

**PSY 4931: Senior Seminar in Culture & Sexual Health**  
**Fall 2020 Section RVC**  
**Dr. Dionne Stephens**

**Email:** Canvas Inbox Only

**Phone:** (305) 348-2880

**Office:** Via Zoom

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 4:00-5:30 PM and by appointment

**Course Time Zone | Eastern Time (ET).**

**Course due dates are according to this time zone.**



**GENERAL INFORMATION SECTION**

**Course Description and Purpose**

Students in this course will gain broad exposure to several sexual health issues and the interdisciplinary theorizing of feminist, social scientists, and public health scholars. Topics highlighted in some of these works include the psychosocial construction of sexual health problems and; the effects of culture values tied to race, class, sex, violence, and contextual conditions on sexual health outcomes; and how men and women make meaning of their sexual health experiences. We will explore the social and cultural dimensions that underlie sexual health and wellbeing, with special attention to the long-term health effects of cultural values. It is hoped that you will leave this class not simply with a list of the “whats” and “whens” of sexuality research in psychology, but increased ability to critique sexual health norms and values in your own life and cultures. Completing this course will help students learn to do the following with greater depth:

- Understand basic terms, concepts, and domains of culture in sexuality research
- Comprehend methods, theories and perspectives influencing sexual health research
- Identify human sexual behavioral patterns cross culturally and discuss their interrelatedness and distinctiveness
- Enhance understanding of the social constructions of sexuality through the application of conceptual frameworks to first-hand engagement with contemporary issues

**Student Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, the successful student should be able to:

- Articulate an understanding of the impact of culture, including gender, race, class, context, region, religion, and other factors, on women and men’s multiple sexual health realities
- Evaluate the social construction of cultural meanings relating to sexual health
- Integrate personal perspectives with theories and current sexual health research findings, and reflect on their significance
- Deconstruct factors that impact perceptions about sexual health cross culturally
- Articulate an understanding of the relevance of the culture to an underlying theme of sexual health and sexuality research
- Produce an original, research based group project and research paper that synthesize course objectives

**Course Prerequisites**

Capstone course. There are no prerequisites for this course beyond senior standing.

**Textbook and Course Materials**

All required readings and materials are available within the Weekly Course Modules.

## ASSIGNMENTS

For assignment availability, detailed instructions, grading criteria and feedback response time, please review the important information in Canvas. Assignments in this course are always due by 11 pm on Saturdays. Failure to submit assignments by their due date means an automatic zero unless appropriate medical or judicial documentation is provided.

***Weekly Discussion Posts (40 Points)***. Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Weekly Discussions are detailed responses that integrate current popular culture discussion with the course readings and research. Remember, your Weekly Discussion Response allows you to connect with other students. Further, often it is the deciding factor between receiving a higher or lower grade at the end of the term; graded Weekly Discussion opportunities will only be available Week 4 through 13. Only the first eight completed Weekly Discussions will count toward the final grade. Weekly Discussions are always due by 11 pm on Saturdays the week they become available. Please see the Weekly Discussion Instructions section under MODULES- ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION for details.

***Research Abstract (5 Points)***. To help students identify their semester long research topic, each will be required to develop a Research Abstract. This assignment requires that students select a broad pre-determined topic, then narrow down their focus by the populations' demographics. See the Research Abstract section under MODULES- ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION for details.

***Literature Review Table (10 Points)***. Toward learning to think critically about research, students are required to illustrate their ability to seek out and identify peer-reviewed research. This will be demonstrated through their completion of a literature review table. See the Literature Review Table section under MODULES- ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION for details.

***Research Paper (20 Points)***. Research Papers require students to answer three sets of questions based upon their project proposal; this assignment is worth 20 points. Research Papers are to be submitted by the posted due date and time or they will not be accepted; if you are unsure of the due date check the course calendar, Discussion Forum and Research Paper Options sections of Canvas. Please see the Research Paper section under MODULES- ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION for details.

