

**Common Course Outline**  
**PSYC/HUSC 258**  
**Psychology of Sex and Culture**  
**3 Credits**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**PSYC/HUSC 258 – Psychology of Sex and Culture** introduces the psychology of human sexuality in its evolutionary, cultural, physiological, reproductive, and social contexts. Students explore historical and contemporary views on the psychology of sex, the role of sexuality in day-to-day interactions among individuals, and the political issues surrounding sexual identity. Students learn how psychologists study human sexuality and are introduced to common sex-related issues, including the particular concerns of various sexually marginalized groups.

**3 Credits**

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 101

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. illustrate knowledge of the breadth of psychological theory, research, and practice related to human sexuality;
2. critically analyze the diverse theoretical viewpoints regarding human sexual behavior;
3. evaluate professional and ethical issues confronting research and practice surrounding human sexuality;
4. identify the historical development of sexual practice, traditions, attitudes, and laws in various cultures;
5. analyze the nature of physical and psychological attractiveness, sexual morality, communication, and relationships;
6. discuss special populations and human diversity related to human sexual attraction, behavior, and identity;
7. examine the evolution and maintenance of personal sexual values, biases and attitudes (e.g., through religious, cultural, familial, and peer influences) across cultures;
8. discuss the sexual needs and expressions of sexually marginalized groups, such as the aged, persons with disabilities, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals, and rape and incest survivors;
9. explore issues related to sexual violence, including partner violence, assault, harassment, and rape;
10. identify culturally-based sexual difficulties and dysfunctions;

11. examine concerns related to sexual responsibility;
12. distinguish between healthy culturally acceptable and unhealthy sexual expression;
13. explore personal reactions to the range and variety of sexual needs and expressions; and
14. analyze relevant policies and their influence on human sexuality.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Evolution and history of sex
- II. Psychological theories and research
- III. Sexual development
- IV. Sex and human diversity
- V. Cultural traditions, practices, and beliefs
- VI. Sexuality and gender
- VII. Sexual identity
- VIII. Sexual attraction and arousal
- IX. Relationships and communication
- X. Sexual morality and religion
- XI. Sexual values, biases, and attitudes
- XII. Sex and oppression
- XIII. Sex and disability
- XIV. Ethics, policies, and laws
- XV. Sexual Violence:
  - A. Partner violence
  - B. Assault
  - C. Harassment
  - D. Rape
- XVI. Disorders of desire and performance
- XVII. Atypical sexual behavior
- XVIII. Commercial sex:
  - A. Sex work
  - B. Trafficking
  - C. Pornography
- XIX. Sexually transmitted infections

### **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

#### **Grading/exams:**

- a minimum of three exams/assessments;
- a minimum of three assignments/assessments that provide opportunities for students to practice course material before exams (e.g., quizzes, discussion postings, graded chapter assessments, etc.);
- a written critical thinking assignment worth a minimum of 10% of the total course grade on a topic related to human sexuality and culture.

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

**Other Course Information**

This course is a program elective in the Behavioral Sciences disciplines (Psychology and Human Services Counseling).

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