

**WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH****PH 365: Human Sexuality Course Syllabus****Course Information**

<b>Class Location</b>	Online
<b>Class Meeting Time</b>	Asynchronous
<b>Instructor</b>	Mary Catherine Rush, MSPH (she/her/hers)
<b>Preferred Name</b>	Ms. Mary Catherine, Ms. MC, or Ms. Rush
<b>Email</b>	mary.rush@wku.edu
<b>Office Phone</b>	270-745-5129

**Course Communications**

<b>Office Hours</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00—11:00 am CT
	Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00—2:00 pm CT
	Wednesdays 10:00 am—12:30 pm CT (Virtual)
	Meetings by Appointment or Walk-In

My office is room 129C in the Academic Complex.

If you have any questions about the course content, assignments, or logistics, please contact me directly. Be sure to let me know your name and what class you are in. Communications received outside of 9:00 am—9:00 pm CT will typically be responded to the following workday during the work week. If your message is sent over the weekend, please allow 48 hours for a response. If you **DO NOT** receive an email response within the time periods listed above, please follow-up. For technical support with Blackboard or Zoom please contact [IT Services](#).

**Course Description**

**PH 365: Human Sexuality** examines sociological, physiological, and psychological aspects of human sexuality in relation to family life, courtship, marriage, reproduction, education, and aging. It includes information on sexual assault, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and HIV/AIDS.

## Required and Optional Texts and Tools

<b>Required Textbook</b>	Human Sexuality: Diversity in Contemporary Society, 10th Edition. William Yarber and Barbara Sayad, Copyright: 2019 ISBN-13: 978-1260397123 or ISBN-10: 1260397122
<b>Additional Resources</b>	In addition to the textbook, there will be links to websites, videos, articles, and other supplemental materials posted in the course content in Blackboard. Students are expected to read all materials posted unless explicitly marked as optional.
<b>Tools</b>	Students will also need Microsoft Word (or another program that is compatible) and Microsoft PowerPoint (or compatible program).
<b>Technology</b>	This course uses <a href="#">Blackboard</a> . Make sure your computer system requirements meet the <a href="#">WKU requirements for online learners</a> .

## Prerequisite Courses

21 hours of Foundations and Explorations Courses, or junior status

## Course Objectives

The cumulative emphasis of this course includes the achievement of the following objectives:

1. Deconstruct the contemporary and historical views on human sexuality.
2. Critique methods that have been utilized in sexuality research.
3. Distinguish appropriate terminology to describe male and female reproductive anatomy and physiology.
4. Organize and differentiate psychosexual development throughout the lifespan and related theoretical perspectives concerning sexual development.
5. Deconstruct individual sexuality and relationships, including sexual identity, sexual values, gender roles, gender identity, sexuality through the lifespan, sexuality and disabilities, and sexuality and communication.
6. Critique contemporary societal concerns related to solitary and shared sex, same-gender orientation and behavior, same-sex marriage, and homo-/bi-phobia.
7. Outline the influence of culture, religion, politics, and the media on the spectrum of human sexual behaviors.
8. Distinguish sexual problems including sexual coercion, rape, and abuse; sexually transmissible infections; atypical sexual behaviors; and sexual dysfunction.

Methods of Evaluation**Course Activity Point Breakdown**

Quizzes	50 points
Participation	50 points
Reflections	50 points
Critical Thinking Assignments	50 points
Media Analysis Project	100 points
Final Individual Project	100 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>400 points</b>

**Course Grading**

Letter Grade	Points	Percentage
A	360-400	90-100%
B	320-359	80-89%
C	280-319	70-79%
D	240-279	60-69%
F	< 240	< 60%

## **Course Activity Descriptions**

All assignments are due 11:59 pm Sunday evening CT (unless otherwise stated). Written assignments are to be double-spaced, one-inch margins, and in a standard font. References and citations should be in APA format. The [Purdue Website](#) has an excellent tool for assistance with APA if you are unfamiliar. This link is also included in Blackboard.

