

HED 390 – Family Life and Sex Education

Sam Houston State University
 Department of Health and Kinesiology
 College of Education
 Summer I, 2008

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Textbook (required):

Buscaglia, L. *Loving each other: The challenge of human relationships*. (Available at the SHSU bookstore)

Course Description: The material in this course centers on forming and maintaining intimate, growth-fostering relationships. Specifically, the course encompasses various assets of relationship formation including the following:

- Sexuality “norms”
- Sexuality across cultures
- Sexuality, popular culture, and the media
- Male and female sexual anatomy, physiology and response
- Sex and gender roles
- Sexuality in childhood and adolescence
- Sexuality in adulthood
- GLBT communities
- Divorce, remarriage and step-parenting
- Love and communication
- Sexual expression and variations in sexual behavior
- Contraception and birth control
- Conception, pregnancy and childbirth
- Sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS
- Sexual coercion – harassment, abuse and aggression

Course Format and Philosophy: This course requires students to personally and professionally reflect upon the meaning and significance of relationship formation. As this course will address numerous “controversial” issues, it is important that all students maintain a degree of respect toward one another. Students should feel comfortable to raise issues, challenges others, and push their intellectual boundaries. The course will incorporate the following teaching methods - lecture, group discussion, film analysis, reflective writing and guest speakers.

Guidelines:

- Students must come to class on-time (consistent tardiness equates to an absence). As the professor, I have the ability to refuse any student's entry into the classroom after the scheduled class time has begun.
- Students are required to take notes. Notes will NOT be provided via Blackboard. Students should also come prepared to take detailed, extensive notes.
- Papers are due at the beginning of class and will be penalized for being late. All papers turned in late will receive a 5 point deduction (per day).
- Electronic copies will NOT be accepted.
- Points will be deducted for writing issues – if writing assistance is needed, I recommend that you contact the SHSU Writing Center at Farrington 111 (936-294-3680, wctr@shsu.edu).

Assignments/Evaluations

All assignments must be typed and submitted at the beginning of class. It is important to note that assignments will remain confidential.

1. Attendance/Participation: Each student is required to attend class. Students are permitted one “free” absence. All excused absences must receive approval of the instructor (i.e., medical note). Students missing class will receive a 10 point deduction to their overall attendance/participation grade. Any student missing more than 2 days (including the “free” absence) throughout the semester will earn an “F” in the course. Students are expected to attend class prepared (readings, assignments). Students disrupting class will be asked to leave and should expect to earn a deduction in their final grade.
2. Relationship profile: Each student must generate a relationship profile addressing the following statement – “About me and who I am looking for.” One’s profile must include the following components:
 - Demographic information about self (e.g., age, sex, race, ethnicity)
 - Demographic information about preferred partner
 - Have kids? Want kids?
 - Preferred lifestyle (urban, rural, suburban)?
 - Interests/favorite things (i.e., hobbies)?
 - Smoke? Drink? Health patterns?
 - Education/career?
 - For fun...?
 - Religion
 - Last read...?
 - Politics

In some ways, you may think of this assignment as a personal reflection on who you are and what you want from a relationship (possibly one you are currently in or in the future).

3. Position paper: You are expected to select a “controversial” topic with which to take a stance/side. Upon selecting an issue, you must research the topic and write a powerful argument supporting the particular stance which you have selected. Sample topics are listed below...students do not have to select from this list.
- Should parents be allowed to select the sex of their baby?
 - Should emergency contraception be available over the counter (i.e., the morning after pill)?
 - Abortion
 - Is oral sex really sex?
 - Should sexual content on the Internet be restricted?
 - Should same sex marriage be legal?
 - Should sex education teach about abstinence?
 - HPV vaccination
- All topics must be researched and supported with scholarly research. Students must use a minimum of 8 scholarly references.
4. Students will be reading Leo Buscaglia’s book – *Loving each other: The challenge of human relationships* – throughout the course of the semester. There are ten chapters in the book. Students are expected to read each chapter before the scheduled class discussion (see calendar), writing a one-page reaction (not summation) to that chapter. Questions to consider when reflecting on each chapter may include:
- How does this material apply to me (and my relationships)?
 - What did I learn?
 - Are there areas which I disagree with? And why?
 - Include responses to questions posed by Buscaglia (see pages 33-34 for an example)
- Students may also incorporate any questions they may have – these questions will serve as discussion points in class.
5. In-class assignments: Each student will be expected to engage in a series of in-class activities throughout the semester. The activities will vary and will incorporate issues and concepts addressed in class. Each activity will be explained in class. If absent, it is your responsibility to acquire a description of the assignment (you are not permitted to make-up the assignment unless excused).
6. Final examination: The final examination will be cumulative and will incorporate all material discussed in class (readings, lectures, group discussions, guest speakers, and films).

Evaluation

Attendance/participation	100 points
Relationship profile	50 points
Position paper	150 points
Reaction papers (10 points each)	100 points
Weekly activities	50 points
<u>Final examination</u>	<u>75 points</u>
TOTAL	525 points

Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full or clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. Please refer to the University's Code of Student Conduct for actions that may result from student academic misconduct. The consequences for any infraction will include no credit for the assignment and being reported to academic affairs. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Any student with a disability should inform the instructor of instructional accommodations or academic adjustments that will be needed. For more information about the ADA and academic accommodations or adjustments, contact the Office of Disability Resources and Services.