

**MHCH 685**  
**Maternal and Child Health Special Topics:**  
**Human Sexuality**  
(1 Credit)  
Spring, 2016

<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Professor Carolyn T. Halpern <a href="mailto:carolyn_halpern@unc.edu">carolyn_halpern@unc.edu</a>	401 Rosenau  Office hours by appt. (Please schedule meetings via my assistant, Susan Charamut, <a href="mailto:susanrnc@email.unc.edu">susanrnc@email.unc.edu</a> )	(919) 966-5981

**Teaching Assistant**

Nicole Kahn  
[nkahn@live.unc.edu](mailto:nkahn@live.unc.edu)

**Meeting Time**

Tuesday 11:00 – 11:50

**Meeting Place**

133 Rosenau Hall

**Course Overview**

*"...our relation to sex is always a bit off. As a culture, we don't take sex seriously enough and don't take it lightly enough either."* Peter D. Kramer, June 27, 2011, SLATE

Through lecture and discussion this course will examine selected aspects of sexual development, including perspectives on sexuality, sexual attraction and identity, sexual behavior and relationships, and the implications of these factors and experiences for physical and mental health. Most course content focuses on the United States context.

**Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites to enroll in this course. Students with special medical or cognitive needs should contact the instructor outside of class; we'll work together toward an accommodation.

**This course addresses the following School of Public Health competencies:**

- Engage in collective information sharing, discussion, and problem solving
- Demonstrate awareness of and sensitivity to the varied perspectives, norms and values of others based on individual and ethnic/cultural differences (e.g., age, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, region, and social class)
- Consider the effect of public health decisions on social justice and equity
- Discuss social, behavioral, environmental, and biological factors that contribute to specific individual and community health outcomes

## Learning Objectives

- Recognize the historical and political context of sexuality research
- Describe important aspects of sexual health and the health needs of different populations, including, but not limited to, groups defined by biological sex, age, race/ethnicity and sexual orientation
- Describe public health policy and human rights issues related to sexuality

## Course Expectations and Requirements

**Required readings:** Materials are located on the course Sakai site. Please check the Sakai site weekly for possible updates as new readings will likely be added. In addition to required readings, for some topics there are suggested readings if you want to read more about the topic. The required readings are listed on the syllabus.

## Class Participation, Assignments, Grading

Weekly class participation is expected. Students are expected to complete required reading assignments, attend class, and take an active role in class discussion.

Weekly feedback: I am very interested in feedback about course structure, content, and speakers. In addition to the School's course evaluation at the end of the semester, each week I will ask you to complete a short, anonymous Qualtrics survey to reflect on that week's class session.

Optional reflection paper: This optional paper (3-4 pages, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman, size 12) will ask you to reflect on a question to be posted later in the semester. The paper will be due on the course exam day (April 29), no later than noon. You may deliver the assignment either by posting to the Sakai site, or by delivering a hard copy to me at my office. I will be available in my office during class time on April 29 for anyone who wishes to discuss their paper or other aspects of the course.

Consistent class attendance and participation, as well as completion of the final "reflection" paper will merit an "A" (for undergraduates) or "H" (for graduate students) for the course. Consistent class attendance and participation without paper completion will merit a "B" or "P."

## Course Policies

**Absences:** Students should speak with the instructor in advance of an absence from class. Excessive absences ( $\geq 3$ ) will be reflected in a lower grade for class participation.

**Late assignment:** The final reflection paper will not be accepted after noon on April 29.

**Use of Laptops/smart phones:** Although I do not prohibit these in class, I strongly encourage you to engage with live class discussion and to save further investigation of topics mentioned for a time outside of class.

**Honor Code:** Students must observe the Honor Code in all course assignments. You are expected to produce your own work, except where group work is allowed (i.e., workshop discussions, assignments entailing feedback to peers). You must not plagiarize the work of others. The instrument defining the Honor Code defines plagiarism as "deliberate or reckless representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise." If you have questions about your responsibility under the honor code, please bring them to the instructor or consult with the office of the Dean of Students or the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance. This document, adopted by the Chancellor, the Faculty Council, and the Student Congress, contains all policies and procedures pertaining to the student honor system. Please include the following pledge on the final written assignment: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment."

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus when unforeseen circumstances occur. These changes will be announced as early as possible so that students can adjust their schedules.

### **End of Semester Online Course Evaluation**

All students are expected to complete this evaluation during a two week time window near the end of the semester. More information will be provided at a later date.

### **Contacting the instructor**

The most reliable way to get a message to me is via email. I will always try to respond within 2 days. I encourage you to contact my administrative assistant, Susan Charamut, for assistance with scheduling an appointment. Her contact information is: 919-966-5981 or [susanrmc@email.unc.edu](mailto:susanrmc@email.unc.edu). Nicole Kahn ([nkahn@live.unc.edu](mailto:nkahn@live.unc.edu)) is assisting with this course and can also help with questions.

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**Class Schedule and Reading Assignments**  
(NOTE: dates and reading assignments subject to change)

#	Date	Topic/Activity	Speaker	Assignment
1	January 12	Orientation to course; Defining sexual health; a brief history of sexuality research	Carolyn Halpern	Qualtrics Survey, <b>to be completed before first class</b> TED Talk: Sex Needs a New Metaphor Khosla, Say & Temmerman, 2015 (optional)
2	January 19	Sexuality across the life course: Childhood and Adolescence; Why is sexuality research so political?	Carolyn Halpern	Tolman & McClelland, 2011 Udry, 1993
3	January 26	Biological sex, gender, and gender identity	Carolyn Halpern	Sexuality definitions Peplau, 2003 Conron et al., 2014 (optional)
4	February 2	Sex education	Nicole Kahn	John Oliver's Last Night Tonight: Sex Ed Schalet et al., 2014 National Sexuality Education Standards (for reference)
5	February 9	Masturbation (Group Discussion)	Carolyn Halpern	Coleman, 2008
6	February 16	Sexual orientation development; health of sexual minorities	Shoshana Goldberg	Steever et al. 2014 NTDS report on transgender health (optional) Matthew and Lee, 2014 (optional)
7	February 23	Parenting and sexual minorities	Kerith Conron	Ryan et al., 2009 SAMHSA Practitioner's Guide, 2014
8	March 1	Contraception	Siân Curtis	Guttmacher, 2015 NIRH Quick Sheet Guttmacher, 2014 (optional)
9	March 8	Great Sexpectations: Creating a culture of clear, confident and enthusiastic consent	Jean Workman	"Yes Means Yes" Law
-	March 15	<b>**NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**</b>		
10	March 22	Religion and Sexuality: Comparisons of Christianity and Islam	Annie Hardison-Moody	Gaydos & Page, 2014 A little told tale of sexuality (optional)

<b>11</b>	March 29	Sexual victimization/power, coercion, harassment	Sandy Martin	“Not Alone” UNC Policy Website
<b>12</b>	April 5	Sexuality in adulthood	Carolyn Halpern	N/A
<b>13</b>	April 12	Asexuality (Group Discussion)	Carolyn Halpern	N/A
<b>14</b>	April 19	STIs and AIDS	Clare Barrington	Donastorg, 2013 Kerrigan et al., 2016
<b>15</b>	April 26	A paradigm for sexual health? (Group Discussion)	Carolyn Halpern	Ivankovich et al, 2013 Fortenberry, 2013