GENERAL INFORMATION

PROFESSOR INFORMATION
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Emergency Phone:
(786) 269-8424

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will focus on the variety of challenges that contemporary sexual practice and research pose for traditional religions. Areas examined include: sexual identity and psychology; sexual unions; natural law on sexuality; reproduction, contraception and abortion; gender roles, and sexual victimization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will be able to:

- Explain the trajectory of meanings of sex, gender and sexual orientation within western religions;
- Discuss the present status of research regarding the above; and
- Describe the challenge that the eroding paradigm of sexual dimorphism presents to at least two different religions, and how, given their histories and teachings, they are likely to respond.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLICIES
Please review the policies page as it contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU and additional information on the standards for acceptable netiquette important for online courses.

COURSE PREREQUISITES
For information about prerequisites, click here No prerequisites for this course.

TEXTBOOK
Our Sexuality
Crooks and Baur

ISBN 10: 0495812943
ISBN 13: 9780495812944

Click here to buy your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

Good Sex
Jung, Hunt, and Balakrishnan
Rutgers University Press, 2000

ISBN 10: 0813528844

Note in regards to Our Sexuality by Crooks and Baur: Some of you will have the 9th, some the 10th, and some the 11th edition. There is a new 12th ed dated 2014 (?) that I could order for this class (it is apparently available before its publication date), but since I can’t get a review copy soon enough, I will wait and order it for another semester. So do not buy the 12th ed if it is offered, and rent or try for used copies of earlier editions, as resale will probably not be possible. The quizzes follow the 11th edition, so if you have that edition you need simply follow the syllabus.

If you have the 10th ed. Chapters 1 and 2, and 6-18 are the same, but when the syllabus says read chapter 3 (female anatomy and physiology) you read chapter 4; where it says read 4 (male physiology and anatomy) you read 5, and where it says read 5 (gender) you read 3.

If you have the 9th edition, you must make the substitutions for the 10th ed as above, and in addition, if the syllabus says 7, you read 7+8. Syllabus 8 is your 9, syllabus 9 is your 10, syllabus 10 is your 11, syllabus 11 is your 12, syllabus 12 is your 13, syllabus 13 is your 14, syllabus 14 is your 15+16, syllabus 15 is your 17, syllabus 16 is your 18, syllabus 17 is your 19, and syllabus 18 is your 20.

For the most part, the content is the same, it is only the arrangement and order of the chapters that is different.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE
This is an online course, meaning that most of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations
for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **Review the how to get started information** located in the course content
- **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
- **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
- **Interact** online with instructor/s and peers
- **Review** and follow the course calendar

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**COURSE DETAIL**

**COURSE COMMUNICATION**

Communication in this course will take place via messages.

The message feature is a private, internal Blackboard only communication system. Users must log on to the blackboard system to send/receive/read messages. **There are no notifications in Blackboard to inform users when a new message has been received; therefore, it is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.**

This is the best method to communicate with your instructor privately.

**DISCUSSION FORUMS**

Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post.

**QUIZZES**

There will be weekly online quizzes on the material in the Crooks and Baur, Our Sexuality text, and on the films. Each student will have two attempts at quizzes with questions randomly drawn from a large database. The higher of the two grades for each quiz will be counted, and these higher grades will be averaged. The rationale for two attempts is that many students lose one attempt to technical problems, so I have added a second attempt. There is a Millionaire game to take as you read each chapter and a Jeopardy game to take before each quiz. These are designed to help you prepare for the assessments; they are not required, and are not graded, but they may help. *(They do have a rare mistake here and*
there, but since I did not put these up or create the database (it came with the text) I cannot root out the mistakes.

The Our Sexuality reading, though critically important for understanding the ethical material, is for background only. The Midterm (Exam 1) & Final (Exam 2) material will come from Good Sex, the lectures and films, and the assigned articles—the religious and ethical materials of the course—not from Our Sexuality.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the “Practice Quiz” from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements.

ASSIGNMENTS

There are two writing Assignments (400-500 words) that you must submit through Turnitin in answer to the questions listed for each assignment. (See Course Content page) Some questions have two or more parts—be sure to answer all the parts of the question. Watch the due dates on these! You should not attempt these before you have done the relevant readings/lectures/videos. If you desire an A or B, you must use notes (in-text, footnotes or endnotes) to cite the sources from which your information came. Most if not all of your notes will be to course materials, but they must be fully detailed the same as external sources. Outside research is not necessary. The purpose of the Assignments is to evaluate your mastery of the course materials, so substituting external sources for the course materials in your arguments is not acceptable. You may augment the course materials if you like, but replacement is not acceptable.

Assignments must be turned in to Turnitin via Blackboard. The easy access portal is located in the Assignment Dropbox.

COURSE POLICIES

If you have a serious reason for missing the open dates for the Midterm (Exam 1) or Final (Exam 2) (e.g., serious accident, hospitalization, incarceration, death in the immediate family) contact your instructor by the day of the exam to arrange a make-up. Do not wait a week, and then email with an excuse.

