

# HUMAN SEXUALITY

## William Paterson University

### Winter 2013-2014

**CLASS TIME:** Online course  
**SEMESTER HOURS:** 3  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Jonathan T. Moss, Ed.D(c)  
**PHONE:** email only  
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**Department Secretary:** Geraldine Suppa (973) 720-2394 Hunziker Wing Rm. 132

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to help students explore the biological, psychosocial and cultural perspectives of human sexuality. It will increase the student's awareness and appreciation of different views concerning sexuality in relation to one's gender, age, sexual orientation, and religious, racial and/or ethnic background. Special emphasis will be placed on increasing sexual health literacy, enhancing decision-making skills, and promoting healthy sexual behaviors. Contemporary sexual health issues will be examined debated and analyzed. The course will encourage students to think critically about sexuality and gender and to question their own assumptions. By exploring attitudes and values of others and ourselves in the class, we will come to have a better understanding of human sexuality and ourselves.

#### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

*Human Sexuality: Diversity in Contemporary America, 8<sup>th</sup> edition by William Yarber. Please get the edition that comes with CONNECT!*

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

##### ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

- Attendance/Participation in the online discussions is mandatory and is an integral part the learning experience.
- I expect that you will prepare for class by reading each week's assigned chapter.
- Ground Rules: Class members are free to express their personal opinions (especially in response papers) and reactions. However, hateful speech or expression of disgust will not be tolerated.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, using a 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Do not hand in your only copy. Be sure your name, course number, and the date are included on all assignments. Staple all assignments in the top left corner; do not use folders, report covers, etc.
- Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements are made due to exceptional circumstances. Please talk with me as soon as possible if you foresee any difficulties meeting the assigned deadlines.

Assignments:

- **CONNECT- Online Pre/Post tests/Learnsmart**s/- On CONNECT in detail there are pre/post test and learnsartms that need to be completed by certain dates. Please refer to CONNECT or Blackboard for those specific dates.
- **Human Sexuality Film Critique**- Students will write a 4-5 page combined film critique and research paper on the sexual health topic discussed in one of the assigned movies. Students should use a minimum of 3 reputable sources of information, and MUST cite each one in MLA format. ***THE MOVIE CHOICES ARE LISTED BELOW THIS ASSESSMENT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE SEMESTER***
- **Relationship Assessment**- PLEASE SEE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SYLLABUS FOR THE DETAILS REGARDING THIS ASSIGNMENT.
- **Class Discussion Thread**- Students will submit detailed responses to a question. Students must always post there response and respond to two other students posts by the due date.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Connect quizzes and Learnsmart	30%
Movie Critique	30%
Relationship Assessment	20%
Online posts and responses	20%

A	93-100	B-	80-82.9	D+	68-69.9
A-	90-92.9	C+	78-79.9	D	66-67.9
B+	88-89.9	C	70-77.9	D-	65-65.9
B	83-87.9			F	64 or below

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is required. Class activities and discussions are an integral part of the learning process. Missing more than 3 posts will result in a full-grade deduction on your final grade. Students missing 5 or more posts will automatically fail the course.

**Students with special needs:**

If you have a disability needing appropriate academic adjustments, contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Please present the appropriate documentation to me so we can make your learning experience in my course positive.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I will hold you accountable for all offenses included in William Paterson’s Academic Integrity Policy

“Students at William Paterson University are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. For faculty and staff at the university, cheating of any kind is an affront to the good work that all of us do. When a person cheats by stealing the ideas or words from another student, a published writer, or even an unsigned web page, that person is showing disrespect for the author, the professor to whom the work is submitted, and ultimately to him or herself. At the university, ideas and words are very valuable; to borrow them without acknowledgement is to steal from another person.”

CONFIDENTIALITY IN CLASS-

**WHAT OCCURS IN HUMAN SEXUALITY STAYS IN HUMANS SEXUALITY CLASS!!**

This is a tentative schedule and can be adapted as necessary.

WEEK	THEME	CHAPTER	DUE...
PART 1 12/26-1/1	Male Reproductive System  Female and Male Reproductive System	3 and 4	<b>Discussion Board-</b> High School sex ed <b>Pre test-</b> 3 and 4 <b>Post test-</b> 3 and 4 <b>Learnsmart</b> for each chapter  <i><b>Everything is due by 11:59 on 1/1</b></i>
PART 2 1/2-1/6	Gender and Gender Roles  Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence	5 and 6	<b>Discussion Board-</b> How do you feel about the opposite sexes genitalia?  <b>Pre test-</b> 5 and 6 <b>Post test-</b> 5 and 6  <b>Learnsmart</b> for both

