



Sex, Health, and Decision Making Course Syllabus
HSC 2133 Section 002, 3 Credit Hours
Fall 2008

This course is part of the University of South Florida's Foundations of Knowledge and Learning Core Curriculum. It is certified for Social and Behavioral Sciences and for the following dimensions: Critical Thinking, Inquiry-based Learning, Human and Cultural Diversity, and Ethical Perspectives.

Day, Time, Location:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. College of Public Health, Room 2004
Instructor Information:	Cara de la Cruz, MPH Department of Community & Family Health College of Public Health Office: Room 2150-G E-mail: cdelacru@health.usf.edu Phone : 813-974-7838 Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays after class, by appointment only
Textbook:	Greenberg, J. S., Bruess, C. E., & Conklin, S. C. (2007). Exploring the Dimensions of Human Sexuality (3 rd ed). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. The textbook and study guide are available at the Health Sciences Bookstore located at MDC 1031 on the USF Tampa Campus. Regular hours are Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p. m. (813-974-4984).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the fundamental relationship between sexuality, decision-making, and health outcomes from a public health perspective. It is designed to provide students with a multidimensional overview of the factors that influence sexual behavior and decision-making and offers them the opportunity to explore their attitudes and values related to sexuality. The course offers a public health perspective of the cultural, genetic, and social factors influencing sexual behavior and risk-taking, with emphasis on prevention and early detection of adverse outcomes. The focus of the course will be to provide students with the tools and techniques to make informed decisions about their sexual health and sexual expression.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Identify, analyze, and discuss the issues, dilemmas, and choices associated with sexual behavior commonly confronted by college students;

2. Identify and discuss the relationship between sexuality and health, on a personal and population level;
3. Identify myths and misinformation related to sexual behaviors and health outcomes;
4. Describe cultural and social influences on an individual's view of sexual behaviors;
5. Recognize and understand the multidimensional aspects of healthy sexuality and identify potential barriers to its development;
6. Identify the behaviors that are commonly termed sexual "risk-taking" and understand their prevention, detection, and potential consequences;
7. Understand and discuss the concept of risk tolerance and critically evaluate their own risk-taking behaviors and level of risk tolerance;
8. Identify and describe the health consequences of high-risk sexual behaviors;
9. Define and distinguish between "unsafe," "safe," and "safer" sexual practices and identify the personal and sexual behaviors that lead to them;
10. Describe decision-making processes that may provide alternatives to unsafe sexual practice and facilitate prevention and early detection;
11. Explain the issues involved with ethics in research and education as they relate to sexuality and demonstrate their ability to obtain and analyze reliable research available in the public domain; and
12. Identify and discuss ethical considerations of such sexually-related topics as STIs, contraception, commercial sex work, underage sexual relations, sexual history sharing, and sexual responsibility to a partner.

Class Etiquette

Participation: The nature of this course includes discussion of sensitive and potentially controversial or embarrassing material. I expect sensitivity, peer support, tolerance, and diplomacy in all student interactions. Strive to remain open to alternative viewpoints and opinions. Your active participation is valued, but also expected. Active participation includes attentiveness and engagement in classroom discussion. Reading the assigned material prior to class will greatly facilitate your ability to participate in discussions. You will not be expected to share your own personal experiences unless you so desire. Respect is essential. I expect that all comments/questions will be met with respect and dignity.

Attendance: Your regular attendance is highly recommended for you to be successful in this course. Those that do best in this course attend all class sessions, which provide guidance on the issues that are more highly prioritized. Aside from assigned readings, exams will also be based on lectures that cover information not found in your textbook. If you plan on coming to class and sleeping, reading the newspaper, sending text messages, or doing other work, then do not come to class. I will ask you to leave. Note that attending class is mandatory the day of your group presentation.

Tardiness & Leaving Early: Students arriving late to class or leaving class early are a considerable source of disruption and distraction to me and other students. Plan ahead to arrive to class on time, and to stay until class officially ends. I will not repeat announcements and other information provided at the beginning or end of the class session; therefore, you are responsible for obtaining such information from a classmate.

Disruptions: Please demonstrate mutual respect for others' learning environment by silencing all phones/pagers and **not** text-messaging, gaming, or conducting private conversations with those around you. All electronic devices should be put away (i.e., in purses/backpacks) and not in visible sight. *Statement from the USF Provost's Office: "Disruption of the academic process is intolerable and*

contrary to university policy. It may result in mandatory, fee-liable drops of the disruptive elements, suspension or dismissal from the university.”