***Oral Presentation (20 Points)***. Students are required to prepare a digitally recorded oral and visual presentation of their project proposal. This will be a PowerPoint presentation that must be recorded and uploaded for online viewing. This major assignment integrates course readings and critical research analysis over a semester. See the Oral Presentation section under MODULES- ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION for details.

***Professional Development Posts (15 Points)***. The Professional Development section of the course will help students to develop realistic and attainable career and/or educational goals. There are five Professional Development Posts worth a total of 15 points. This requires you to engage in reflections and complete activities related to your career or academic goals. Please see the Professional Development section under MODULES- ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION for details.

## GRADING

### Course Requirements Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Research Abstract	1	5	5	5%
Literature Review Table	1	10	10	10%
Weekly Discussion Posts	8	5	40	40%
Research Paper	1	20	20	20%
Oral Presentation	1	20	20	20%
Professional Development Posts	5	3	15	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110%</b>

### Grade Schema Table

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	80 - 84	C	65 - 69
A-	90 - 94	B-	75 - 79	D	60 - 64
B+	85 - 89	C+	70 - 74	F	59 or less

Please note the total points a student can possibly earn in this course is 110; the Oral Presentation is an optional bonus assignment. For this reason, there will be NO ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTRA CREDIT given for any reason.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION		
Date	Topics	Required Readings
WEEK 1 Monday Aug. 24	<b>Introduction and Orientation to Culture &amp; Sexual Health Course</b> Live Course Orientation Session held via Zoom on <i>Monday September 24<sup>th</sup> at 8pm</i> A recording of this session will be posted in Canvas approximately 3 days later.	
Saturday Aug. 29	<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POST 1 DUE</b> <i>Professional Development Post 1 is due by 11pm. Review the links in Canvas</i>	
WEEK 2 Monday Aug. 31	<b>Library Research, Zoom Recording &amp; Google Drive Training</b> Live Library Orientation Session held via Zoom on <i>Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm</i> Recording of the session will be posted in Canvas approximately 3 days later.	
Saturday Sept. 5	<b>RESEARCH ABSTRACT DUE</b> <i>The Research Abstract is due by 11pm. Review the links in Canvas for details.</i>	
UNIT 2: CONTEXT & SEXUAL HEALTH		
WEEK 3 Tuesday Sept. 8	<b>Globalization &amp; Gender Based Violence:</b> Contributors in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural factors influencing young adult Indian women's beliefs about disclosing domestic violence victimization</li> <li>Network Analysis Domestic Violence beliefs young adults in India.</li> </ul> <p><b>Practice Weekly Discussion Option Available</b></p>
Saturday Sept. 12	<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POST 2 DUE</b> <i>Professional Development Post is due by 11pm. Review the links in Canvas for details.</i>	
WEEK 4 Monday Sept. 14	<b>Demography &amp; Social Systems:</b> Reproductive Justice & Black Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Racism, African American Women, and Sexual Reproductive Health</li> <li>America is Failing Its Black Mothers</li> </ul> <p><b>Weekly Discussion Assignment Grading Begins</b></p>
Saturday Sept. 19	<b>LITERATURE REVIEW TABLE DUE</b> <i>The Literature Review Table is due by 11pm. Review the links in Canvas for details.</i>	
WEEK 5 Monday Sept. 21	<b>Region &amp; Place:</b> Commercial Sex Trafficking in the U.S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sex Trafficking in the US: A Closer Look at U.S. Citizens</li> <li>From Exploitation to Industry: Definitions, Risks, and Consequences of Domestic Sexual Exploitation and Sex Work</li> </ul>