			<p>chapters.</p> <p><u>Everything is due by 11:59 on 1/6.</u></p>
<p>Part 3 1/7-1/9</p>	<p>Relationships</p> <p><b>Relationship Assessment</b>-See below for details</p>	8	<p><b>Discussion board- What is worse physical or mental abuse.</b></p> <p><b>Pre test- 8</b> <b>Post test- 8</b></p> <p><b>Learnsmart</b> for chapter 8</p> <p><b>Relationship Assessment</b>-See below for details</p> <p><u><b>Everything is due by 11:59 on 1/9.</b></u></p>
<p>PART 4 1/10-1/12</p>	<p>Sexual Expression</p> <p>Variations in Sexual Behavior</p>	9 and 10	<p><b>Human Sexuality Movie Assessment</b>-See below for assessment guidelines.</p> <p><b>NO DISCUSSION BOARD</b></p> <p><b>Pre test- 9 and 10</b> <b>Post test-9 and 10</b></p> <p><b>Learnsmart</b> for both chapters.</p> <p><u><b>Everything is due by 11:59 on 1/12.</b></u></p>
<p>PART 5 1/13-1/14</p>	<p>Contraception</p> <p>Sexually Transmitted Infections</p>	11 and 15	<p><b>Discussion Board</b>-What age should sexuality education start and why?</p> <p><b>Pre test- 11 and 15</b></p>

			<p><b>Post test-11 and 15</b></p> <p><b>Learnsmart</b> for both chapters.</p> <p><b><u>Everything is due by 11:59 on 1/14</u></b></p>
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# ASSESSMENT: Intimate Relationships

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>	<p>TwoOfUs.org is a website for people who are interested in locating credible information and resources related to the creation and maintenance of healthy intimate relationships. TwoOfUs.org is a project of the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center (NMHRC), an initiative sponsored by the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. TwoOfUs.org is host to a collection of online articles, podcasts, and videos.</p> <p><b>Step 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Go to <a href="http://www.twoofus.org">www.twoofus.org</a></li><li>• From the options on top menu, choose the one that is most appropriate for you at this point in your life when you think about your most intimate relationship with another human being: dating, exclusive, engaged, married, or parents.</li><li>• On the resulting page, select one of the "Hot Topics" based on your personal interests.</li><li>• Scroll through all of the resources listed on the next page. From among the listed podcasts, articles, and videos choose a resource that is relevant in some meaningful way to enhancing your ability to improve your current life and intimate relationship.</li></ul> <p><b>Step 2:</b></p> <p>Based on the resource you choose, provide the following information in a well written response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the resource that you chose, list the name of the resource, the type of resource (article, video, or podcast) and provide a brief written summary of the information presented in the resource. Include the URL of the resource so that your instructor may access it.</li><li>• Discuss why you choose this particular resource. Discuss the way/s in which this information relates to your current life.</li><li>• Describe how you might use the information presented in this resource to make healthy, positive changes in your life. Discuss how this information might make a difference in your ability to negotiate a successful and healthy intimate relationship.</li></ul>
<b>SUBMISSION GUIDELINES</b>	Submit to Professor Moss on the above due date. Your 1-page response must be double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font, and 1 inch margins.

# **Human Sexuality Movie Critique**

## **Critical Evaluation of the Depictions of Human Sexuality in the Movies.**

This assignment will help you examine popular culture and movies to see how they shape our ideas about sexuality. Like television, films tend to depict sexual stereotypes and to adhere to mainstream sexual norms. Media educators Gross and Gerbner argue that the commercial structure of the mass media limits the opportunity for representing diverse characters. Too often networks and film companies shy away from portraying the multiple and diverse dimensions of sexuality for fear of alienating or offending advertisers, investors, and audiences

This assignment is to assess whether you are able to critically evaluate depictions of people's sexual behaviors in feature films. Many motion pictures portray the diversity in human sexuality in inaccurate ways, leading to misunderstanding and heightened stigmatization of people who do not adhere to the mainstream sexual norms. Some movies, however, are lauded for dispelling stereotypes and providing accurate insight into human sexuality. Films, like any forms of media, have a powerful impact on how we view the sexuality of others and ourselves. Negative and or misinformed attitudes about sexuality leave people vulnerable to neglecting and understanding their own sexual needs and being judgmental of others. Providing accurate information can help correct fears, myths and misconceptions many people have about the diversity present in our society. Studies have shown that a combination of education and face-to-face interaction has a greater impact on changing attitudes than using either strategy in isolation.

After selecting and viewing one of the films listed on the next page, the student will write a 4-5 page critical evaluation on whether the sexuality issue/s portrayed in the film was accurately depicted in the character. You must use reliable research on the sexuality topic portrayed in the film so that you are prepared to say whether the viewer would be misinformed or informed properly about the sexuality issues portrayed in the film. Cite any research used (minimum 3 sources)

The paper must include the following: 1. What was the sexual content/messages of the movie? 2. Was the content/messages stereotypical of our culture and if so, how? 3. Do you think it was an accurate portrayal of sexuality in our culture? Why or why not? A minimum of 5 examples of correct or inaccurate depictions (comparisons) must be included in the paper. 4. Would you change this movie in any way to better portray this sexuality issue? 5. What implicit and explicit messages does this movie contain about sex and sexuality? What do you think about these messages? Are they positive or negative?