Use of Computers/Taping: All unauthorized recordings of class are prohibited. Recordings that accommodate individual student needs must be approved by me in advance and may be used for personal use during the semester only; redistribution is prohibited. If I grant approval for you to use your laptop for note-taking, you must sit in the first two rows of the classroom only.

Confidentiality: Open and candid discussions are strongly encouraged. Because of this exchange of sensitive and sometimes personal matters, you are required not to discuss a classmate’s personal information with others outside of our class.

Student Athletes: I expect you to provide me with a detailed list of dates you will be missing class due to athletic events. I also expect you to e-mail me before each absence so that any materials provided in class can be set aside for you. Upon your return to class, it is your responsibility to check with your peers regarding lecture notes, changes to the schedule, or announcements made in class during your absence. Please note that instructors provide periodic assessments of your academic performance in the course to the Athletics Department.

Blackboard

Only students officially enrolled in this class may obtain access to the Blackboard class website. You must have a NetID account (to apply for go to <https://my.usf.edu> and click on “Sign Up”). To log onto Blackboard go to <https://my.usf.edu>. Syllabus, announcements, grades, discussion boards, assignments, and other materials for the class will be posted there. **Please check Blackboard regularly (at least once per week) for new announcements.**

If you have difficulty accessing the Blackboard class website, please do not contact me. I can only assist you with course material once you’ve logged onto the site. Instead, contact the Academic Computing Help Desk by one of the following methods:

Phone: (813) 974-1222 or toll free 1(800) 974-1222

Web: <http://www.acomp.usf.edu/Help/javaindex.html>

Email: Help-ac@usf.edu

In person LIB 608 (6th floor of the Tampa Campus Library).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

EXAMS (3 at 20% each, total of 60%)

Three in-class exams will be given throughout the semester. Each exam may include multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer, and short essay. Exam questions will cover topics discussed in class, assigned readings (e.g., textbook, handouts), presentations, videos, etc. If you show up late, you will have whatever time is left of the allotted time period for the exam. **Make-up exams are rare and only considered under exceptional circumstances. You are required to contact the instructor BEFORE the exam to discuss the circumstances. If the instructor is not contacted prior to exam, no make-up exam will be given.**

HOMEWORK (10%)

Assignments will either be handed out in class or assigned in your study guide or textbook. You may not have another student pick up the assignment or turn in your assignment for you unless your absence is excused. There are 5 assignments, and each assignment is worth 20 points each, for a total of 100 possible

points. Late homework assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Plagiarism Tutorial: Evidence of plagiarism, even when unintentional, is unacceptable, and could lead to an “F” grade for the assignment and/or course. Students are required to complete a tutorial on plagiarism provided by the USF Center for 21st Century Teaching Excellence. Students must print out and turn in a hard copy of the completed quiz with a score of at least 70% as evidence of successful completion. The tutorial is accessed through the following website: <http://www.cte.usf.edu/plagiarism/plagindex.html>.

WEBSITE REVIEW (5%)

Each student will be required to review five websites on one topic. The purpose of this assignment is to advance your research and critical thinking skills by analyzing a variety of ‘good’ and ‘bad’ websites. Websites should be critiqued on the following criteria: authorship; content; current/up-to-date information; appropriateness and accessibility of links provided; user-friendliness; recommendations; and overall quality. It is important to remember that you are critiquing the website, not collecting research on your topic. I will post further information on this assignment on Blackboard. 10 points (out of 100 possible points) will be deducted from your grade each day the assignment is late.

ARTICLE REVIEW (10%)

Each student will choose 1 current and pertinent peer-reviewed journal, newspaper, or magazine article dealing with issues of sex, health, and decision-making. You will turn in the article you chose in class on 10/07/08 for approval to use for the assignment. You will receive points taken off your grade if you do not submit it on that day. This assignment consists of a 3-4 page paper including the source of the article (where you found it, authorship, copyright date), a summary of the article’s content, what you found interesting about the article and how it relates to the course content. The paper will be formatted with 1 inch margins, and in Times New Roman 12 point font, double-spaced. Your review must be submitted via Safe Assignment in addition to bringing a hard copy to class to turn in. Further instructions will be posted on Blackboard. 10 points (out of 100 possible points) will be deducted from your grade each day the assignment is late.

GROUP PRESENTATION (15%)

Students enrolled in the course are expected to analyze sexually charged situations in order to make healthy and appropriate decisions and choices should they be confronted with similar situations in their own lives. Healthy decisions are based on knowledge of the facts, comprehension of the alternatives, careful evaluation of personal values, beliefs and attitudes and effective decision-making skills. This assignment is designed to help you develop and practice these decision-making skills.

