

Child and Family Studies 410U: Sex and the Family  
Spring 2002

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Course Webpage: [web.pdx.edu/~cbcm/CFS410U](http://web.pdx.edu/~cbcm/CFS410U)

Classroom: PCAT 118

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### Course Description

This course will use films, personal reflections, guest speakers, a textbook, and group dialogue to explore how responses to sexuality are influenced by family and other social systems. Influences that will be examined include: culture, gender, economics, and religion. Family systems theory will be used to evaluate family relationships.

### Textbook

Gary F. Kelly, Sexuality Today: The Human Perspective Seventh Edition (2001).

On line Textbook Sexuality Center:

<http://www.mhhe.com/sexuality>. For students with print disabilities please check out the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic website at [www.rfbd.org](http://www.rfbd.org).

### Respect for Diversity

This class will be conducted in a way that respects all aspects of diversity. As people, whether students or professors, we have all had unique and individual experiences with the issues and topics that make up the content of this class. Respect is essential for true learning experiences to take place.

Therefore, I will expect us to all show respect for one another and our diverse experiences.

### Course Objectives

#### General Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate their ability to use family systems theory to analyze 1) at least one film and 2) their personal values and beliefs about sexuality; and

2. Students will document their understandings of historical and societal perspectives as well as the physiological and psycho-social development of sexuality by passing both a mid-term and final exam.

#### University Studies/Junior Cluster Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate their ability to think critically by analyzing films and their own life experiences;
2. Students will demonstrate insight into societal influences on the diversity of personal sexual perspectives and behaviors through small group dialogues, panel discussions, written index card responses, film assignments, and a personal analysis;
4. Students will improve their communication abilities through small group dialogue, panel discussions, and written index card responses; and
5. Students will explore ethical issues related to family values/beliefs and sexuality through small group dialogue, panel discussions, and written daily responses.

#### Assignments for Grading/Evaluation Purposes

1. Mid Term (over chapters 1-8 of the Textbook): 100 pts
2. Final Exam (over chapters 9-18 of the Textbook): 100 pts
3. Daily Index Cards Responding to Reflective Questions: 10 pts each
4. Film Assignment #1: 1 page paper: 50 pts
5. Film Assignment #2: 2 page paper: 50 pts
6. Personal Analysis Paper: 2-5 page paper: 100 pts

#### Late Assignment Policy

All assignments that are handed in late will have 10% of the possible points deducted for each class day after its due date.

#### Extra Credit Options (limited to two per student)

1. Collage of sexual influences, attitudes, and/or actions (10 points)
2. Panel participations (15 points)
3. Visit to Its My Pleasure retail store (10 points)
4. Interview someone from another generations or culture about their sexuality (15 points)

#### Grading Scale

480-432=A

431-384=B

383-336=C

335-288=D

## Weekly Class Sessions

### April 2 (Class #1): Course Introduction

Syllabus; Getting acquainted and creating groups  
Family: What is it?; Sexuality: What is it? Class  
Rules/Codes of Conduct  
Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 1

### April 4 (Class #2): Societal Influences on Sexuality

Family Ecological Theory; Power/Domination/Subordination  
Film: Killing Me Softly  
Mid-Term Study Guide Available on the Course Web-site  
Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 2

### April 9 (Class #3): Continuation of Societal Influences on Sexuality

Film: Tough Guise  
Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 3

### April 11 (Class #4): Psycho-Social Influences on Sexuality

Shame  
Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 4

### April 16: (Class #5): Family Systems Theory

Film exploration  
Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 5

### April 18 (Class #6): Female Anatomy, Physiology and Sexual Response

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 6

### April 23 (Class #7): Female Anatomy, Physiology and Sexual Response, continued; Male Sexual Anatomy, Physiology, and Sexual Response

\*\*\*Assignment Due: Film Assignment #1  
Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 7