### Class Readings

Students are responsible for textbook reading as well as reading/watching weekly material posted in Blackboard. Content may include power points, recorded lectures, videos, podcasts, or other medium. Content will be checked for accessibility; however, if there are issues accessing any content, please notify me immediately so I can fix it. Anything posted in course content is required reading unless otherwise noted by me.

### Quizzes

There will be quizzes throughout the course of the semester. Students will access these via Blackboard. These quizzes are designed to ensure students are keeping up with and comprehending course materials. Students may use their notes and course material for the quizzes; however, answers must be in student's own words. These are untimed and may only be completed once. *Objectives 1-8*

### Participation

Students will participate by completing discussion board posts in response to questions related to what we are learning. When there is a discussion board assignment, you will post three times. One will be a direct response to the question in the forum, and the other two will be additional posts commenting on your classmates' posts or comments. *Objectives 1-8*

### Reflections

Periodically there will be reflection assignments. These are meant to help you reflect on your own thoughts, opinions, and knowledge of human sexuality. There will be 10 over the course of the semester and you will need to choose at least 5 to do and turn in by the due date, although you are welcome to turn them in earlier if you wish. *Objectives are dependent on which reflections are chosen*

### Critical Thinking Assignments

Students will be assigned two critical thinking assignments. These are small, informal written assignments meant for you to introspectively evaluate and analyze your attitudes, behaviors, and growth in relation to human sexuality. One will be due in Week 2 and the other will be due the last week of class. Additional instructions can be found in Blackboard. *Objectives 5-8.*

## Projects

Over the course of the semester, you will work on two different projects. One will be a media analysis where you will examine how the media portrays aspects of human sexuality. The second will be your choice between a field trip or an interview. These both have due dates listed in the course schedule and blackboard; however, you may turn them in at any point PRIOR to the due date if you wish. Detailed instructions can be found in Blackboard. *Objectives 5-8.*

## Course Policies

### **General Statement**

I understand that college can be a very difficult and stressful time, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic. I know that life happens. Please know that I am here to work with you, I am here to support you, and I care about you. Do not be afraid to reach out to me with questions or concerns. I want everyone to succeed. Caveat: This syllabus and the course schedule are subject to change at my discretion.

### **Attendance Policy (See [University Policy](#))**

It is the policy of Western Kentucky University that class attendance is an important part of a student's educational experience and is a requirement for success in courses. Registration in a course obligates the student to be regular and punctual in class attendance. **The instructor should be notified by e-mail or telephone if a student is unable to attend before class begins. All students are given FIVE free excused absences that do not need an explanation. Beyond those five days, absences will need to be formally excused.** Alternative plans are in place for students who will be in isolation, quarantine, receiving care from a health care facility or unable to attend in-person class meetings due to medical reasons. Such students will participate in class activities online. Similarly, class activities will shift online, should the instructor be unable to meet with students in-person for medical reasons. We will do our best to follow all safety protocols to ensure the smooth running of the class.

### **Late/Makeup Work Policy**

Late work and makeup work will be assessed case by case by the instructor. Please communicate with me regarding all issues with completing assignments.

## COVID-19 Statement

All students are strongly encouraged to get the [COVID-19 vaccine](#). Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in [Kentucky](#), the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center ([SARC](#)): 270-745-5004 (voice), 270-745-3030 (TTY), or 270-288-0597 (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the [Healthy on the Hill website](#) for the most current information.

## ADA Policy

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at [sarc.connect@wku.edu](mailto:sarc.connect@wku.edu). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a Faculty Notification Letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

## Title IX Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct/Assault

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding [WKU's Title IX – Discrimination, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct](#) policies. Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

## **WKU Policy on Plagiarism**

To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of students must be their own. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism. **Students' work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.**

## **WKU Policy on Cheating**

No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment, or other project that is submitted for purposes of grade determination.

## **WKU Writing Center**

Students are encouraged to use the services of the [Writing Center](#) for their projects/papers. Face-to-face and online reviews are available.

## **Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning**

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the [Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage](#).

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Regular announcements from faculty
- Timely and constructive feedback on assignments
- Faculty guidance and instruction regarding course content and competencies
- Faculty office hours and availability to facilitate discussion with students
- Regular assignments throughout the semester related to course competencies