Inevitably, a number of students for various reasons will miss one or another quiz deadline. Two days before the final exam, all the quizzes will be similarly open midnight to midnight. No quiz make-ups are available at other times, regardless of reason. This quiz make-up day is not for take-overs, but only for
students who have not used both their attempts at a quiz.

Computers are available on campus if your computer is down; many home computers using modems cannot receive all the video or audio presentations—leave time enough to get them on campus if your set-up at home does not work. Check out the compatibility of your home computer with all elements of the course during the first week of classes. Note: the powerpoint lectures are a principle source of material for the exams.

No extra credit work is accepted. Students’ grades demonstrate the level of mastery of class materials.

INCOMPLETES
University policy allows incompletes only in cases where the student has completed the majority of work in the class and has a passing grade on the average of all completed work. You must ask for an incomplete—they are not automatic for those who have not completed the course. In most cases, incompletes will expire on the first day the student enrolls in another class, because the longer an IN goes on, the worse the student does, the less he/she remembers, and the more unlikely the IN is to be completed among the press of other work. If the student does not re-enroll, the IN expires under university policy after two semesters (counting summers).

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm (Exam 1)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final (Exam 2)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz Average</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Above 93</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 - 69</td>
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<td>A+</td>
<td>90 - 92</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76 - 79</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 - 66</td>
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## COURSE CALENDAR

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS / ASSESSMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I. Human Sexuality: Biology and Historical Interpretation in Christian Europe</td>
<td>Quiz #1: C&amp;B 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read: C&amp;B 1 - 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>View Presentation:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Reading Human Sexuality Critically&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Video Clips: CNN - China Sex Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>II. Sexual Biology and Cultural Interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-19</td>
<td>Read: C&amp;B 3 - 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-19</td>
<td>View Presentation:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-19</td>
<td>&quot;Menstruation&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-19</td>
<td>Video Clips: CNN - Female Circumcision</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-19</td>
<td>CNN - Menopause</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-19</td>
<td>CNN - Male Circumcision</td>
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<td>May 13-19</td>
<td>CNN - Prostate Cancer</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>III. Construction of Sexuality: Identity and Social Responsibility</td>
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<td>Quiz #2: C&amp;B 5</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>May 27-June 2</td>
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</table>
| **Read:** C&B 9  
| **Remove Adrienne Davis article**  
**Quiz #4: C&B 9** |
| **V. Religions and Homosexuality**  
**Read:** C&B 9  
| **View Presentation:** |
| **IV. The [Assigned] Functions of Sexuality**  
**Read:** C&B 7  
Gudorf, “Ending Procreationism” (Chapter 2 in Body, Sex and Pleasure) |
| **Quiz #3: C&B 7**  
**Assignment #1 - Due May 26, 11:59 pm via Assignment Dropbox** |
| **Read:** C&B 5  
| **View Presentation:** "Sexuality as Constructed I"  
**Video Clips:**  
CNN - Transsexual Teacher and Perceiving Gender Roles (all 3 parts) |
| **May 20-26** |
**Week 4**  
**June 3-9**

**VII. Sex in Hinduism/Gender**

**Read:**  
C&B 13, 14  

**View Presentations:**  
"Sex in Hinduism"  
"Parenting, Masculinity and Femininity"

**Video Clips:**  
Reality TV Weddings in India  
CNN - Pros and Cons of Abstinence Sex Ed  
CNN - Early Adulthood  
CNN - Late Adulthood

All the material up to here, except C&B chapters, are possible material for the midterm.

**Quiz #6: C&B 13, 14**

**Midterm (Exam 1): June 6, 12:00 am – June 9, 11:59 pm**

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**Week 5**  
**June 10-16**

**VIII. Sexual Coercion and Commercial Sex**

**Read:**

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IX. Sexual Problems/Sex in Judaism

Read:
- C&B 15
- Good Sex, Chapters 3, 9

View Presentation:
“Sex in Judaism”

Video Clips:
Erectile Dysfunction
CNN - Premature Ejaculation
HIV/AIDS Client Social Support and Engagement (1 and 2)
CNN - Chlamydia Test

X. Sex as Distracting/Sex as Spiritual Training

Read:
Good Sex, Chapters 8
Gudorf, Mutuality in Sexual Pleasure as Normative (Ch 5)
Gudorf, Getting Clear about Bodyself and Bodyright (Ch 6)

View Presentation:
“Sex in Buddhism”

Quiz # 7: C&B 17
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>XI. Sex in Islam</th>
<th>Final (Exam 2): June 19, 12:01 am-June 20, 11:59 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong></td>
<td>Non-cumulative. Be sure to click both SAVE and FINISH on the essay part, lest I find an empty essay box for you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ziba Mir Hosseini, &quot;The Construction of Gender in Islamic Legal Thought&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Sex, Chapters 2, 5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>View Presentation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Sex in Islam&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Sex and Religion in the Future&quot;</td>
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