

GWSS/HEED/PSYC-2317: Human Sexuality

Fall 2023

Instructor Information

Instructor(s)

Rebecca Escoto

Office Number

Office Number: LS 410

Office Telephone Number

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Faculty Profile

[Rebecca Escoto](https://www.uta.edu/academics/faculty/profile?username=escotor) (https://www.uta.edu/academics/faculty/profile?username=escotor)

Office Hours

Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:00-1:50 p.m. in LS 410, or by appointment. Start by sending me an email and we can arrange a time to meet. I can also meet students virtually in Teams or off-campus.

Course Information

Section Information

This course is cross listed: GWSS 2317-001, HEED 2317-001, and PSYC 2317-001.

Time and Place of Class Meetings

Tuesdays/Thursdays 2:00-3:20 p.m. in LS 118

Modality

Majority On-Campus. The majority of course instruction, exams and projects delivered on-campus or at designated instructional sites, in-person.

This is an On Campus class is scheduled to meet on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:20 pm. Students will be required to attend all class sessions on campus (unless otherwise noted in the syllabus or announced in Canvas) on all scheduled days/times throughout the semester.

Description of Course Content

The physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of human sexuality. Offered as BIOL 2317, GWSS 2317, HEED 2317, and PSYC 2317. Credit will be granted for one of these courses only. Students seeking certification in Health Education must enroll in HEED 2317. Students seeking

credit toward their science requirement must enroll in BIOL 2317. May not be used for biology grade point calculation or biology credit toward a BS degree in biology, microbiology, medical technology, psychology, or sociology.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, PSYC 2317 students will be able to:

1. Identify common myths of human sexual functioning.
2. Identify human sexual behaviors and sexual responses.
3. Explain the relationship between sexuality and developmental changes throughout the lifespan.
4. Describe the causes, symptoms, and treatments for sexually transmitted infections and the behaviors that increase and decrease the risk of contracting an STI.
5. Describe the principles of effective communication and the specific barriers to effective communication about sex and sexuality.
6. Use an academic sexual vocabulary.
7. Discuss cultural differences in sexual attitudes and behaviors.
8. Identify the occurrence and causes of sexual variations.
9. Identify contraceptive methods and how these methods prevent conception.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials

Textbook with Connect digital software:

Connect Online for Human Sexuality: Self, Society, and Culture, 2nd edition (2021) by Gilbert Herdt and Nicole Polen-Petit. Publisher: McGraw-Hill Education

Direct Access to Learning Materials:

Once you have registered for this Fall Psychology course, you will be able to access to all your course materials through your Canvas account. This will ensure you have the correct course materials on the first day of class, and at a much lower cost. The charge for your digital materials goes directly to your UTA account, making it eligible for Financial Aid. You will pay for your digital resources when you register for class and have immediate access to your materials through the McGraw Hill link in Canvas.

Scantrons:

Exams will be taken in class on the dates given in the syllabus. A scantron form 882 E will be provided to students at that time. You must bring a #2 pencil with a good eraser to each scheduled exam. Students can bring one 3"x5" index card with *handwritten notes* to each exam. Turn in your notecard with your exam and scantron.

Canvas:

Canvas will be an important component throughout the semester. Your grades will be posted through Canvas, and supplemental resources will be provided. Make sure you have access to Canvas. Canvas support is available 24/7 by calling 1 (855) 597-3401. Grades calculated in Canvas may not be accurate. It is important that you keep up with your grades yourself.

ReadAnywhere App:

Students can download the ReadAnywhere app for their mobile device to have access to your textbook and SmartBook assignments wherever you go. You can download chapters and assignments to complete offline and then sync them again when you are connected again to the internet. This can save you data charges when you are away from free Wi-Fi. Check the appropriate app store for your device to download this free app.

Technology Requirements

Students will access their online textbook platform in Connect and complete SmartBook assignments. Optionally, students may download the ReadAnywhere app on their mobile device to access and read the textbook and complete SmartBook assignments. Be sure to sync your online work the next time you are connected to the internet.

