

SYLLABUS
Psychology Department
PSY 3060: Human Sexuality
Fall 2025

Faculty: Dr. Kendra Oakes Mueller
Semester Units: 3
Schedule: M/W 10:55-12:05pm, Bond 155; Final Exam: 12/17 10:30am - 1:00pm
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PLNU Mission Statement

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is molded and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description

Survey of behavioral, personality, and psychobiological components of human sexuality, with emphasis upon delineation of facts from sexual myths, social context, and values.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Identify basic tenants of psychology

Course Learning Outcomes

- Describe key themes of human sexuality and the interaction of physiological, psychological and sociocultural psychology and sex gender and behavior. To assist students understanding of psychological processes involved in sexual functioning.
- Demonstrates skill in oral presentation of and write response papers on topics related to sexuality from an accurate and broad information base.
- Infer how course material relates to: a) understanding the context of a wholesome human life and b) their personal values and commitments.

Textbooks

Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class.

All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

- Crooks & Baur. Our Sexuality. 13th edition. Thompson & Wadsworth
- One of the following options of the students choosing:
 - Paris, J. (2011). The End of Sexual Identity.
 - Hirsch, D (2015). Redeeming Sex: Naked Conversations about Sexuality and Spirituality
 - Lee, J. (2013) Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate
 - Yarhouse, M. (2015). Understanding Gender Dysphoria
 - Simpson, S. (2018). Single Sex Stories: Tales of Unmarried Sexuality and Faith
 - Welcher, R.J. (2020) Talking Back to Purity Culture: Rediscovering Faithful Christian Sexuality
 - Yarhouse, Dean, Lastoria & Stratton (2018) Listening to Sexual Minorities: A study of faith and sexual identity on Christian College Campus.
 - Kim-Kort, M. (2018) Outside the Lines: How Embracing Queerness Will Transform Your Faith.
 - Moore, S., Morgan, S., & McOwen Yim, K. (2022). Ending Human Trafficking: A Handbook of Strategies for the Church Today.
 - Gaines Eckert, K (2014). Things Your Mother Never Told You: A Women's Guide to Sexuality.

Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 115 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (face-to-face), the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the

university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

Grading

A minimum of 50% is needed to pass the course. The final grade will be computed on the following basis:

1. 35% Exams (5) (lowest exam will be dropped)
2. 15% Lecture response questions (lowest score will be dropped)
3. 30% Attendance, Participation and Professionalism (lowest 3 scores will be dropped)
4. 5% Quizzes
5. 10% Book Review
6. 5% Final Exam

Point Loma Nazarene University: Psychology Department, Academic Guides

DEPARTMENT FACULTY NORMAL CURVE GUIDES

Z Score		Percentage Score		
A	1.33	A =	93-100%	Total points
A-	1	A -	90-92%	
B+	0.67	B +	87-89%	
B	0.33	B	83-86%	
B-	0	B -	80-82%	
C+	-0.33	C +	77-79%	
C	-1	C	73-76%	
C-	-1.33	C -	70-72%	

D+	-1.67	D +	67-69%	
D	-2	D	63-66%	
D-	-2.33	D -	60-62%	
F	<-2.33	F	59%	or below

Test Policies

If a student cannot take a test due to any circumstances the student needs to notify the professor prior to the examination (in person or by phone/email). Any missed exam will result in a **5% deduction** taken from the final grade of that exam (whether taken early or late).

Assignments

Lecture Response Questions

This course is a technology enhanced class, and there are additional assignments that help fulfill seat time requirements. For some class periods, you will have additional lecture content to view and respond to prior to attending class. Along with the links to videos for lecture content are response questions for you to answer. Some of the questions are listed in the assignment, while others are embedded within the videos themselves. You will be graded on a) whether you answered/addressed all of the questions asked, and b) level of effort/engagement displayed in your responses.

Book Review

You will choose to read one of the books listed above in the course materials. You will complete a minimum 3-pg review of the book. This review should demonstrate that you have completed the reading, and communicate your personal thoughts on the issues addressed in the book. Your reflection paper should be typed, and double-spaced using **1 inch margins 12-point font size in Times New Roman** Papers will be submitted through canvas.

Online quizzes

You will be given an online quiz for each chapter of the book which will be comprised of 5 questions pulled from a test bank. You can take the quizzes as many times as you would like, but each time the questions will be pulled randomly from the test bank. Your highest score on a quiz will be kept as your final score.

Late Policy

Any missed or late assignments will result in a **5% deduction** taken from the final grade of that exam or assignment. These deductions occur one time for each exam or assignment and are not cumulative by length of time. All late or missed work must be turned in by the last week of class (**Friday by 11:59pm**), prior to final exams to receive credit.

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) is not permitted, and use of these tools will be treated as plagiarism.

Use of Technology

In order to be successful environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible nor allowable) to complete exams online.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

Academic Accommodations

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic PoliciesLinks to an external site.](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

Final Exam

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

Course Schedule

This syllabus is not a contract. It is designed to help you organize your study and meet the requirements of the course. Professor reserves the right to make changes from time to time.

Content and Trigger Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In Psy 3060, all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. There may

also be some information you might find triggering. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include sexual coercion, sexual abuse, sexually transmitted infections, and sexual orientations to name a few. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it.

The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of human sexuality, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Spiritual Care

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

PLNU Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

Professor will notify students ahead of time if and when anything will be recorded in class.