

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

**Academic School/Department:** Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

**Programme:** Psychology

**FHEQ Level:** 5

**Course Title:** Human Sexuality

**Course Code:** PSY 5410

**Course Leader:** Dr Ira Konstantinou

**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

**Lectures:** 30

**Seminar / tutorials:** 15

**Independent / Guided Learning** 75

**Semester:** Spring

**Credits:** 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits

3 US credits

### **Course Description**

This course explores the role of sexuality in psychological processes. Students evaluate a variety of theoretical approaches, including the biological, social learning, and psychoanalytic perspectives. Topics include sexual development, sexual identity, and sexual orientation. Students examine material from a range of social science disciplines.

**Prerequisites:** PSY 4210

### **Aims and Objectives**

This course provides students from all majors with an introduction to the role of sexuality in psychological processes. For Psychology students, it provides further grounding in their discipline, which also integrates well with other psychology courses. This course familiarizes students with key studies and debates in selected areas of the literature, developing a framework for in-depth study at a good academic level. It also attempts to promote the personal and multicultural insights which are an integral benefit of the disciplines and skills of a psychological training in the social sciences.

**Programme Outcomes:**

5A.i, 5C.i, 5D.i, 5Dii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Demonstrate the ability to compare and contrast various theoretical approaches to human sexuality
- Develop an in-depth appreciation of special topics in the field of human sexuality
- Gain insight into the status of quantitative and/or qualitative research on the issues in this area
- Develop an awareness of current trends, and the ability to evaluate competing paradigms in the field of human sexuality research
- Demonstrate the ability to formulate a line of argument and present it in an essay form

**Indicative Content**

Research in human sexuality, history and methodology  
Psychological theories of human sexuality  
Sexual orientation  
Gender identity and roles  
Sexual arousal and response  
Sexual behavior and fantasies  
Sexually transmitted infection  
Attraction and love  
Relationships and communication  
Conception, pregnancy and childbirth  
Contraception  
Abortion  
Sexuality in childhood and adolescence  
Sexual coercion  
Sexuality in adulthood  
Sexual dysfunctions

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lecture presentations with the key concepts

- II. Group discussions on the reading material and topical issues
- III. Internet sites related to psychology
- IV. Videos on psychology topics
- V. Topical articles related to the subject matter
- VI. Interactive exercises (textbook's website)

**Bibliography:**

See syllabus for complete reading list

***Indicative Text(s):***

Rathus, Spencer A., J. S. Nevid and L. Fichner-Rathus. *Human Sexuality in a World of Diversity*. 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston: Pearson International Edition, 2010.

***Journals***

Journal of Psychology & Human Sexuality  
Journal of Human Sexuality  
Journal of Abnormal Psychology  
Journal of Social and Personal Relationships  
Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy

***Web Sites***

<http://sexandscience.org>  
<http://www.plannedparenthood.org>  
<http://www.nih.gov/niha/health/pubpub/sexual.htm>

Sexuality Information and Education Council (SEICUS)

<http://www.siecus.org>

Society for the Study of Sexuality (SSSS):

<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/ssss>

*Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus*

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Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry

Richmond, the American International University in London  
05 June 2013