Students will use Canvas to submit two (2) essay assignments. Students will also access Canvas to keep track of course progress and stay informed regarding news and events taking place in class.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations

Summary of Graded Work

Major Assignment Groups	Points	Totals
SmartBook Assignments (top 10 scores out of 15)	10 points each	100 points
* Extra credit points for each SmartBook assignment completed over the 10 required.	2 points each chapter	Extra credit
(2) Essays	50 points each	100 points
(3) Unit Exams & Comprehensive Final Exam	100 points each	400 points
* choose a combination of points to equal 500 points	TOTAL:	500 points

The comprehensive final exam is optional. You can take the final to replace one of the major grades: Essays, SmartBook assignments or one of the 3 Exams. There are NO make-up exams UNLESS you arrange with the instructor to take the exam PRIOR to the date of the exam. If you miss an exam, you will earn a zero, but you can replace it with your final exam score.

These are the possible grading options for students:

- SmartBooks (10 x 10) + 2 Essays + 3 Exams and No Comprehensive Final Exam
- SmartBooks (5 x 10) + 1 Essay + 3 Exams AND 1 Comprehensive Final Exam
- SmartBooks (0 x 10) + 2 Essays + 3 Exams AND 1 Comprehensive Final Exam
- SmartBooks (10 x 10) + 0 Essays + 3 Exams AND 1 Comprehensive Final Exam

Students don't need to decide now which grading option they like best. Just plan for the one that works best for you.

SmartBook Assignments:

SmartBook Assignments are part of a learning system within our textbook's Connect software. These assignments are designed to help you review the material learned in each chapter. The SmartBook system continually adjusts to your level of content mastery. After you have read a portion of the book, you will get a question page. To complete a question, you need to select an answer AND rate how confident you are in your answer. You will then get feedback on how accurate you were on your answer.

Your objective is to LEARN the information in the chapter, and not just get through the assignment as quickly as you can. You will see that if you guess at an answer incorrectly, it will only slow you down and it will take much longer to complete the assignments. You will see two scores at the end of each chapter SmartBook assignment, a Progress score and an Accuracy score. I will ONLY SEE your Progress Score. You must have a Progress Score of 100% before the due date for that chapter to earn the 10 points available for it. Only you can see your Accuracy score (for example, 20 of 22, or 91%). You will also be able to see which concepts in the chapter were the most challenging for you, just in case you want to go back and review those concepts later.

A link to each SmartBook assignment can be found in Connect (our textbook software). SmartBook assignments will be due within a day or so of the day we discuss the chapter in class – see course calendar for all due dates. It is in your best interest to complete at least part of the SmartBook assignment prior to covering the topic in class. Doing so will make the material more concrete in your long-term memory (i.e., better able to be accessed during exams).

Each chapter on average will take less than two hours to complete, depending on your level of mastery. If possible, direct links to assignments will be available in Canvas. Each SmartBook chapter assignment is worth 10 points. You will have 15 opportunities to complete 10 SmartBook assignments. Only your top 10 SmartBook assignments will be counted towards your grade, meaning you can earn a maximum of 100 points.

If you choose NOT to complete the SmartBook assignments, you must plan to complete the Essays and all four Exams as scheduled to earn full points in this course.

Short Essays:

There will be TWO (2) essay assignments submitted online in Canvas due throughout the semester covering various topics in the course. Each essay needs to be about 150-400 words in length and should completely answer the questions. Students are expected to define terms and provide examples to show their understanding of the concepts. Please use several short paragraphs with clear, concise sentences to explain your answer. Please use correct spelling and grammar. Do not give me a list of bullet points. Honestly, short essays are better than lengthy ones.

Your best resource is your textbook. Do not use outside sources that are infamous for plagiarism. Also, if you cite a source within our textbook, you need to cite the textbook and not the original source – unless you look up the original source to read it and interpret it for yourself. You are certainly welcome to do that, but it is not necessary for these assignments. The in-text citation format for our textbook will look like this (Herdt & Polen-Petit, 2021, p. 75). If you are using the eBook

version of our textbook, you might not be able to tell which page you are finding the information. In that situation, you need to indicate the module number and section where the information can be located by the reader. For example, you can cite the book in this manner, (Herdt & Polen-Petit, 2021, module 4-3).

At the end of the essay, you will also need to include a list of your sources (listed as either Works Cited or References) with a full bibliographic entry for your sources (I've given the exact APA format for our textbook below). It is possible to only use the textbook, and that is perfectly fine. In fact, I prefer it and it will help you focus your studies from an approved source.

