Psychology 4900
Sexual Orientation: Theory, Research, & Implications
Weber State University
Syllabus

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Office: SS366  Email: via Canvas
Office Hours: Drop-in or by appt.

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE STUDENT:
Please note that this syllabus is a contract between you and the instructor of this course. Your decision to stay in this course is a statement that you are agreeing to abide by the policies described in this syllabus. If you don’t agree with these policies, or you think that you cannot conduct yourself according to them, you are strongly encouraged to take this course from another professor.

TEXTBOOK:
Links to other readings will be available on Canvas.

PURPOSE:
The purpose of this course is to develop a fuller understanding of various theories and research concerning sexual orientation. It is hoped that this understanding can be applied to current events and your lives.

GRADING:
All students have the potential to earn an “A” in this course. There is no effort by the instructor to grade according to a “bell curve.” All students will be graded according to the following point system:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Modality</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Percent of Total Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Discussion Questions</td>
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<td>Response Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>100</td>
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Attendance/Participation:
This is a small, upper-division class that will be taught as a seminar. This means that attendance and participation in class discussions are absolutely essential.

For the next 13 weeks, we will only meet on Tuesdays. On Thursdays, you are expected to work online to submit your response papers and discussion posts, as well as preparing the following week's class discussions.

There will be 13 Tuesday class periods, and we will meet on both Tuesday and Thursday on Week 15. This means that we will meet for a total of 15 times. You can miss up to 2 class meetings without a penalty. If you miss more than 2 meetings, you will be docked 30 points for each day you miss.

Class participation will be graded each meeting on a 4-point scale (0=absent, 1=present, no participation, 2=below average, 3=average, 4=above average). Quantity and quality of contributions will be considered.

Weekly Discussion Questions:
You are required to submit at least 3 discussion questions for weeks 2-14. Examples of acceptable questions include a query for the purpose of clarification of a point made in the reading, how the current reading assignment relates to past readings, and how the reading assignment might relate to your experience and/or current events. Each discussion post will be due by midnight on Mondays. You will earn maximum credit for high quality questions, half credit for poor quality questions, and no credit for failure to post discussion questions. No late discussion posts will be accepted.

Response Papers:
Half of the class will submit a paper on each of the even weeks of the semester (2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12), and the other half will submit a paper on weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13). Each paper should be 3-5, double-spaced pages, and it should summarize the major points the author(s) is trying to make. Each paper will be graded on completeness of the summary and writing quality. If you submit proof that you used the WSU Writing Center (copy of rough draft, copy of final draft that includes attempts to make changes suggested by Writing Center personnel, and a signed form from the Writing Center), I will add 10% to your score.
Class Presentation:
During the 15th week of the semester, you will give a PowerPoint presentation to the class. Your topic will be an area of sexual orientation that interests you. You will present on at least 2 peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles related to your topic. I will provide a separate handout on the expectations of your Topic Proposal, and the Presentation Title and a copy of each of your 2 articles.

MISCELLANEOUS:
While every effort will be made to adhere to the course outline, all times, topics, and subjects covered will be at the professor’s discretion and could change at any time. Advance notice will be given if a change is necessary.

From time to time, your instructor may need to be absent to participate in a professional conference. Please note that such participation is part of your instructor’s job. If such an absence is necessary, you will be notified of it and any changes to the course schedule as soon as possible.

Your instructor uses the grade book provided by Canvas. You are strongly encouraged to check your grades on a regular basis to ensure that you are properly receiving credit for your work. It is much easier to correct errors during the semester. If you notice an error, your instructor will be happy to correct it once you provide evidence of the mistake. Please keep everything your instructor returns to you, as this will be the only proof you have that you completed an assignment.

Technology now makes it possible for your instructor to communicate with the entire class at once. If I need to cancel a class because of illness, or if I need to make a last-minute announcement, I will contact the class through the Announcements tool in Canvas. YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THE INFORMATION COMMUNICATED IN CLASS AND ON CANVAS.

This class will be run online in the event that face-to-face classes cannot be held and that all deadlines changes will be announced over Canvas.

It is the instructor’s expectation that the work you submit is in fact your work. Cheating on exams or plagiarizing work on papers or presentations will result in immediate failure of the course, as well as other possible disciplinary action. Plagiarism is representing the work of someone else as
your own by taking sentences, paragraphs, or sections from other sources without using quotation marks or appropriate references. Please consult the instructor if you have any questions about appropriate referencing of material.

Appropriate classroom behavior is vital to a productive learning environment. Behaviors such as a) arriving late, b) leaving early, c) holding private conversations, d) sleeping, e) reading other material, f) playing games with or communicating via cell phone, or g) doing other work are very rude and distracting to the instructor and your peers. The same principle holds true for cell phones and pagers going off in class. The instructor will intervene with such behaviors as appropriate. If they persist, offending students will be encouraged to drop the course.

Disability Notice:
Any student needing accommodations or services due to a learning disability must contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). The SSD Office on the Main Campus can be reached at 801-626-6413, or Room 181 of the Student Services Center. At the Davis Campus, the SSD Office is located in Room 256 in the D2 Building, and the phone number is 801-395-3442.