

**American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department of Psychology**

PSYC 240J: Special Topics in Psychology

Sexuality in Contemporary Discourses

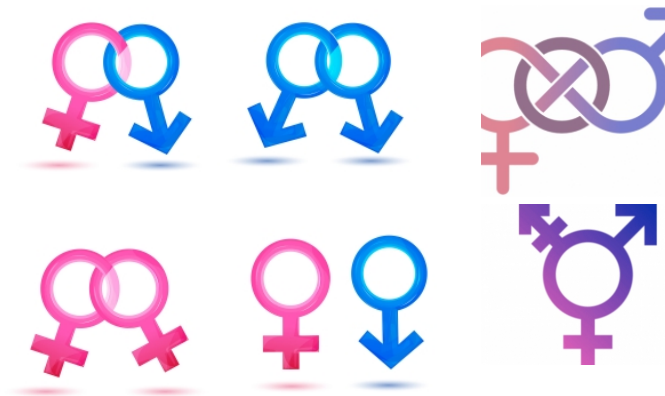
Spring 2018

Class location: Nicely Hall 325

MWF at 11am

The very mobility of sexuality, its chameleon-like ability to take many guises and forms, so that what for one might be a source of warmth and attraction, for another might be a cauldron of fear and hate, makes it a peculiarly sensitive conductor of cultural influences, and hence of social, cultural and political divisions.

Jeffrey Weeks, *Sexuality*



Instructor: Joyce Chedid, PsychD

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Office Hours: By appointment, Wednesday & Friday 10am-11am

Office location: Jesup 108

I. Course Learning Outcomes:

The course is designed to introduce students to the field of sexuality in its ever-evolving nature. Key ideas and concepts of sexuality will be studied in light of multiple theoretical models with a specific focus on contemporary psychological theories, research and methodologies.

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Gain a thorough scientific understanding of the field of human sexuality from a biopsychosocial perspective.
2. Understand the historical, sociological, cultural and psychological factors that have contributed to the current understandings and discourses around sexuality.
3. Demonstrate a critical appreciation of psychological theories of sexuality, which fall under essentialist and social constructionist paradigms.
4. Become familiar with the diversity of sexualities and genders, which move beyond the traditional dichotomous view of sexuality and binary approach to gender.
5. Be able to formulate well-evidenced arguments through completing essays that draw on several theoretical standpoints and use academic resources.
6. Gain experience in conducting PowerPoint presentations and develop oral communication skills.
7. Develop skills in critical thinking, analysis, and self-reflection.

II. Teaching Methodology and Techniques:

The course will be taught through lecturing, group discussions, class activities and visual material like PowerPoint presentations and videos.

III. Resources available to students:

There will be no core text for this course, however most of the material covered will be based on two textbooks:

- 1: Title: The Psychology of Human Sexuality, 2014
Authors: Lehmiller, J.J.
Publisher: Wiley Blackwell
- 2: Title: The Palgrave Handbook of the Psychology of Sexuality and Gender, 2015
Editors: Richards, C., & Barker, M.J.
Publisher: Palgrave Handbooks

The required reading is available in the form of a booklet at the university bookstore (Library Antoine). In addition, extra readings will be provided throughout the semester, as well as short assignments. Students are required to check their Moodle accounts regularly for any course updates and extra material. Students are further encouraged to

visit the library and book tutorials on how to use online databases. Presentations and essays will require the use of research.

IV. Grading Criteria:

The final grade for this course is based on the total percentage of assignments as distributed below:

Assignment	Type	Percentage
Exam 1	Choice of 2 out of 3 questions	20%
Exam 2	Choice of 2 out of 3 questions	20%
Final	2000-2500 words essay	30%
Presentation	Individual presentation	25%
Attendance	Class attendance	5%

Guidelines and grading rubrics for the presentations and final essays will be posted on Moodle. Students are required to familiarise themselves with Turnitin.com to ensure that their work is not plagiarised.

V. Course Policy:

All students are expected to abide by the American University of Beirut's academic rules and regulations that include, but are not limited to, academic integrity, plagiarism and absences.

Attendance: Punctuality is a must. Attendance will be taken at the start of each session and once completed no one will be allowed to enter. The allowed number of absences for MWF classes is 1/5 of the total sessions (i.e. 7 sessions). Students who miss more than 7 sessions will be asked to drop the course. All mobile phones and other hand-held devices must be turned off before entering the class, remain off and put away throughout the session. If a student's phone rings during class, the student will be asked to leave.

Academic dishonesty: Please be aware that AUB regulations related to academic dishonesty are quite clear (see AUB webpage for details). Cheating at exams, plagiarism, presenting work you did not do, violating rules of proper academic conduct and other related matters will be dealt with according to strict AUB recommendations. Academic dishonesty may produce an automatic and irreversible fail.

Exams and Assignments: Missing an exam or failing to present on the assigned date will lead to a rescheduling or make up exam **only if** the student provides an adequate AUBMC medical note, or excuse letters that are acceptable by the AUB administration.