For our textbook, the full reference in APA format looks like this:

Works Cited

Herdt, G., & Polen-Petit, N. (2021). *Human Sexuality: Self, Society, and Culture* (2nd ed.). McGraw-Hill Education.

Essay assignments will be submitted online in Canvas in the appropriate place within a day or so of the due date. If you are only a day or so late, you don't need to worry about it. Just submit your best work. I will grade them and give students a few days to make corrections, if needed. My goal is for you to improve your college-level writing **and** get a good grade.

Some students are just terrified of writing assignments and wait too long to get started. If this describes you, email me about your situation. That's what I am here for. We can get through this, and I can help you get past your fear of college writing.

If you choose NOT to complete the two Essay assignments, you **MUST** plan to complete the SmartBook assignments, and all four Exams as scheduled to earn full points in this course.

Scoring Rubric for Essays (50 points each)

Scoring Element	Possible Score
Completely answers ALL questions	10 points
Uses several paragraphs with short, concise sentences	10 points
Uses textbook as source with proper APA-formatted in-text citations and list of sources at end of essay	10 points
Clearly defines ALL terms and/or concepts	5 points
Provides examples and/or evidence supporting response to show you understand concept meanings	5 points
Essay is within length guidelines (150-400 words)	5 points
Originality report (no plagiarism)	5 points
TOTAL:	50 points

Exams

There will be THREE (3) unit exams (50-questions each) and ONE (1) comprehensive final exam (75-questions each) taken in class. Students can avoid taking the comprehensive final exam by completing the other course assignments and making sure they take all three (3) unit exams and

getting satisfactory grades on them. However, if a student misses an exam, there are no make-up exams. The only thing a student can do to correct the missing exam grade will be to plan to take the final exam according to the final exam schedule provided by the University. Likewise, if a student gets a low score on a unit exam, they can take the final exam to replace the lowest exam grade.

Exam Schedule

Unit Description	Chapters	Exam Date
Unit 1: Chapters 1-5	1-5	Thursday, 9/21/2023 2:00-3:20 p.m.
Unit 2: Chapters 6-10	6-10	Thursday, 10/26/2023 2:00-3:20 p.m.
Unit 3: Chapters 11-15	11-15	Thursday, 11/30/2023 2:00-3:20 p.m.
Comprehensive Final Exam	1-15	Thursday, 12/7/2023 2:00-4:30 p.m. <i>or the time given by the Registrar's Office</i>

If you choose NOT to complete one of the Exams, you must plan to complete the SmartBook assignments, Essay assignments and the comprehensive Final Exam to earn full points in this course.

Grading Information

Grading

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester which Canvas facilitates and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see “Student Support Services,” below.

Grading Policies

The instructor reserves the right to include additional assignments, tests and/or unannounced quizzes, increasing the number of total possible points.

Final Grade

Points	Percentages	Letter Grade
450-500	90-100%	A
400-449	80-89.9%	B
350-399	70-79.9%	C
300-349	60-69.9%	D
000-299	00-59.9%	F

Should there be any discrepancy between the letter grade that is automatically calculated by Canvas and the syllabus grading scale, the syllabus grading scale will be used to determine your final letter grade. For best results, keep track of your own progress.

Do not e-mail your instructor to ask for more points so that you can get the grade that you want. If you want a specific grade, then you need to put in the effort necessary to obtain said grade. I do not

round up to the next letter grade so pay close attention to the cut-off for each letter grade. Final grades are based on the number of points you've earned and not on the percentage average.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester which Canvas facilitates and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see "Student Support Services," below.

No Make-up Exams

There are three Unit Exams with 50-60 questions each and a Comprehensive 75-question Final Exam. Questions are generally multiple-choice, true-false, or matching-type questions. If a student is satisfied with their grade after completing the third exam, they can choose to not take the Final Exam. Alternatively, the student can decide to take the Final Exam to try for a higher grade. The lowest exam grade will be dropped at the end of the course. The remaining three exams will be added with the two (2) essay scores and the top ten SmartBook scores to determine the student's total points out of 500 possible points.

