

PSYC-2317: Basic Concepts in Human Sexuality

Cross-Listed as: BIOL 2317, GWSS 2317, HEED 2317, and PSYC 2317

Spring 2026

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

- Professor Rebecca Escoto

Jump to: [Instructor Information](#) | [Course Information](#) | [Materials & Technology](#)
[Assignments & Exams](#) | [Grades](#) | [Course Policies](#) | [Support Services](#) | [Schedule](#)

Instructor Information

Name

Professor Rebecca Escoto (she/her)

Office Location

Psychology Department Office: LS313

Office Phone

Psychology Department Office: 817-272-2281

Email

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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

I am usually available to meet after class on Tuesdays/Thursdays. 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.

Communication Guidelines

My preferred communication method is BY EMAIL.

I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the week. Please allow more time on weekends, holidays, and academic breaks.

Course Information

Section Information

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

Course Description

Course Title: Basic Concepts in Human Sexuality

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.

Prerequisites: None.

Time and Place of Class Meetings

Tuesdays/Thursdays 8:00-9:20 a.m. in Science Hall 100 (SH-100)

Time Zone

This course operates on Central Time. All times listed for class meeting times, exams, and assignment deadlines are in Central Time (CT).

Classroom/Lecture Recording Policy

Faculty maintain the academic right to determine whether students are permitted to record classroom and online lectures. Recordings of classroom lectures, if permitted by the instructor or pursuant to an ADA accommodation, may only be used for academic purposes related to the specific course. They may not be used for commercial purposes or shared with non-course participants except in connection with a legal proceeding.

Due to the sensitive nature of the topics discussed in this class, recording of classroom and online lectures in this course IS NOT allowed.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you 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.

Course Materials and Technology

Textbook Information

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 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.

Technology & Equipment Requirements

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 keep track of course progress and stay informed regarding news and events taking place in class.

Visit the [OIT Services page](#) for a list of Applications and Software available through UTA.

Visit the [UTA Libraries Technology page](#) for a list of items that can be checked out or used at the library.

Assignments & Exams

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.

Each chapter's SmartBook assignment – on average – will take less than two hours to complete, depending on your level of mastery. 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.

There are no extensions allowed for SmartBook assignments (for any reason). These assignments are available from the first day of class and will close at midnight (local time) on the due date. Students are responsible for completing each assignment (at 100% completion) by the due date. If you are traveling, you need to be aware of the time difference and act accordingly to complete it on time.

Once you have completed a SmartBook assignment at 100%, you can continue reviewing the material or just stop working on the assignment. You can return to it, even after the due date, to review the material for an exam. If you complete MORE THAN TEN SmartBook assignments, you will earn extra credit points. These will be added to your overall SmartBook grade after Exam #3. You can earn up to 10 extra credit points by completing all fifteen assignments. Therefore, you can earn 110 points out of 100. This is the only extra credit opportunity available in the course.

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 class 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 to the top ten SmartBook scores to determine the student's total points out of 400 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.

If you choose NOT to complete one of the Exams, you can take the comprehensive Final Exam to replace the missing exam grade.

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.

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.
- 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.
- 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. They 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.

Exam Schedule

Unit Description	Exam Date
Unit 1: Chapters 1-5	Thursday, 2/12/2026 8:00-9:20 a.m.
Unit 2: Chapters 6-10	Thursday, 3/26/2026 8:00-9:20 a.m.
Unit 3: Chapters 11-15	Thursday, 4/23/2026 8:00-9:20 a.m.
Comprehensive Final: Chapters 1-15	Thursday, 4/30/2026 8:00-10:30 a.m.

Grading Information

Grading Policies

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

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.

Graded Assignments & Values

Due Date	Graded Assignment	SLOs	Points
01/21	SmartBook #1 due by midnight	1, 2, 6, 7	10
01/24	SmartBook #2 due by midnight	1, 2, 6, 7	10
01/31	SmartBook #3 due by midnight	1, 2, 6, 7	10
02/07	SmartBook #4 due by midnight	1, 2, 6	10
02/11	SmartBook #5 due by midnight	1, 2, 6	10
02/12	UNIT 1 EXAM: Chapters 1-5	1, 2, 6, 7	100
02/21	SmartBook #6 due by midnight	1, 2, 4, 6	10
02/28	SmartBook #7 due by midnight	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	10
03/14	SmartBook #8 due by midnight	1, 2, 6, 9	10
03/21	SmartBook #9 due by midnight	1, 2, 6, 8	10
03/25	SmartBook #10 due by midnight	1, 2, 6, 8	10
03/26	UNIT 2 EXAM: Chapters 6-10	1, 2, 4, 6-9	100
04/04	SmartBook #11 due by midnight	2, 3, 6	*10
04/08	SmartBook #12 due by midnight	2, 3, 6, 8	*10
04/11	SmartBook #13 due by midnight	2, 5, 6, 8	*10
04/18	SmartBook #14 due by midnight	2, 6	*10
04/22	SmartBook #15 due by midnight	1, 2, 6, 8	*10
04/23	UNIT 3 EXAM: Chapters 11-15	1-3, 5, 6, 8	100
04/30	Comprehensive FINAL EXAM Chapters 1-15	1-9	*100
	Total Possible Points		400