## UNIT 3: CULTURAL IDENTITIES & SEXUAL HEALTH

Date	Topics	Required Readings
<b>WEEK 6</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>Sept. 28</b>	<b>Caste &amp; Color:</b> Dating & Intimacy among Latinas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ni Pardo, Ni Prieto: Parental skin color messaging on Hispanic women</li> <li>The Role of Skin Color on Hispanic Women's Perceptions of Attractiveness</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>Oct. 3</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POST 3 DUE</b> <i>Professional Development Post 3 is due by 11pm. Review the links in Canvas for details.</i>	
<b>WEEK 7</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>Oct. 5</b>	<b>Race/ Ethnicity:</b> Latino Masculinity & Sexuality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masculinity scripts and Hispanic men's female sexual coercion</li> <li>Hispanic men's appropriate sexual intercourse initiation strategies</li> <li>Gender and Ethnicity in Dating, Hanging Out, and Hooking Up: Sexual Scripts Among Hispanic and White</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 8</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>Oct. 12</b>	<b>Gender &amp; STIs:</b> HPV vaccine uptake Cross Culturally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barriers HPV Vaccination Among Haitian American College Women</li> <li>Factors motivating HPV vaccine uptake among vaccinated and non-vaccinated Hispanic young adult women.</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>Oct. 17</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POST 4 DUE</b> <i>Professional Development Post 4 is due by 11pm. Review the links in Canvas for details.</i>	
<b>WEEK 9</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>Oct. 19</b>	<b>SES &amp; Education:</b> Highly Educated Black Women's Sexual Risk Taking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploring Partner Scarcity: Highly Educated Black Women and Dating Compromise</li> <li>Attitudes Toward Marriage, Partner Availability, and Interracial Dating Among Black College Students From HBCUs and PWIs</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>Oct. 24</b>	<b>RESEARCH PAPER</b> <i>This assignment is due by 11pm. Review the links in Canvas for details.</i>	

## UNIT 3: MEDIA CULTURES & SEXUAL HEALTH

Date	Topics	Required Readings
<b>WEEK 10</b> <b>Monday a</b> <b>Oct. 26</b>	<b>Sexting:</b> Adolescent Black & Latina's Perceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hispanic women's perceptions of teenage sexting: A Qualitative analyses using a sexual scripting framework</li> <li>Black college women's reflections on sexting during high school</li> </ul>

<b>WEEK 11</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>Nov. 2</b>	<b>Social Media &amp; Sexual Health:</b> Non- Consensual Pornography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenge Pornography: Mental Health Implications &amp; Legislation</li> <li>• An examination of nonconsensual pornography websites</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 12</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>Nov. 9</b>	<b>Music &amp; Sexual Health:</b> Young Black Women & Hip Hop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freaks, Gold Diggers, Divas &amp; Dykes</li> <li>• The Influence of Mainstream Hip Hop's female sexual scripts on African American women's dating relationship experiences</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>Nov. 14</b>	<p><b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POST 5 DUE</b></p> <p>The Professional Development Post 5 is due by 11pm. Review the links in Canvas for details.</p> <p>Last day to submit <b>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b> option; <b>due by 11pm this day.</b></p> <p>See <b>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b> in Canvas for more information</p>	
<b>WEEK 13</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>Nov. 16</b>	<b>Television &amp; Sexual Health:</b> Reality TV & Black Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• And still more Drama!: A Comparison of the Portrayals of African-American Women and Men on BET's College Hill</li> <li>• It's Irrelevant to Me!" Black young Women VH1's Love &amp; Hip Hop New York</li> </ul> <p><b>Last Weekly Discussion Assignment Option Due</b></p>
<b>Nov. 23</b> <b>to Nov. 27</b>	<p><b>THANKSGIVING WEEK</b></p> <p>No Assignments this week.</p>	
<b>WEEK 14</b> <b>Mon Nov. 30-</b> <b>Sat. Dec. 7</b>	<p><b>ORAL PRESENTATION DUE</b></p> <p>This week students must submit their Oral Presentations this week as outlined in the instructions provided in Canvas. Review the links provided in Canvas for details.</p>	