

Psychology 221, Human Sexuality  
Spring, 1997

Dr. P. Owen-Smith  
317 Seney  
Ext. 4-8322  
Office Hours: By appointment

Texts: Our Sexuality (6th ed.), Crooks, R. & Baur, K.  
And the Band Played On, Shilts, R.

The purpose of the course is to introduce the student to the biological, psychosocial, behavioral, clinical, and cultural perspectives of human sexuality. The format of the class will include lecture, class discussion, small group discussion, and films.

#### REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

1. It is expected that each student will participate actively in class discussions and in Learn Link computer conferencing. Each student is required to make AT LEAST 10 Learn Link entries during the course of the semester. Each entry should be a response or personal reaction to a concept presented in the lecture/text, in a film, by another student, or in the assigned readings and should be approximately 5-6 sentences in length. It is hoped that these entries will serve as a type of conversation among students in the class. (Due to the sensitive nature of the course content, the Learn Link conference will be closed so that only members of our class will have access to entries). (15%)
2. Each student will read Randy Shilts' book, And the Band Played On. This book is a commentary on politics, people and the AIDS epidemic. Because AIDS is considered the single most significant medical crisis of the twentieth century, it behooves us to give special attention to it in a human sexuality class. Students will then process her/his reactions by constructing and submitting to the professor a series of questions in the form of a brief essay. Detailed guidelines for writing questions will be given in class via a separate handout. You may write this paper collaboratively (not more than three students) or individually; however, please be aware that should you write with other students, each member of the group will receive the same grade. **ALL PAPERS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THE DESIGNATED DATE. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** (15%)
3. Each student will be assigned a group (i.e. 3-4 students per group) in which to examine media's presentation of sexuality. Therefore, group members will assume the role of active consumers of popular culture by carefully examining a television program, movie, music video, commercial or

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print ad, newspaper or magazine article, etc. and then demonstrating how this particular medium may both define and "sell" sexuality. For example, ads which use models who are thin, young, and usually white can be used to discuss cultural standards of female attractiveness, whereas Madonna's music video, "Justify Your Love," might be used to discuss gender roles. You may focus your group presentation on one medium or you may incorporate several examples of the media in your discussion. Please be certain to bring an example of the medium you are critiquing. A 1-2 page written description of your analysis will be submitted on the day of your presentation. This group presentation should not extend beyond 15 minutes. (15%)

4. On designated Fridays there will be a discussion of an assigned reading which will be on reserve in the library (see attached schedule). It is expected that you will have read the assigned reading for that respective day BEFORE coming to class and that you will be fully prepared to discuss the reading. Three or four students will be responsible for leading the discussion on a given date; therefore, ALL students at some point during the semester will have the opportunity to facilitate a class discussion. The designated facilitators will meet with the professor prior to the respective class discussion to review appropriate ways to conduct this discussion. Therefore, it will be incumbent on the facilitators to schedule an appointment with the professor PRIOR to Friday's group discussion. Facilitators for a respective reading will be decided upon during the first week of the course.

Of the 8 assigned readings, you are required to turn in written comments for 7. In other words you may miss one of them without losing credit. However, it is expected that you will have read the respective article even if you choose not to submit a written comment. Written comments should be NO LONGER THAN one typed page (double spaced) and should be a reflection on or reaction to what you have read. **ALL WRITTEN COMMENTS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THE DESIGNATED DATE. LATE COMMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!** (15%)

5. There will be a midterm and a final examination. Each exam will consist of both multiple choice and essay questions and will be based on the text, class discussions, lectures, and films. (20% each)

The plus /minus system will be utilized in the calculation of final grades.

The Student Honor Code of Oxford College applies to every member of the class. Please review this Code carefully giving special attention to plagiarism. Remember that plagiarism occurs when one uses the words of another person

without quotations and without adequate referencing. PLEASE NOTE ALSO THAT THE USE OF FORMER STUDENTS' PAPERS AS WELL AS THEIR IDEAS MAY NOT BE USED IN ANY FORM; TO DO SO IS TO VIOLATE THE HONOR CODE!! Should you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult with me. This professor will not tolerate violations of this code under any circumstances.

#### COURSE SCHEDULE

1/15	Introduction to course
1/17	Perspectives on Sexuality (Chs.1,2,3)
1/20	<b>MLK HOLIDAY - NO CLASS!!</b>
1/22,1/24,1/27 1/29	Sexual Anatomy and Physiology (Chs. 4-5)
1/31	✓ READING I
2/3,2/5	Patterns of Sexual Response and Sexual Arousal (Ch. 6)
2/7	✓ READING II
2/10,2/12	Love, communication, & sexual behavior patterns (Chs.7,8,&9)
2/11	<b>LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT PENALTY</b>
2/14	✓ READING III
2/17,2/19	Contraception (Ch.11)
2/21	✓ READING IV
2/24,2/26	Conception & Pregnancy (Ch.12)
2/28	READING V
3/3	Birth (Ch.12)
3/5	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
3/7	<b>NO CLASS!!</b>
3/10-3/15	<b>NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK!!</b>
3/17,3/19	Developmental Sexuality (Chs. 13,14,15)
3/21	✓ READING VI
3/24,3/26	Sexual Orientation (Ch.10)

3/28

✓ READING VII

*Homophobia*

3/31, 4/2

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Ch. 19)

4/4

PAPER DUE! - And the Band Played On

4/7, 4/9

Sexual Difficulties, illness, and  
therapy (Chs. 16, 17, & 18)

4/11

✓ READING VIII

*Fractures of Fear*

4/14, 4/16

Atypical Sexual Behavior (Ch. 20)

4/18, 4/21

Sexual Victimization (Ch. 21)

4/23, 4/25, 4/28

GROUP PRESENTATIONS (Ch. 22)