

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

LSC Use Only
Number _____
Action _____
Date _____

UWUCC Use Only
Number <u>24C</u>
Action _____
Date _____

I. TITLE/AUTHOR OF CHANGE

COURSE/PROGRAM TITLE PC 379 Psychology of Human Sexuality
DEPARTMENT Psychology
CONTACT PERSON Maureen C. McHugh

II. THIS COURSE IS BEING PROPOSED FOR:

- Course Approval Only
- Course Approval and Liberal Studies Approval
- Liberal Studies Approval only (course previously has been approved by the University Senate)

III. APPROVALS

Department Curriculum Committee

Department Chairperson

College Curriculum Committee

College Dean*

Director of Liberal Studies
(where applicable)

Provost
(where applicable)

*College Dean must consult with Provost before approving curriculum changes. Approval by College Dean indicates that the proposed change is consistent with long range planning documents, that all requests for resources made as part of the proposal can be met, and that the proposal has the support of the university administration.

IV. TIMETABLE

Date Submitted
to LSC _____
to UWUCC _____

Semester/Year to be
implemented _____

Date to be published
in Catalog _____

Revised 5/88

[Attach remaining parts of
proposal to this form.]

Course Description

Psychology: Psychology of Human Sexuality
(prerequisite PC 101 General Psychology)

3 credits, 3 lectures/week

Catalogue Description

This course provides an overview of the psychological issues and research relevant to sexuality with an emphasis on gender roles. Social psychological and gender perspectives are used to examine a number of topics including: contemporary sexual attitudes, sexual response, sexual relationships, sexual dysfunction, sexual variations, sexual preference and sexual violence. Research pertaining to each topic is presented. Students are encouraged to critically evaluate research and theory and to make connections between the material and their personal experience.

Course Analysis

A. Details of the Course

1. Academic Need. The course is designed for both psychology graduate students and undergraduate psychology majors/minors and for Women's Studies students. Many of the psychology students go on to human service employment where the sexual needs and behaviors of clients is an issue. An understanding of the psychological and gender aspects of human sexuality is an important asset to counselors, therapists, case workers and even personnel specialists. The course encourages psychology majors to see a connection between societal/popular issues and questions and psychological research methods. Other majors such as education and physical education may also benefit.
2. No changes in other departmental courses are indicated. The course is a complement/extension of some of the material covered in most Psychology of Women courses. Some coordination/ cooperation among instructors may be useful to prevent overlap or redundancy.
3. This course is slightly more interdisciplinary than other psychology courses. The course will be included as an elective for the (proposed) Women's Studies minor. The course combines the traditional pedagogy with some innovations recommended by Women's Studies, such as personal reflection essays and small group discussion.
4. The course has been offered by Dr. Maureen McHugh in the Spring term of 1987, 1988 and 1989. She had 30 students enrolled each term; the majority of the students were psychology majors or minors. The students have favorably evaluated the course (see appended ratings).
5. Request for dual-listing will be submitted.
7. Similar courses are taught at other institutions nationwide and regionally including, for example, University of Pittsburgh, Carlow, Community College of Allegheny County and Duquesne University. A large selection of texts is available attesting to high levels of enrollment. The course offered here is a modification of the course taught at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. McHugh trained as a member of a team responsible for the development and conduct of the course there.

B. Interdisciplinary Implications

1. This course is taught by a single instructor.
2. No additional courses are planned.
3. This course complements the course offerings of other departments. The availability of several courses on sexuality offering different disciplinary emphases allows students to (a) develop a specialization in sexuality or (b) select the course that best meets their educational and professional goals. In particular, this course complements and is not redundant with SO 251 Sociology of Human Sexuality.

The instructor has met with the instructor of the sexuality course in the Sociology/Anthropology Department to discuss course focus and content. A memo from the instructor is attached.

4. Continuing Education students have been an asset to the class, and will be welcome.

C. Implementation

1. Resources
 - a. No additional faculty are needed. This course has been assigned to the instructor as part of her teaching load.
 - b. No additional space is required.
 - c. No equipment is required.
 - d. No laboratory supplies are required.
 - e. The Women's Studies Program ordered additional materials on gender roles and on sexuality for Stapleton Library in 1987-88. Some videos and films may be ordered in the future depending on the library budget.
2. No external funds have been solicited.
- 3,4. It is anticipated that one section of this course would be offered once a year.
5. Approximately 30-35 student would be enrolled in the single section offered. If enrollments and interest remain high, other psychology faculty may be interested in teaching additional sections.

6. The need for discussion and in class exercises place some limits on class size.
7. This is an elective within the Psychology Department, and can be used to fulfill requirements for the (proposed) Women's Studies minor.

PC481.CP

Psychology of Human Sexuality
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Instructor **Dr. Maureen C. McHugh**
Associate Professor of Psychology
215 Clark Hall

357-4521

Office Hours: Monday 2:30-3:30
Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:30
Wednesday 10:00-11:30

Required Texts: Nass, G. D. and Fisher, M.P. (1988) Sexuality
Today. Boston: Jones and Bartlett.

Annual Editions Human Sexuality 1988/89.

Description

This course provides an overview of the psychological issues and research on sexuality with an emphasis on gender roles. Social psychological and gender perspectives are used to examine a number of topics including: contemporary sexual attitudes; sexual response; sexual development; sexual relationships; sexual variations; sexual lifestyles; sexual dysfunctions and clinical interventions; and sexual violence. Research pertaining to each topic is presented. Students are encouraged to make connections between the material and their personal experience.

Class sessions will involve a variety of formats including: lectures, discussions, in-class exercises, and small groups.