Students will form teams of about four students. The teams will select a dilemma/issue from a set of issues developed by the instructor. The issues relate to subject matter discussed in the course and reading assignments. Each team will strategize how to confront their issue and will then conduct the appropriate research to collect information. Each team will then make a 10-minute presentation to the class in which they describe their issue and how they dealt with it.

A portion of your grade will be determined by your teammates’ assessments of your performance. Attendance is mandatory on the day of team presentation, and points will be deducted from your grade if you have an unexcused absence that day. I will post further information on this assignment on Blackboard.

OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT (up to 2 points)

Students may earn up to 2 extra credit points onto the final grade by completing an optional film review assignment. Students may write a 2-3 page review on a film in which they should discuss their personal

reaction to the film, and how the film portrays issues related to sexuality and health, referencing text and class content. This assignment must be in 12 point Times New Roman font. Late papers will not be accepted. More information about this assignment and choices of films will be posted on Blackboard.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments, including homework assignments, are due at the beginning of class. Each assignment has a specific point deduction for every day that it is late. A student that is 15 or more minutes late the day that the assignment is due will have their assignment counted as one day late. Homework assignments and optional extra credit assignment cannot be turned in late unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Your final course grade will be computed as a weighted total of:

Exam #1	20%
Homework Assignments	10%
Website exercise	5%
Exam #2	20%
Article review paper	10%
Group presentation	15%
Exam #3	20%
Total	100%

GRADING

Based on your numerical score, your grade will be assigned as follows:

A	90-100	C	70-79
B	80-89	D	60-69
F Below 60			

Note: Summer sessions can be especially challenging because all the course objectives must be met in a concentrated 6 week period. It is essential that the student start immediately to engage in the content and keep up with the reading and assignments.

If you are having problems with the course material, or meeting deadlines, make an appointment with the instructor to discuss the options and develop a plan to assure you can successfully complete the course.

COURSE POLICIES

The syllabus is subject to change at anytime. You are responsible for any such announcements made in class.

For a thorough explanation of policies governing the USF academic environment, go to:

<http://www.ugs.usf.edu/pdf/cat0607/acapol.pdf>.

Course Attendance at First Class Meeting:

This policy has been put into effect so that the University of South Florida may effectively utilize classroom space and ensure all students the opportunity to enroll in classes where demand exceeds availability of seats. Students are obligated to attend the first class meeting of all regularly scheduled undergraduate classes for which they have registered in order to ensure their enrollment in those classes. The consequence of non-

attendance is that the student is dropped from the course and the available space may be assigned to another student. Students who do not plan to attend a particular course have the responsibility to drop the course by the end of the first week of classes in order to avoid paying the fee. Students having extenuating circumstances beyond their control and who are unable to attend the first class meeting must notify me or my department prior to the first meeting to request a waiver of attendance. The above process requires me to take attendance at the first class meeting during the first week of class and to report any absent students to the Registrar's Office so the students can be dropped from the course. Students who add courses or register late during the first week of classes will not be on the first class roll and, therefore, will not be dropped for non-attendance by me.

University Policy on Religious Observance:

No student shall be compelled to attend class or sit for an examination on a day or time prohibited by his or her religious belief. In accordance with the University policy on observances of religious days, I expect students to notify me if you intend to be absent for a class or announced examination during the first week of class. You are expected to provide me with written notice. Additionally, I expect you to send me an e-mail reminder **immediately prior to the absence** in order to ensure that homework or handouts provided during any absence are reserved and available upon return. If a major religious observance interferes with assignment due dates, you must submit your work **before** the due date. There will be no exceptions.

Academic Assistance for Students With Disabilities:

Any student with a disability is encouraged to meet with me privately during the first week of class to discuss accommodations. Each student must bring a current Memorandum of Accommodations from the Office of Student Disability Services which is prerequisite for receiving accommodations. Accommodated examinations through the Office of Student Disability Services require two weeks notice. All course documents are available in alternate format if requested in the student's Memorandum of Accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: (www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm#plagiarism)

Students who receive or give test information may receive an "F" with a numerical value of zero on the test. It is the option of the instructor to fail the student in the course. For the use of any prohibited device, such as a cheat sheet or recording, during the course of a classroom test to assist the student or other students, the student using such prohibited device may receive an "F" in the course. Students attending USF are awarded degrees in recognition of successful completion of coursework in their chosen fields of study. Each individual is expected to earn his/her degree on the basis of personal effort. Consequently, any form of cheating on examinations or plagiarism on assigned papers constitutes unacceptable deceit and dishonesty and may result in a final grade of "FF" on the student record.