There are NO MAKE UP EXAMS. If you miss an exam, regardless of the reason (illness, schedule conflict, etc.), you will need to plan to take the Comprehensive Final Exam to make up the grade on the missed exam. Likewise, if a student arrives late – after any student has turned in their completed scantron and left the room – on the day of an exam, they will not be allowed to take the exam. Mark Exam Days in your calendar now to keep you prepared in advance for these possibilities.

Rules for Exam Days:

- Exams start at the beginning of class. Generally, students can use the first few minutes of class time to ask questions or do some last-minute studying.
- Fill in your scantron form with your answers.
- Review every page of the exam to be sure you do not miss any questions simply because you didn't answer them.
- Once an exam begins, you may not leave the classroom for any reason until you turn it in.
- Be sure to use the restroom facilities before the exam.
- There is no talking during an exam.
- An exam is closed once the first student turns in his/her exam. This means that no one else will be allowed into the room to take that exam.
- The exam cannot then be re-scheduled. You need to be sure to arrive on time to class on exam day, so you do not miss it. Think of it like taking a trip by plane. Your plane is scheduled to depart at a particular time. If you miss your flight, will it come back for you? No. It is gone.
- There are no make-up exams. If you miss an exam, you will earn a zero for that exam. You can take the final exam to make up the score for the missed exam.

Classroom Protocol:

- No personal conversations with one another while I am talking, holding a discussion or when another student has the floor.

- Unless you have an ADA provision, I do not allow recording of any kind during my class.
- Silence your cell phones during class. These are very disruptive.
- Once class begins, do not disrupt the class. If you need to leave the classroom and return for any reason, please do so quietly and respectfully to avoid interrupting the class. If the behavior becomes an issue, please discuss your circumstances with your instructor.
- Students are allowed to use laptops or other electronic devices during class for note-taking purposes. Please keep these devices muted to minimize disruption. If you need to plug your device into a wall outlet, please arrive early to get a seat near one.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Grade Grievances

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog (see [Grading Policies](#); [Student Complaints](#)). Use the following link to submit a grade or general grievance to the department: <https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/science/departments/psychology/degree-programs/graduate/graduate-resources/student-grievance-form>

Course Schedule

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Professor Rebecca Escoto

Date	Ch	Topic	Points
8/22/23	-	General Overview & Syllabus Discussion	-
8/24/23	1	The Study of Human Sexuality	-
8/29/23	2	Contexts of Sexuality	-
8/30/23	1	SmartBook #1 due by midnight	10
8/31/23	3	Sexuality, Media, and the Internet	-
9/2/23	2	SmartBook #2 due by midnight	10
9/5/23	3	Sexuality, Media, and the Internet	-
9/7/23	4	Sexual Anatomy and Physiology	-
9/9/23	3	SmartBook #3 due by midnight	10
9/12/23	4	Sexual Anatomy and Physiology	-
9/14/23	5	Sexual Pleasure, Arousal, and Response	-
9/16/23	4	SmartBook #4 due by midnight	10
9/19/23	5	Sexual Pleasure, Arousal, and Response	-

Date	Ch	Topic	Points
9/20/23	5	SmartBook #5 due by midnight	10
9/21/23	E	UNIT 1 EXAM: Chapters 1-5	100
9/26/23	6	Care of the Sexual Body	-
9/28/23	6-7	Care of the Sexual Body; Contraception	-
9/30/23	6	SmartBook #6 due by midnight	10
10/3/23	7	Contraception	-
10/5/23	8	Reproduction: Conception, Pregnancy, and Childbirth	-
10/7/23	7	SmartBook #7 due by midnight	10
10/7/23	-	Essay #1 due (online)	50
10/10/23	8	Reproduction: Conception, Pregnancy, and Childbirth	-
10/12/23	9	Gender and Identity: Biology, Roles, and Culture	-
10/14/23	8	SmartBook #8 due by midnight	10
10/17/23	9	Gender and Identity: Biology, Roles, and Culture	-
10/19/23	10	Sexual Orientation	-
10/21/23	9	SmartBook #9 due by midnight	10
10/24/23	10	Sexual Orientation	-
10/25/23	10	SmartBook #10 due by midnight	10
10/26/23	E	UNIT 2 EXAM: Chapters 6-10	100
10/31/23	11	Sexuality in Childhood and Adolescence	-
11/2/23	12	Sexuality in Adulthood & Later Life	-
11/4/23	11	SmartBook #11 due by midnight	*10
11/7/23	13	Attraction, Love, and Communication	-
11/9/23	13	Attraction, Love, and Communication	-
11/11/23	12	SmartBook #12 due by midnight	*10
11/14/23	14	Sexual Coercion and Resiliency	-
11/16/23	14	Sexual Coercion and Resiliency	-
11/18/23	13	SmartBook #13 due by midnight	*10
11/18/23	-	Essay #2 due (online)	50
11/21/23	15	Sexual Diagnoses: Sexual Dysfunction to Stigmatized and Normative Sexual Variations	-
11/23/23	H	<i>Holiday – No Classes Today</i>	-
11/25/23	14	SmartBook #14 due by midnight	*10
11/28/23	15	Sexual Diagnoses: Sexual Dysfunction to Stigmatized and Normative Sexual Variations	-
11/29/23	15	SmartBook #15 due by midnight	*10
11/30/23	E	UNIT 3 EXAM: Chapters 11-15	100
12/5/23	1-15	Final Exam Review	-

