

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Psychology
Programme:	Psychology
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Human Sexuality & Biodiversity
Course Code:	PSY 5101
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

“Human Sexuality & Biodiversity” offers students the opportunity to learn about the sexological approach to sex and gender, inclusive of classic psychodynamic, psychological, evolutionary and biological approaches to sex and gender. The focus of the course is to emphasise biodiversity, and teach students a broad spectrum of sex and gender theories that explain for different sexualities such as heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer; and different genders like masculinity, femininity, androgyny, intersex, trans and non-binary genders. Moreover, the course content is critically evaluated through a “queer” lens, discussing the debates and arguments critical queer theory makes against the empirical study of sex and gender, and the psychological response to these arguments psychologists have made in reply. Finally the course ends on discussing intersectional identities and how sex and gender may differ based on intersections with culture, race and class.

Prerequisites:

GEP 4180 Research & Writing II

Aims and Objectives:

This aims of this course is for students to understand the scientific, historical and political challenges of studying human sexuality. The objectives are for students to learn the different ways sex and gender have been scientifically studied and explained, and how that had intended and unintended outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ) people. Social sensitivity and ethics in psychological research are key objectives, as students critically assess the value different sex and gender theories hold based on evidence, application and social currency.

Programme Outcomes:

Psychology: 5Ai, 5Aii, 5Aiii, 5Bi, 5Biii, 5Ci, 5Di

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Develop an understanding of the various gender and sexuality theories.
- Assess the evidence and credibility of theories of gender and sexuality.
- Critique the ethics and social sensitivities of psychological research investigating gender and sexuality, inclusive of the social sensitivities and consequences for LGBTQ people.
- Evaluate the queer and post-modern critique(s) of psychological paradigms, research methods, biases and research findings.

Indicative Content:

- Historical Sexology
- Biological & Evolutionary explanations of Sex & Gender (Trivers, Buss, Schmidt)
- Psychological approaches to Sex & Gender (Freud, Kinsey, Masters, Bem, etc.)
- Heterosexism in Psychology
- Queer Theory
- Intersectional Identities

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

- I. Formal Lectures
- II. Debates and Discussions of Key Ideas
- III. Recommended Readings
- IV. Videos & Films
- V. Research Seminars

Indicative Text(s):

Clarke V. & Peel, E. (Eds). (2007). *Out in Psychology: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Perspectives*. Wiley.

Clarke, V., Ellis, S. J., Peel, E. & Riggs, D. W. (2019). *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Queer Psychology: an introduction*. Cambridge.

Hock, R. R. (2012). *Human Sexuality* (3th Ed.). Pearson

Journals

Culture, Health & Sexuality
 Journal of Sex Research
 Journal of Homosexuality
 Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity

Web Sites

tbc

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	