Plagiarism is defined as "literary theft" and consists of the unattributed quotation of the exact words of a published text, or the unattributed borrowing of original ideas by paraphrasing a published text. In written papers for which the student employs information gathered from books, articles, websites, or oral sources, each direct quotation, as well as ideas and facts that are not generally known to the public at large, or the form, structure or style of a secondary source must be attributed to its author by means of the appropriate citation procedure. Only widely known facts and first-hand thoughts and observations (original to the student) do not require citations. Citations may be made in footnotes or within the body of the text. Plagiarism also consists of passing off, as one's own, segments or the total of another person's work. Any work suspected of plagiarism will be checked against various sources to identify and confirm such academic dishonesty. It is the option of the instructor to fail the student in the course if any plagiarism is detected.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES*

*Schedule and syllabus are subject to change – you are responsible for any announcements that are made in class.

WEEK	TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
Week 1	8/26/08 Introduction to SHDM Assignment: Establish Blackboard access and e-mail accounts	8/28/08 Dimensions of Sexuality Reading: Chapter 1
Week 2	9/02/08 Body Image Reading: In Focus: Body Image p. 190-215	9/04/08 Female Anatomy Reading: Chapter 4 HW assignment due: Plagiarism tutorial Please bring scissors for class activity
Week 3	9/09/08 Male Anatomy Reading: Chapter 5 Please bring scissors for class activity	9/11/08 Sexual Response and Arousal Reading: Chapter 7 Assignment due: Website Review
Week 4	9/16/08 Gender Dimensions In class: Exam #1 Review Reading: Chapter 6	9/18/08 EXAM #1 Covers all previous lectures, and chapters 1, 4-7, In Focus – Body Image
Week 5	9/23/08 Sex Under the Influence Alcohol, Risk-Taking & Sex	9/25/08 Sexual Techniques and Behaviors Reading: Chapter 10
Week 6	9/30/08 Sexual Orientation Reading: Chapter 11	10/2/08 Contraception Reading: Chapter 8 HW assignment due: Study Guide Activity 8.2, p. 122
Week 7	10/07/08 Conception, Pregnancy & Birth Reading: Chapter 9 Assignment due: Submit article for approval for article review paper HW Assignment will be assigned for next class	10/09/08 Video for Conception, Pregnancy & Birth HW assignment due: View #8 from NOVA video: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/miracle/program.html and submit answers on questions

Week 8	10/14/08 Outcomes of Unintended Pregnancy Reading: In Focus: Unexpected Pregnancy Outcomes p. 378-407	10/16/08 Atypical Sexual Behaviors & Sexual Dysfunction In class: Exam #2 Review Reading: Chapter 15 & In Focus: Atypical Sexual Behaviors, p. 666-685
Week 9	10/21/08 EXAM #2 Covers lectures after Exam #1, and chapters 8-11,15, In Focus – Unexpected Pregnancy Outcomes & Atypical Sexual Behaviors.	10/23/08 Sexual Ethics In class: Groups and Issues Assigned for Group Presentation Reading: Chapter 18
Week 10	10/28/08 Sexually Transmitted Infections Reading: Chapter 14	10/30/08 HIV/AIDS Reading: In Focus: HIV and AIDS, p.608-629 Assignment due: Article Review
Week 11	11/04/08 Sexuality in Adulthood Reading: Chapter 13	11/06/08 Sexual Consumerism Reading: Chapter 17 HW assignment due: Bring 5 ads that use sex to sell
Week 12	11/11/08 VETERANS DAY NO CLASS	11/13/08 Sexual Communication Reading: Chapter 3 HW assignment due: Critical Thinking Questions 1 and 2 in textbook p. 117
Week 13	11/18/08 Forcible Sexual Behaviors Reading: Chapter 16	11/20/08 Forcible Sexual Behaviors continued
Week 14	11/25/08 Catch up and Group presentations In class: Exam #3 Review Assignment due: Optional extra credit	11/27/08 THANKSGIVING DAY NO CLASS
Week 15	12/2/08 Group presentations	12/4/08 Group presentations
Week 16	Tuesday 12/9/08, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. EXAM #3: Covers lectures after Exam #2, and chapters 3, 13, 14,16-18, In Focus: HIV/AIDS, p.608-629	