* Marked items are optional and replace lower graded items in the same category.

Assignments	Values (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 assignments	2 points/chapter	Up to 10 points of Extra Credit
Unit Exams & Comprehensive Final Exam (3)	100 points each	300 points
	Total:	400 points

Students are expected to track their performance throughout the semester, which Canvas facilitates, and seek guidance from available sources, including the instructor, if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. Refer to the [Student Support Services](#) section below.

Final Grade Calculations

Earned Points Range	Letter Grade
360-400 pts (90-100%)	A
320-359 pts (80-89.9%)	B
280-319 pts (70-79.9%)	C
240-279 pts (60-69.9%)	D
000-239 pts (00-59.9%)	F

Late Work Policy

There are no extensions allowed for SmartBook assignments (for any reason). These assignments are available from the first day of class and will close at midnight (local time) on the due date. Students are responsible for completing each assignment (at 100% completion) by the due date. If you are traveling, you need to be aware of the time difference and act accordingly to complete it on time.

Make-Up Exams Policy

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.

Extra Credit Policy

SmartBook Assignments: If you complete MORE THAN TEN SmartBook assignments, you will earn extra credit points. These will be added to your overall SmartBook grade after Exam #3. You can earn up to 10 extra credit points by completing all fifteen assignments. Therefore, you can earn 110 points out of 100. This is the only extra credit opportunity available in the course.

Grade Grievance Policy

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: Grades and Grading Policies](#).

Course and University Policies

Attendance Policy

Students should review the University Class Attendance Policies on the [Class Attendance Policies page](#). The following attendance policy will be applied in this course.

Due to the large size of this class, I do not take attendance. However, students are responsible for all the concepts we discuss in class. If you miss a class, do NOT email your instructor for notes. However, students are encouraged to ask classmates for notes and to discuss topics that you missed.

Generative AI Use in This Course

The use of Generative AI (GenAI) in course assignments and assessments must align with the guidelines established by the instructor. Unauthorized use of GenAI could result in breaches of academic integrity. Instructors are responsible for clearly delineating the permissible uses of GenAI in their courses, underscoring the importance of responsible and ethical application of these tools.

[Community Standards](#) within the [Office of the Dean of Students](#) articulate the university's stance on [academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty](#). These standards extend to the use of GenAI. Unauthorized or unapproved use of GenAI in academic work falls within the scope of these policies and will be subject to the same disciplinary procedures.

As the instructor for this course, I have adopted the following policy on student use of GenAI.

Prohibition of GenAI Use: In this course, the focus is on the development of independent critical thinking and the mastery of subject-specific content. To ensure that all submitted work accurately reflects personal understanding and original thought, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools in completing assignments or assessments is strictly prohibited. This policy supports our commitment to academic integrity and the direct measurement of each student's learning against the course's Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Any work found to be generated by AI will be subject to academic review.

Institutional Policies

UTA students should review the [University Catalog](#) and the [Syllabus Institutional Policies](#) page for institutional policies and contact the specific office with any questions. The institutional information includes the following policies, among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Academic Integrity
- Electronic Communication

UTA Honor Code

UTA students are expected to adhere to and observe standards of conduct compatible with the University's functions as an educational institution and live by the [University of Texas at Arlington's Honor Code](#). It is the policy of The University of Texas at Arlington to uphold and support standards of personal honesty and integrity for all students consistent with the goals of a community of scholars and students seeking knowledge and responsibility.

Student Support Services

Student Services Page

The [Student Services page](#) provides links to many resources available to UTA students, including:

- Academic Success
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Health Services

- Students with Disabilities
- Veteran Services

Students are also encouraged to check out [Career Center](#) resources to enhance their career-readiness, find student employment, search for internships, and more. We encourage [Major Exploration](#) and the use of [Experiential Major Maps](#) to keep students on track for graduation. Refer to the [Graduation Help Desk](#) for more details.