This written assignment should be typed, double-spaced, using a 12-point Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins. Do not hand in your only copy, keep an electronic copy. Be sure your name, course number, and the date are included on the assignment. Staple papers in the top left corner; no folders or report covers.

**The following films are approved by me for this assignment. If you want to select another movie that is not on the list, please see me, I MUST approve your alternate film selection.**

**The Birdcage** (1996) A gay cabaret owner and his drag queen companion agree to put up a false straight front so that their son can introduce them to his fiancé's right-wing moralistic parents. (Comedy, Gay)

**Boys Don't Cry** (1999) A drama film based on the real-life story of Brandon Teena, a transsexual man who was raped and murdered by his male friends after they discovered his gender history. The movie received lots of media attention when its star Hilary Swank, who played Brandon, won the Academy Award for Best Actress. (Drama, Transsexual)

**Brokeback Mountain**- Sexuality of both characters portrayed as fluid. The film displays a love relationship between same-sex male partners in the American West; who are simultaneously struggling with their opposite gender relationships. Self-acknowledgement and self-acceptance in recognizing one's own sexual identity is portrayed. (Drama) (Gay, questioning)

**The Crying Game** (1992) The Crying Game is about the experiences of Fergus (Stephen Rea), as a member of the IRA, his brief but meaningful encounter with Jody (Forest Whitaker) who is held prisoner by the group, and his unexpected romantic relationship with Jody's transgendered girlfriend, Dil (Jaye Davidson) whom Fergus promised Jody he would protect. However, unexpected events force Fergus to decide what he wants for the future, and ultimately what his nature dictates he must do. (Psychological thriller)

**Flawless** (1999) An ultraconservative police officer (DeNiro) suffers a debilitating stroke and is assigned to a rehabilitative program that includes singing lessons - with the drag queen next door.

**In and Out** Howard Brackett's high school English students are astonished. Is it really true that their favorite high school teacher may be gay? But hey, he can't be gay; he's about to get married! Then again, he also teaches the drama class and boy, does he love those Barbra Streisand records. (Comedy, Gay, questioning)

**Kinsey** is a 2004 biographical film written and directed by Bill Condon.<sup>[1]</sup> It describes the life of Alfred Kinsey (played by Liam Neeson), a pioneer in the area of sexology. His 1948 publication, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* (the first of the Kinsey Reports) was one of the first recorded works that tried to scientifically address and investigate sexual behavior in humans. (Drama, sexuality research)

**Midnight Cowboy**-Hustler Buck forms an unlikely friendship with junky Rico "Ratso" Rizzo. Academy Award winner for Best Picture. (Drama, Male Prostitution)

**Milk** (2008) The story of Harvey Milk (Sean Penn), and his struggles as an American gay activist who fought for gay rights and became California's first openly gay elected official. (Drama, Gay rights)

**Monster** is a 2003 crime drama film about serial killer Aileen Wuornos, a former prostitute who was executed in Florida in 2002 for killing six men (she was not tried for a seventh murder) in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Wuornos was played by Charlize Theron and her fictionalized lover, Selby Wall (based on Wuornos' real lover Tyria Moore), was played by Christina Ricci.

**Philadelphia-** When a man with AIDS is fired by a conservative law firm because of his condition, he hires a homophobic small time lawyer as the only willing advocate for a wrongful dismissal suit.

**Reader-** Focuses on the definition and consequences of sexual abuse. It involves the relationship between a teenager and a much older woman (Kate Winslet) in post WWII Germany.

**Secretary.** Shainberg's exploration of Gyllenhaall's levels of s&m (from her cutting to complete submissive to Spader) actually pulls its audience into her world allowing us to feel some level of pain. Is it uncomfortable and painful to watch at times? Yes, and that is what makes Secretary a perfect film about s & m. Spader plays the part of the domineering boss to a tea with little hints of him being submissive to Gyllenhaal.

**Taken-** A retired CIA agent travels across Europe and relies on his old skills to save his estranged daughter, who was kidnapped on a trip to Paris to be sold into prostitution. Sex (Drama, Sex Trafficking)

**To Wong Foo Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar-** Three drag queens (Wesley Snipes, Patrick Swayze and John Leguizamo) travel cross-country until their car breaks down, leaving them stranded in a small town. (Comedic drama, transsexuals)

**TransAmerica** (2005) A comedy-drama starring Felicity Huffman, who plays Bree, a transsexual woman. At its heart, "Transamerica" (Weinstein) explores familiar themes of family bonds, interpersonal connection and parent-child dysfunction, but with an unconventional and morally problematic twist: The parent here is a preoperative transsexual man.