

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: PSY 270

Credits: 3

Course Title: Psychology of Human Sexuality

Course Description:

Focuses on scientific investigation of human sexuality and psychological and social implications of such research. Considers socio-cultural influences, the physiology and psychology of sexual response patterns, sexual dysfunctions, and development of relationships. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Prerequisites: PSY 200, PSY 201, or PSY 202. Lecture 3 hours per week

General Course Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to teach students about their sexuality so that they can communicate honestly, accurately, openly, and comfortably as well as responsibly about human sexuality. Students will be taught to combine major scientific research and data on psychological, anthropological, sociological, historical, biological, physiological, and geographical influences in their written and oral communication.

This course will also help students to gain an appreciation of their gender, age, sexual orientation, and religious, racial and or ethnic background. This course may be used as a social/behavioral science elective.

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

1. Explain the relationship between historical events and western values, customs, and laws and beliefs that shaped current human sexuality.
2. Understand and interpret complex materials related to human sexuality.
3. Assimilate, organize, develop, and present ideas on human sexuality formally and informally
4. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of critical issues related to human sexuality.
5. Understand the impact that social institutions have on individuals and culture—past, present and future.
6. Compare similarities and contrast differences of other cultures, and diverse sexual models and related issues.
7. Build advanced knowledge, skills, and understanding to make informed academic, social, personal, career, and interpersonal choices.
8. Become more tolerant by objectively addressing critical issues of our times.
 - a. Consider scientific investigation in the field of Human Sexuality.
 - b. Examine psychological and social implications of such research.
 - c. Examine various socio-cultural influences on sexual behavior
 - d. Communicate honestly, accurately, openly, and comfortably, and responsibly, about human sexuality.
 - e. Exhibit tolerance of other students' views in class discussions and structured group exercises.
 - f. Exhibit responsibility by respectful, courteous, and civil interaction with others.

Major Topics to be Included:

1. Sex and Sexuality: Sexual value and the relationship to biological and social development
2. Gender identity and gender roles
3. Sexual behavior in the Western Society
4. Sexual values of different cultures and research findings
5. The human sexual response
6. Sexual motivation in animals and humans
7. Conception and contraception
8. Sexual dysfunction and treatment of the same
9. Sexual minorities and sexual variations
10. Homosexual behavior
11. Pornography research
12. Sex and the law
13. Human relations and human sexuality
14. Family relations, commitments, and alternate lifestyles
15. Healthy sexuality

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: August 15, 2011