Objectives

Students are expected to:

become familiar with current psychological theory and research on human sexuality.

to critically examine presented research in terms of: cultural and gender bias; underlying assumptions; methodology; opposing theoretical interpretations; and personal experience.

to examine their own gender attitudes and to analyze the relationship between gender roles and various sexual attitudes and behaviors.

to form a useful personal framework from which human sexuality in our society can be understood.

Course Outline

1/23-25 Perspectives on Sexuality Chapter 1

- A. Historical Perspective: Sexual revolution vs. evolution
- B. Anthropological Perspective: ethnocentrism
- C. Nature vs. Nurture

1/30-2/1 Sexuality Research

- A. Special Problems: volunteerism, ethics
- B. Survey Methods: Kinsey, Hunt
- C. Observation: Humphreys, Masters & Johnson
- D. Experimental: Heimen

2/6-2/8 Anatomy Chapter 2

- A. Cultural attitudes towards genitals
- B. Sexual differentiation
- C. Male genitals: Structure and function
- D. Female genitals: Structure and function

2/13 Sexual Health Chapter 12,15

- A. Sexually Transmitted disease
- B. AIDS

2/20 Sex and Gender

- A. Biological sex vs. Gender Identity Vs. Gender Roles
- B. Gender roles and sexual attitudes: The double standard

2/22 Sexual Arousal Chapter 3

- A. Labelling sexual arousal: Gender differences
- B. Drugs and aphrodisiacs

2/27-3/1 Sexual Response Chapter 6

- A. The sexual response cycle
- B. The male sexual response
- C. The female sexual response
- D. Common misconceptions

3/6-3/8 Reproductive Issues Chapters 13,14

- A. Conception and Infertility
- B. Pregnancy
- C. Contraception
- D. Abortion

- 3/20- 3/22 Childhood and Adolescent Sexuality Chapter 4
- A. Childhood sexual experiences
 - B. Sexual education
 - C. Teenagers and sexuality
 - D. Sexual scripts
- 3/27-3/29 Adult Sexuality Chapters 8,9
- A. Marital sexuality
 - B. Sexual lifestyles
 - C. Aging and sexuality
- 4/3-4/5 Sexual Attraction and Love Chapter 5
- A. Romantic Love
 - B. Cultural attitudes and messages
 - C. Partner selection
- 4/10-4/12 Sexual Preference Chapter 7
- A. Popular beliefs vs. formal theories
 - B. Current research
 - C. The gay experience
- 4/17 Sexual Variations
- A. Sexual scripts and violations
 - B. Societal and legal restrictions
- 4/19 Commercialization of Sex Chapter 10
- A. Prostitution
 - B. Pornography
- 4/24-26 Sexual Dysfunctions Chapter 15
- A. Gender, sexual scripts, and definitions of dysfunction
 - B. Male dysfunctions
 - C. Female dysfunctions
 - D. Sex therapy
- 5/1-5/8 Sex and Violence Chapter 11
- A. Incidence and general issues
 - B. Theories of sex and aggression
 - C. Rape
 - D. Relationship violence
- 5/10 Sexuality in the Future
- A. Technology
 - B. Sexual scripts

Psychology of Human Sexuality

Requirements and Grading

1. There will be two in class exams. Exams will be a combination of essay and objective questions. (Study questions will be provided.) Each exam is worth 50 points. Exam dates are indicated on the attached course schedule. Make up exams will be given only under extraordinary circumstances, and if the instructor has been notified in advance of the scheduled exam. Make up exams will be essay.

2. A series of written assignments are required. Each assignment is worth 25 points. Students must submit three assignments, but may submit as many as five assignments. No more than five submissions will be accepted from any individual. Assignments will be accepted only on the dates indicated on the course schedule. No more than two assignments may be handed in on each of the indicated dates.

3. Class participation will be awarded a maximum of 25 points. Some of these points may be awarded for participation in specific in class exercises or small group activities.

Final grades are based on the accumulation of points and are not curved relative to the performance of classmates. the following grade cutoffs will be used in assigning final grades:

180-200 points = A
160-179 points = B
140-159 points = C
120-139 points = D
fewer than 120 = F

Selected Books on Sexuality

- Allgerer, E. R. and McCormick, N.B. (Eds.) (1982). Changing Boundaries: Gender Roles and Sexual Behavior. Palo Alto: Mayfield.
- Blumstein, P. and Schwartz, P. (1983). American Couples. NY: William Morrow.
- Byrne, D. and Fisher, W. A. (Eds.) (1983). Adolescents, Sex and Contraception. Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Corea, Gena (1984). Test Tube Women: What Future for Motherhood?
- Dworkin, A. (1988). Intercourse. NY: Doubleday.
- Gosselin, C. and Wilson, G. (1980) Sexual Variations: Fetishism, Sadomasochism, Transvestism. NY: Simon and Schuster.
- Green, R. and Wiener, J. (Eds.) (1981) Methodology in Sex Research. Washington: US Government.
- Hatcher, R. A. (1984) Contraceptive Technology. NY: Irvington.
- Hearn, J. and Parkin, W. (1987) Sex at Work: The Power and Paradox of Organization Sexuality. NY: St. Martins Press.
- Masters, W.M., Johnson, V.E. and Kolodny, R.D. (1986) Human Sexuality. Boston: Little, Brown.
- Sadock, B.J. et al (Ed.) (1976) The Sexual Experience. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins.
- Wolman, B.J. and Money, J. (Eds.) (1980) Handbook of Human Sexuality. Prentice Hall.