

# Sociology 21: Human Sexuality

Monday & Wednesday 11:20-12:45 BSc 102

**Dr. Sally Raskoff**

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Student Drop-In Hours: 9:30-10:30 M-Th & by appointment in BSc111b office

## Course Objectives

This course introduces you to human sexuality from the social science perspective. We will use scientific methods to better understand human sexual behavior and acknowledge the complex interplay between biology, psychology, and social conditions. Core objectives of this course include developing problem solving skills and critical thinking; therefore the class is designed as an interactive one in which discussion and participation are essential.

This course is WEB ENHANCED, which means that there are resources for the class online in the Etudes system. Log into the Etudes system for this course using the information provided in class to use these resources (go to <http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/index.htm>).

## Required Book(s)

Robert Crooks and Karla Baur. (2008) *Our Sexuality, 10th edition*. Wadsworth. ISBN-10: 0495103268 ISBN-13: 9780495103264. (8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> edition are also fine.) [Purchase Options: LAVC Bookstore (on campus or online), Publisher website: <http://academic.cengage.com/>, Publisher related ebook/e-chapters/audio: [www.ichapters.com](http://www.ichapters.com) .]

Make sure you have access to (1) a good **dictionary** (and use it!) and (2) the **Internet. E-mail** accounts are free through the college; go to the library for information; various free providers are also available on the web (yahoo, gmail). Note the Etudes information and my website address above—this syllabus and many other useful resources are posted there for your use.

## Grading Components

- Quizzes..... 5 Quizzes; 10 points each quiz; 50 points total  
 Five times during the semester, we will have a quiz in which you can demonstrate your newfound knowledge. Each quiz is worth 10 points. Quizzes 1-4 may be taken online in Etudes. More details on this will be discussed in class.
- Assignments ..... 4 Assignments, 10 points each; 40 points total  
 There are four assignments to write, each must be from a different module or group; there are many assignments in each section of the course from which to choose. Suggestion: Identify those you are interested in now so that you can enjoy them rather than spend time working on a topic you find uninteresting. You may do a fifth assignment for enrichment credit if you so choose although it is due on the scheduled due date.
- Participation, Discussions, & Worksheets ..... 10 points  
 It is extremely important to attend class— it is impossible for you to participate if you are not present! *Come to class on time*—we will begin promptly so that we may make good use of our time together. There will be regular class discussions, some involving worksheets, to reinforce your learning. These will assist you in learning the material, highlighting how your study habits may be improved, preparing for the quizzes, create opportunities to think more deeply about the topics, and develop effective approaches to common issues.

**Honors Students:** You've got two extra assignments to write, from two different groups, and you are expected to take a very active role in the discussions and class exercises.

Be absolutely sure you are enrolled in the correct section number! If you are enrolled in the honors section, your grade is based on the regular points plus another 20 points for the two extra assignments.

**Grading:** The points for each grading component add up to 100 thus you can estimate your grade at any time during the semester by adding up the points for the work you've done and using the regular distribution: 90-100 = A (>=90%); 80-89 = B (80-89%); 70-79 = C (70-79%); 60-69 = D (60-69%); below 60 = F (<=59%).

**REVISED Schedule** (Reading assignments should be *done* by the class in which they are listed)

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Chapter	Due on this day
1	M	8/31	Module 1: Introduction to the Course		
	W	9/2	Module 2: Why Study Sex Scientifically? Perspectives on Sex	1	
2	M	9/7	Labor Day HOLIDAY	Review	
	W	9/9	The Science of Sexuality	2	
3	M	9/14	Module 3: How many different types of human bodies are there? Constructing Sex & Gender	3	A#1 & Q#1 due
	W	9/16	(continued)	3	
4	M	9/21	Physiology	4&5	
	W	9/23	(continued)	Review	
5	M	9/28	Module 4: Why do we respond romantically and sexually the way we do? Arousal & Response	6	A#2 & Q#2 due
	W	9/30	Sexual Orientation	9	
6	M	10/5	(continued)	9	
	W	10/7	Sexual Behavior	8	
7	M	10/12	(continued)	8	
	W	10/14	Love... & Relationships	7	
8	M	10/19	Communication	7	
	W	10/21	(continued)	Review	
9	M	10/26	Module 5: What is the impact on our sex life of the choices we make and the experiences we have? Contraception*	10	A#3 & Q#3 due
	W	10/28	Conception	11	
10	M	11/2	Life Cycle: Childhood & Adolescence	12	
	W	11/4	Life Cycle: Adults & Aging	13	
11	M	11/9	Problems & Enhancement	14	
	W	11/11	Veteran's Day HOLIDAY	Review	
12	M	11/16	(continued)	14	
	W	11/18	Sexually Transmitted Infections	15	
13	M	11/23	(continued)	Review	
	W	11/25	Module 6: Why do people use sex as an instrument of power and/or profit and what's the impact of doing so? Atypical Behaviors: Paraphilias	16	A#4 & Q#4 due
14	M	11/30	The Problem of Rape, Sexual Abuse, & Sexual Harassment	17	
	W	12/2	(continued)	17	
15	M	12/7	Pornography & Prostitution	18	
	W	12/9	(continued) (LAST DAY OF CLASS)	18	A#5 & all Enrichment
Finals	W	12/16	Final Quiz (10:30-12:30)	Review	Quiz #5

Guest Speakers may appear throughout the semester; due to their many responsibilities, it is difficult to schedule them on specific days. I will announce them when I can. Follow the reading assignments as they are printed here no matter when the speakers appear in class.

Assignments (A#) are due on the dates indicated. If you have a problem, let the professor know in a timely manner (*prior to the due date*) as late work will not be accepted without prior communication. Be aware that 10 points are equal to one letter grade.