Date	Ch	Topic	Points
12/7/23	E	Comprehensive FINAL EXAM Chapters 1-15 (2:00-4:30)	*100
12/8/23		Total Possible Points	500

Institutional Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) page (https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

Additional Information

Face Covering Policy

Face coverings are not mandatory, all students and instructional staff are welcome to wear face coverings while they are on campus or in the classroom.

Attendance

Attending class sessions is a critical predictor and indicator of student success. The University of Texas at Arlington does not recognize a single attendance policy but encourages faculty to establish class-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I expect students to attend class, but I do not take attendance nor count it as a grade.

The U.S. Department of Education requires that UT Arlington have a mechanism in place to verify Federal Student Aid recipients' attendance in courses. UT Arlington instructors are expected to report the last date of attendance when submitting students' final course grades; specifically, when a student earns a course grade of F, instructors must report the last date a student attended their class. For on-campus classes, last date of attendance can be based on attendance rosters or on academic engagements—a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or Canvas-based activity. Online or distance education courses require regular and substantive online interaction and participation. Students must participate in online course activities in Canvas to demonstrate attendance; logging into an online class is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate attendance. The last date of attendance is reported to the U.S. Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Emergency Exit Procedures

Should we experience an emergency event that requires evacuation of the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located outside LS 118 to the right or left of the class entrances. When exiting the building during an emergency, do not take an elevator but use

the stairwells instead. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Students are also encouraged to subscribe to the MavAlert system that will send information in case of an emergency to their cell phones or email accounts. Anyone can subscribe at [Emergency Communication System](#).

Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center (ASC) includes a variety of resources and services to help you maximize your learning and succeed as a student at the University of Texas at Arlington. ASC services include supplemental instruction, peer-led team learning, tutoring, mentoring and TRIO SSS. Academic Success Center services are provided at no additional cost to UTA students. For additional information visit: [Academic Success Center](#) (<https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance>). To request disability accommodations for tutoring, please complete this [tutoring request form](#) (<https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance/tutoring/request>).

The IDEAS Center (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** tutoring and mentoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans, and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR)

The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the [Writing Center](#) (<https://uta.mywconline.com>). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](#) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2nd floor [Academic Plaza](#) (<http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the [library's hours](#) of operation.

Librarian to Contact

Each academic unit has access to [Librarians by Academic Subject](#) that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism and citation references as well as support with databases and course reserves.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Enter the UTA Police Department's emergency phone number into your own mobile phone. In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

Library Information

Research or General Library Help

Ask for Help

- [Academic Plaza Consultation Services](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
- [Ask Us](http://ask.uta.edu/) (ask.uta.edu/)
- [Research Coaches](http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach) (http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach)

Resources

- [Library Tutorials](http://library.uta.edu/how-to) (library.uta.edu/how-to)
- [Subject and Course Research Guides](http://libguides.uta.edu) (libguides.uta.edu)
- [Librarians by Subject](http://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- [A to Z List of Library Databases](http://libguides.uta.edu/az.php) (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- [Course Reserves](https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves) (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves)
- [Study Room Reservations](http://openroom.uta.edu/) (openroom.uta.edu/)