### April 25 (Class #8): Male Sexuality Anatomy, Physiology, and Sexual Response, continued

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 8

### April 30 (Class #9): Sexuality Through the Life Cycle

Developmental and Social Perspectives on Gender  
Panel Discussion: How I Learned to be a Girl or Boy  
Talking to Children about Sex  
\*\*\*Assignment Due: Film Assignment #2

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 9

May 2 (Class #10): Differing Cultural Perspectives on Gender

Panel: Modesty

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 10

May 7 (Class #11): Mid-Term Exam (Chapters 1-8)

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 11

May 9 (Class #12): Solitary Sex and Shared Sex; Panel

Discussion

Decision Making about Pregnancy and Parenthood; Guest Speaker:  
Midwife

Final Exam available on the Course Web-site

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 12

May 14 (Class #13): Sexuality, Communication, and Relationships

(How to talk with your partner about sex)

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 13

May 16 (Class #14): Reproduction, Reproductive Technology, and

Birth

Panel: How I Learned About Sex

Guest: Holly from Its My Pleasure

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 14

May 21 Class #15): Same-Gender Orientation and Behavior

Guest speakers

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 15

May 23 (Class #16): Sexual Individuality & Sexual Values

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 16

May 28 (Class #17): The Spectrum of Human Sexual Behavior

Sex, Art, the Media, and the Law

Guest Panel

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 17

May 30: (Class #18): Sexual Coercion, Rape, and Abuse

Family Systems that breed abuse

Guest Panel

Reading Assignment: Text Chapter 18

June 4: (Class #19): Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Other

Physical Problems

Guest Panel

\*\*\*Assignment Due: Personal Analysis Paper

June 6: (Class #20) Sexual Dysfunctions and Their Treatment

June 13, Final Exam (Chapters 9-18) 10:15-12:05

### Assignments

#### Film Assignment #1

Using the film list (no substitutions) select a film to view. All of the films on the list are available at popular video stores. You may want to view the films in groups and share the cost of the video rental. After viewing the film, write a one page paper (please use word processing if at all possible) in which you identify the family messages and/or rules within the film. Be sure to include examples or illustrations to support your claim that the messages or rules are part of the film.

Evaluation criteria that I will use are:

- 1) Technical writing (The paper is written with accurate spelling, complete sentences, and accurate punctuation);
- 2) Logical consistency (The meaning of a sentence leads to the next sentence? The meaning of one paragraph leads to the next paragraph.); and
- 3) Family Messages or Rules (Family System Messages/Rules are identified and illustrations/examples are provided).

#### Film Assignment #2

Using the film list (no substitutions) select a film to view or use the film that you viewed for Assignment #1. After viewing the film, write a two page paper (please use word processing if at all possible) using Family Systems Theory to analyze the film .

Evaluation criteria that I will use are:

- 1) Technical writing (The paper is written with accurate spelling, complete sentences, and accurate punctuation.);
- 2) Logical consistency (The meaning of a sentence is related to the next sentence. One paragraph leads to the next paragraph.);
- 3) Assignment instructions (All of the components/concepts within Family Systems Theory are addressed and actual examples from the film are used to illustrate the theory.); and
- 4) Understanding of Family Systems Theory (The paper reveals an understanding and appropriate application of family systems theory?).

#### Personal Analysis Paper

Integrating all that you have learned from this class, write a two-five page paper using family systems theory to analyze how one of your sexuality attitudes or actions has been influenced. Also address how the sexuality attitude/action that

you have selected has been influenced by culture, gender, economics, and religion.

Evaluation criteria that I will use are:

- 1) A sexuality attitude or action is clearly identified;
- 2) Technical writing (The paper is written with accurate spelling, complete sentences, and accurate punctuation);
- 3) Logical consistency (The meaning of one sentence leads to the next sentence. The meaning of one paragraph leads to the next paragraph);
- 4) Family Systems Theory is used for Analysis (Components of Family Systems Theory are integrated into the paper with understanding); and
- 5) Culture, Gender, Economic, and Religious Influences (Explanations are provided as to how culture, gender, economics, religious factors have influenced personal sexual attitudes and actions).