Accessibility of Course Materials

Some course materials, such as PDFs of musical scores, technical drawings, graphs, blueprints, design plans, or artworks (common in fields like drawing, painting, or construction drafting), may not fully comply with all [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#) requirements.

The University of Texas at Arlington is dedicated to ensuring all students have equal access to information. If you experience any accessibility barriers with course materials, please know that accommodations are available. You can get assistance through the [Student Access and Resource \(SAR\)](#) Center or by contacting your instructor directly. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need help.

Online Academic Success Guide

Visit the [Online Academic Success Guide](#) to explore a list of helpful tips and resources to help you succeed in your online journey.

UTA Health and Wellbeing Resources

UT Arlington is committed to the safety, success, and well-being of our students. To support our community, UTA has established a Community Advocacy, Response, and Engagement (CARE) Team, a dedicated group of campus professionals responsible for helping students who could benefit from academic, emotional, or psychological support, as well as those presenting risks to the health or safety of the community. If you know of someone experiencing challenges, appearing distressed, needing resources, or causing a significant disruption to the UTA community, please submit a [CARE Referral](#) by visiting the [CARE Team](#) page. You may also submit a referral for yourself if you would like additional support.

UTA students also have access to virtual, on-demand emotional support, appointment-based counseling, advanced psychiatric care, and more. For more information, visit [TimelyCare](#).

NOTE: If a person's behavior poses an immediate threat to you or someone else, contact UTA Police at 817-272-3003 or dial 911. If you or someone you know needs to speak with a crisis counselor, please reach out to the [MAVS TALK 24-hour Crisis Line](#) at 817-272-8255 or the [National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) at 988.

Librarian to Contact

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

Course Schedule

Date	Ch	Topic	Points
01/13	-	General Overview & Syllabus Discussion	-
01/15	1	Study of Human Sexuality	-
01/20	2	Contexts of Sexuality	-
01/21	1	SmartBook #1 is due before 11:59 p.m.	10
01/22	3	Sexuality, Media & the Internet	-
01/24	2	SmartBook #2 is due before 11:59 p.m.	10
01/27	3	Sexuality, Media & the Internet	-
01/29	4	Anatomy & Physiology	-
01/31	3	SmartBook #3 is due before 11:59 p.m.	10
02/03	4	Anatomy & Physiology	-
02/05	5	Pleasure, Arousal & Response	-
02/07	4	SmartBook #4 is due before 11:59 p.m.	10
02/10	5	Pleasure, Arousal & Response	-
02/11	5	SmartBook #5 is due before 11:59 p.m.	10
02/12	Exam	UNIT 1 EXAM: Chapters 1-5	100
02/17	6	Care of the Sexual Body	-
02/19	7	Contraception	-
02/21	6	SmartBook #6 is due before 11:59 p.m.	10
02/24	8	Reproduction	-
02/26	-	No Class Today - Instructor at conference	-
02/28	7	SmartBook #7 is due before 11:59 p.m.	10
03/03	8	Reproduction	-
03/05	9	Gender & Identity	-
03/10	B	SPRING BREAK	-
03/12	B	SPRING BREAK	-
03/14	8	SmartBook #8 is due before 11:59 p.m.	10
03/17	9	Gender & Identity	-
03/19	10	Sexual Orientation	-
03/21	9	SmartBook is due before 11:59 p.m.	10
03/24	10	Sexual Orientation	-
03/25	10	SmartBook #10 is due before 11:59 p.m.	10
03/26	Exam	UNIT 2 EXAM: Chapters 6-10	100

Date	Ch	Topic	Points
03/31	11	Childhood & Adolescence	-
04/02	12	Adulthood & Later Life	-
04/04	11	SmartBook #11 is due before 11:59 p.m.	*10
04/07	13	Attraction, Love & Communication	-
04/08	12	SmartBook #12 is due before 11:59 p.m.	*10
04/09	13	Attraction, Love & Communication	-
04/11	13	SmartBook #13 is due before 11:59 p.m.	*10
04/14	14	Coercion & Resiliency	-
04/16	14	Coercion & Resiliency	-
04/18	14	SmartBook #14 is due before 11:59 p.m.	*10
04/21	15	Sexual Diagnoses	-
04/22	15	SmartBook #15 is due before 11:59 p.m.	*10
04/23	Exam	UNIT 3 EXAM: Chapters 11-15	100
04/28	Review	Final Exam Review - Optional	-
04/30	Exam	Comprehensive FINAL EXAM Chapters 1-15	**100
		Total Possible Points	400

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