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PSYCHOLOGY 129E

HUMAN SEXUALITY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Paul Abramson (Abramson@psych.ucla.edu)

Office hours: Tues 1:45-2:45 pm, room: Franz 4615

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Lisa Christensen (lisachriste@gmail.com)

Office hours: Weds 11:15-1:15, room: Franz 1183A

UNDERGRAD TEACHING RESOURCE: Arnel Polintan (arnel0387@msn.com)

Meeting hour:

CLASS TIME/DAYS: 12:30-1:45pm CS50 WG Young

OVERVIEW

This course has been created to present a sampling of critical topics relevant to human sexuality. It is not meant to be exhaustive; it is designed instead to highlight subjects that have both theoretical and social significance. Debate is warranted and expected. One final point, this is not a “how to” course. It presents a thinking person’s perspective that will challenge prevailing assumptions and provoke critical thinking about sex.

REQUIRED READINGS

Abramson, P.R. (1984). SARAH: A SEXUAL BIOGRAPHY. Albany: SUNY Press.

Abramson, P.R. & Pinkerton, S.D. (2002). WITH PLEASURE: Thoughts on the nature of human sexuality. New York: Oxford University Press. (paperback, revised ed.)

Abramson, P.R. & Pinkerton, S.D. (2000). A HOUSE DIVIDED: Suspicions of mother daughter incest. New York: Norton.

Kennedy, P. (2007). THE FIRST MAN MADE MAN.VHPS.

REVIEW SESSIONS

We hand out a study guide for both exams. We also hold review sessions in the evening before both exams. The university determines the time and date of the review sessions. They depend upon classroom availability. You will be notified at least one week in advance.

EXAMS

Your grade will be based upon your performance on a mid-term and final exam. (THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. IF YOU CAN’T MAKE THE EXAMS, PLEASE TAKE A DIFFERENT CLASS). Both exams will be multiple-choice. The final exam will not be cumulative. Your final grade will be based upon your combined performance on both exams. Examination questions will be based upon the lectures, videos and reading materials.

Assigned and separated seating will also be used for each test. Every effort will be made to detect cheating. Don’t cheat. Don’t even think about it.

The **Final Exam** is 12/11/09 11:30am – 2:30 pm. If you are more than 10 minutes late to either the mid-term or final you will receive an F for that exam.

PIZZA NIGHT

A common complaint at UCLA is that students rarely get to know professors or teaching assistants. This is particularly true when the class size is over 300 students. In recognition of this problem, we hold a “pizza night” once a quarter. It is designed to create informal dialogue between all participants. Class material is not presented or reviewed; nor is anything discussed which is relevant to the exams. This is merely time to “hang-out” with your professor and TA.

This quarter PIZZA NIGHT will be on 11/10/09. Students who are interested in attending will sign up; and depending upon the number of sign-ups, a room will be obtained. The room number (and time) will be posted thereafter. A small contribution, paid in advance, will be requested to cover the cost of the pizza.

TOPICS

- 9/24/09 Introduction. Alfred Kinsey
9/29/09 Alfred Kinsey.
Reading: WITH PLEASURE: Chapter 1
- 10/1/09 What can we learn about human sexuality from other primates?
10/6/09 Film: The Great Ape
10/8/09 Evolutionary approaches to human sexuality
10/13/09 WITH PLEASURE: The Theory of Why Sex Feels Pleasurable
Reading: Chapters 1 & 2
- 10/15/09 Why Sex?
10/20/09 Homosexuality: Genetic, neural and endocrine perspectives
Reading: WITH PLEASURE: Chapter 4
- 10/22/09 Homosexuality: Social Issues (Guest Speakers: The Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau/GLIDE)
10/27/09 Viagra
10/29/09 The SAMBIA: Guardians of the flute. (Cross-cultural perspectives)
11/3/09 ***MID-TERM EXAM***
- 11/5/09 Transgender: Southern Comfort
11/10/09 THE FIRST MAN MADE MAN; The Hijra
Reading: THE FIRST MAN MADE MAN
PIZZA NIGHT
- 11/12/09 Sex and gender identity: Transgender (hormonal & cultural)
11/17/09 A House Divided: Advocacy and the pursuit of sexual abuse
Reading: A HOUSE DIVIDED
- 11/19/09 The History of Syphilis
11/24/09 The AIDS Prevention Vaccine
Reading: Chapter 6 of WITH PLEASURE
Film: 2 Dollars with or without a condom
- 12/1/09 Incest and sexual molestation
Reading: SARAH: A SEXUAL BIOGRAPHY
- 12/3/09 Pornography: Political and social issues
Reading: Chapter 7 of WITH PLEASURE
- 12/11/09 **FINAL EXAM: 11:30-2:30pm**

ASUCLA Lecture Notes are available.

