignment, no more, no less. Quality of assignment is satisfactory for college level work.
D	60-69	Below average: Does not meet all the required elements of the assignment, and/or the quality is below satisfactory.
F	59 and below	Failing: Almost none of the requirements of the assignment are met and/or the quality of the assignment is unacceptable.

The Americans with Disabilities Act:

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Office of Disability Accommodation. The telephone number is 397-4618.

Religious Observance: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a religious observance conflict, you will need to provide written proof of the conflict and I will work with you on an individual basis to address the issue. It is your responsibility to review the syllabus, note any possible conflicts, and discuss alternatives with me at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. All students of Midwestern State University are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior, and aid of academic dishonesty. Those found to be in violation of the MSU Texas Student Honor Creed will be reported to the university and are subject to being dropped from the class with an F.

Classroom Behavior:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavior standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. If you do not adhere to such conduct standards, you will be asked to leave for the day and may be dropped from the class/reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. If you do not leave on your own accord, MSU Texas police department will escort you out, you will be dropped from the class/reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for disciplinary action.

Course Policies and Grades:

Students may discuss course policies and grades with the professor at any time during the semester. Students are in their right to dislike or disagree with a course policy or with a grade, with the understanding the professor has final ruling over the policies of their course and grades given within that course. Once final grades are submitted at the end of the semester, students who wish to discuss a grade may contact the professor at the start of the next semester and attend office hours. Discussions regarding student-contested grades will conclude at the discretion of the professor. (To clarify: If you are contesting a grade you received, the professor will listen to and consider your concerns and will make a ruling. At that point, the discussion will cease, and the student will refrain from further arguing with the professor.)

Other Course Policies:

1. No laptops or cell phones are allowed in lecture. If you have a disability or special circumstance that requires you to use a laptop, please see me to discuss accommodations.
2. There are no "make-ups" or "early turn-ins" for in-class work/assignments/quizzes.
3. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. You should first review the syllabus and then contact a classmate to ask for notes, etc. You should not email your professor to ask "what did I miss?" If you have questions after viewing the material you acquire from another student in class, feel free to attend office hours.
4. In this class, as in many sociology classes, our discussion will often focus on controversial issues that may arouse intense feelings and disagreement. While enthusiastic discussion of these issues is encouraged and disagreements may occur, inappropriate/disrespectful conduct will not be tolerated. As professor for this course, I reserve the right to ask you to

leave if your comments and/or actions are deemed to be inappropriate and/or are contributing to a classroom environment that is disruptive. If you do not leave on your own accord, MSU Texas police department will escort you out, you will be dropped from the class, and you will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for disciplinary action.

5. Please do not get up and leave class, or start packing up to leave, before our time is up. **Please avoid being late to class.** It is distracting to the entire class. If you must leave early or come late, let me know ahead of time. Disrupting class by being late/leaving early will have a negative impact on your grade. If you are late to class, you may be asked to leave for the day.
6. Students should refer to the MSU Texas Student Handbook for additional information about university policies, procedures, and/or for additional questions/concerns. If, for any reason, you have been asked to leave the class for the day and do not do so on your own accord, the following will occur: MSU Texas police department will escort you out, you will be dropped from the class, and you will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for disciplinary action.

Students who violate these policies are subject to being dropped with an F for the class at the faculty member's discretion

Peer Contact Information (your first source for missed material)

Name _____ Email/Number: _____

Name _____ Email/Number: _____

Name _____ Email/Number: _____

COURSE SCHEDULE

- ❖ Readings for the week are due by at the beginning of class on **MONDAY**.
- ❖ Summaries for the week are due by 11:59PM on **TUESDAY**.
- ❖ Readings marked with * can be found on our D2L course website.
- ❖ “Chapter” readings are found in your textbook.
- ❖ *Note: Readings and scheduled items are subject to change.*

UNIT 1: THE FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

Week 1 (Jan 16-Jan 20): INTRODUCTION

Readings: ~Chapter 1: Sexuality – Pathways to Understanding (Text)
*Terminology (PDF)

Due & Events: No classes Monday – MLK Day

Week 2 (Jan 23-Jan 27): EXPERIENCING SEXUALITY: COLLEGE AS A CASE STUDY

Readings: *Gute, Gary, Elaine M. Eshbaugh, & Jacquelyn Wiersma. 2008. “Sex for You, But Not for Me: Discontinuity in Undergraduate Emerging Adults’ Definitions of ‘Having Sex’.” (PDF)
*Cera, Michelle J., Jessie Ford, and Paula England. 2017. “Social pressure to appear masculine leads straight men to have unwanted sex.” (PDF)
*Cera, Michelle J., Jessie Ford, and Paula England. 2017. “College women seen as a ‘slut’ if they have sex on a hookup, ‘bitch’ or ‘prude’ if they don’t.” (PDF)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #1 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM

Week 3 (Jan 30-Feb 03): CONSTRUCTING SEXUALITY

Readings: *Christiansen, Lars and Nancy Fischer. “Working in the (social) construction zone.” (PDF)
*Roberts, Celia. 2007. “Medicine and the Making of a Sexual Body.” (PDF)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #2 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM

Week 4 (Feb 06-Feb 10): SEX EDUCATION

Readings: *Miceli, Melinda S.” Schools and the Control of Sexuality.” (PDF)
*Politics of Sex Education: Interview with Janice M. Irvine. (PDF)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #3 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM

Week 5 (Feb 13-Feb 17): SEXUAL HEALTH

Readings: ~Chapter 15: Sexually Transmitted Infections (Text)
*Dalessandro, Cristen, Laurie James-Hawkins, and Christie Sennott.
2019. “Strategic Silence: College Men and Hegemonic Masculinity in
Contraceptive Decision Making.” (PDF)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #4 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM

Week 6 (Feb 20-Feb 24): SOCIALIZATION AND BUILDING SEXUAL IDENTITY

Readings: *Thorne, Barrie and Zella Luria. 1986. "Sexuality and Gender in Children's Daily
Worlds." Social Problems 33(3):176–190. (PDF)
*Pascoe, C. J. 2007. “Dude, You’re a Fag: Adolescent Masculinity and the Fag
Discourse.” Sexualities 8(3): 329-346. (PDF)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #5 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM

Week 7 (Feb 27-March 03): INVISIBLE IDENTITIES

Readings: *Zangari, Nicolette, Kathryn Graff Low, and Anna N. Query. “A
Qualitative Exploration of the “Coming Out” Process for Asexual
Individuals.” (PDF)
*Siebers, Tobin. “A Sexual Culture for Disabled People.” (PDF)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #6 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM

Week 8 (March 06-March 10): REVIEW AND EXAM

Readings: N/A (In-class review on Monday)

Due & Events: **Exam #1 on Wednesday (in class)**

UNIT 2: THE SOCIAL PRACTICE OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

Week 9 (March 13-March 17): SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (March 20-March 24): GENDER AND HETERONORMATIVITY (part 1)

Readings: ~Chapter 12: Sexual Orientation (Text)
*Schilt, Kristen, and Laurel Westbrook. 2009. "Doing Gender, Doing Heteronormativity: 'Gender Normals,' Transgender People, and the Social Maintenance of Heterosexuality." *Gender & Society* 23: 440-464. (PDF)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #7 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM

Week 11 (March 27-March 31): GENDER AND HETERONORMATIVITY (part 2)

Readings: *D'Emilio, John. "Capitalism and Gay Identity" (PDF)
*Nielsen, Joyce, Glenda Walden, and Charlotte Kunkel. "Gendered Heteronormativity: Empirical Illustrations in Everyday Life." (PDF)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #8 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM

Week 12 (April 03-April 07): RACE & MEDICAL RACISM

Readings: *Collins, Patricia Hill. Chapter 1: Introduction "Sex Matters: Why Black Sexual Politics?" New York: Routledge. (PDF)
*Garcia, Lorena. 2009. "'Now Why Do You Want to Know About That?': Heteronormativity, Sexism, and Racism in the Sexual (Mis)Education of Latina Youth." *Gender & Society* 23(4): 520-541. (PDF)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #9 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM
Paper Topics due on D2L by Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week 13 (April 10-April 14): SOCIAL CLASS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

Readings: *McDermott, Elizabeth. 2011. "The World Some Have Won: Sexuality, Class, and Inequality." (PDF)
*Which college students are more permissive about sex? differences by social class background and educational aspirations." (Link)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #10 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM
Monday: Workshop Papers

Week 14 (April 17-April 21): SEXUAL ASSAULT, VIOLENCE, AND CONSENT

Readings: ~Chapter 16: Sexual Assault, Harassment, and Partner Violence (Text)
*Armstrong, Elizabeth, Laura Hamilton, and Brian Sweeny. "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape." (PDF)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #11 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM

Week 15 (April 24-April 28): SELLING SEX

Readings: ~Chapter 17: Sex Work (Text)
*Barton, Bernadette. "Dancing on the Mobius Strip: Challenging the Sex War Paradigm." (PDF)

Due & Events: DUE: Summary #12 due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM

Week 16 (May 01-May 05): REVIEW & EXAM

Readings: N/A (In-class review on Monday)

Due & Events: **Exam #2 on Wednesday (in class)**

FINALS WEEK

We do not have a final exam scheduled during finals week.

Instead, your **RESEARCH PAPER is DUE on D2L** during our exam slot: ***Wednesday, May 10th by 11:59 PM***