Other: In line with AUB's mission "to foster freedom of thought, respect for diversity, critical thinking, personal integrity, and civic engagement", each student in this course is

required to contribute to a learning environment that is inclusive and respects diversity. Hence, I ask all students to:

- Respect and value each other’s experiences, values and beliefs
- Feel comfortable to communicate their own beliefs, experiences, opinions and values in a respectful manner
- Honour their own and others’ individuality and uniqueness
- Be open to others’ views
- Appreciate the opportunity to learn from each other in an educational and safe setting
- Keep confidential any discussions that may be of personal nature held in class
- Use this course as an opportunity to discuss ways that may enhance inclusivity across AUB and the community

“If you have documented special needs and anticipate difficulties with the content or format of the course due to a physical or learning disability, please contact me and/or your academic advisor, as well as the Counseling Center in the Office of Student Affairs (Ext. 3196), as soon as possible to discuss options for accommodations. Those seeking accommodations must submit the Special Needs Support Request Form along with the required documentation.”

VI. Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Activities	Assignments
1	M January 29	Introduction to the course	Syllabus & Introductory activity	
	W January 31	T1: Introduction to Sexuality: Key terms and concepts	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F February 2	T1: Introduction to Sexuality: Key terms and concepts	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
2	M February 5	T2: Theoretical Perspectives on Human Sexuality	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	W February 7	T2: Theoretical Perspectives on Human Sexuality	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F February 9	St. Maroun’s Day. Holiday. No Classes		
3	M February 12	T2: Theoretical Perspectives on Human Sexuality	Lecture & Discussion Assign presentations	Read chapter
	W February 14	T3: Sexology Research: History, Methods, & Ethics (includes sections from chapter “Quantitative Methods to Researching Sexuality & Gender”)	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F February 16	T3: Sexology Research: History, Methods, & Ethics (includes sections from chapter	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter

		“Quantitative Methods to Researching Sexuality & Gender”)		
4	M February 19	T3: Sexology Research: History, Methods, & Ethics (includes sections from chapter “Qualitative Methods to Researching Sexuality & Gender”)	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	W February 21	P1: Cisgender	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F February 23	T4: Gender and Gender Identity	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
5	M February 26	T4: Gender and Gender Identity	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	W February 28	T4: Gender and Gender Identity	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F March 2	P2: Intersex/DSD	Students’ Presentations	Read chapter
6	M March 5	EXAM 1	Lecture & Discussion	Topics 1 → 4
	W March 7	T5: Sexual Orientation	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F March 9	P3: Heterosexuality	Students’ Presentations	Read chapter
7	M March 12	T5: Sexual Orientation (in addition to: article on gay Christian men)	In class	Read chapter
	W March 14	T5: Sexual Orientation (in addition to: article on conversion therapy)	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F March 16	P4: Gay Men	Students’ Presentations	Read chapter
8	M March 19	T6: The Laws of Attraction		
	W March 21	T6: The Laws of Attraction	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F March 23	P5: Lesbian Psychology	Students’ Presentations	Read chapter
9	M March 26	T7: Intimate Relationships: Sex, Love & Commitment	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	W March 28	T7: Intimate Relationships: Sex, Love and Commitment	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F March 30	Easter Vacation. Holiday. No classes		
10	M April 2	Easter Vacation. Holiday. No classes		
	W April 4	P6: Bisexuality	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F April 6	Easter Vacation. Holiday. No classes		
11	M April 9	Easter Vacation. Holiday. No classes		
	W April 11	T7: Intimate Relationships: Sex, Love and Commitment	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F April 13	P7: Asexuality	Students’ Presentations	Read chapter
	M April 16	T8: Sex Laws, Sexual Victimization, & the Sexual Marketplace	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter

12	W April 18	T8: Sex Laws, Sexual Victimization, & the Sexual Marketplace	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F April 20 <i>(last day for withdrawal from course)</i>	P8: Transgender	Students' Presentations	Read chapter
13	M April 23	EXAM 2		T5 → T8
	W April 25	T9: Sexual Dysfunction & Sex Therapy	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F April 27	T9: Sexual Dysfunction & Sex Therapy	Students' Presentations	Read chapter
14	M April 30	T10: Sexuality in Clinical Psychology	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	W May 2	T10: Sexuality in Clinical Psychology	Lecture & Discussion	Read chapter
	F May 4	P9: BDSM	Students' Presentations	Read Chapter
15	M May 7	T11: Sexuality in the Arab World		Research & summarise one article on sexuality in the Arab world
	W May 9	T11: Sexuality in the Arab World	Share articles & Discussion	Submit article summaries
Exam period May 14 → May 24	To be assigned	FINAL		Submit

Please note that the syllabus functions as a flexible framework for the course content and structure. Therefore, there will be modifications throughout the semester that will be announced in class. You are responsible for all changes even if you were not present in class during the time of announcement.