

Faculty of Health Sciences

Department of HPCH Fall 2023

HPCH 202: Sexuality and Public Health, 2cr.

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Office hours: T: 13:00-14:00

Class time and location:

Tuesdays 3:30- 5:00

Room 101

A. Course Description:

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of sexuality, sexual health and rights and their dimensions within a framework of human rights. Through discussions, lectures and assignments, students will learn about the evolution of sexuality and sexual health within the global perspective with specific focus on the public health aspect. It will look into the interaction between the biological, social-cultural and health/medical aspects of sexuality and the current discourses surrounding sexuality in Lebanon, the Region, and globally. Some of the issues include: (1) Development of

sexuality and sexual & gender identities, (2) Sexuality and reproductive health, (3) Sexual rights debates (4) Sexuality_expressions/behaviors and public health, (5) Sexuality, politics, and sexual violence markers.

B. Course Material

The course resources are one basic textbook, selections from two other textbooks, social media and FHS publications (YSRH project)

Textbook:

Greenberg JS., Bruess CE., Oswalt SB,. Exploring Dimensions of Human Sexuality, 4th Edition. Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2014

Updated slides by Dr El Kak , 2023

Women Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) Program resources

Additional resources:

- **El-Kak, F.H., Caroline Succar (2017):** Sexual violence in Lebanon: Testimonies in the shadows. Published by *Diakonia* and Swedish Agency for International Development
- Other selected readings (Youth Sexual Reproductive Health Project- FHS-AUB) publications

C. Learning Objectives:

1. Define the notions of sexuality, sexual health and rights, and their dimensions; and their importance for health and wellness
2. Discuss current concepts/debates of human sexuality within the framework of health and wellbeing in a dynamic and interactive class environment.
3. Create a permissive arena for students to examine their beliefs and specific experiences related to various dimensions of their own sexuality and the sexuality of others within a public health perspective.

4. Create a learning environment for sound knowledge and skills development to enhance students' ability to adopt a healthy attitude and behaviors related to their sexuality and sexual health.

D. Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Describe the basic definitions, principles, and theories related to human sexuality.

(Class discussions and mid-term exam, LO1,2)

2. Describe and understand the essentials of human sexuality and its relation to reproductive and sexual health & wellness (Class discussions, mid-term exam, LO1, 2,3)

3. Identify the range of reproductive and sexual attitudes and behaviors in local and global settings and their impact on public health. (Class discussions, paper assignment, LO2,3,4)

4. Apply critical thinking and responsible decision making whilst discussing controversial and emerging issues surrounding the expression and communication of sexuality and sexual rights. (Class discussions, paper assignment, final exam LO2, 3)

5. Analyze and critically apply the understanding of human sexuality within the framework of public health (Class discussions, paper assignment, final exam, LO1, 2, 3)

E. Teaching Methodology

The course will be conducted by Dr El-Kak with around 30 sessions offered over a whole semester, one session a week. It includes interactive lectures, e-learning, social media, student participation in presentations, open class discussion, and exams.

F. Student evaluation

Evaluation of students will be based on:

- 1) Class participation & discussions ----- 15 %

This activity involves preparing assignments on related topics of the course and present and discuss in class. It may expand student knowledge about a specific topic and stimulate critical thinking around it

- 2) Case study exams I &II -----50%

This assessment is expected to reflect the capacity of students to reflect and analyze themes related to sexuality and public health based on class discussions and readings through an exam they sit for in class and answer questions on cases or examples (?)

Example: Students will be evaluated on the following:

	Assessment	Percent	Linked to which objectives?
A.	Class Contribution	15%	1,2,3,4
B.	Case study exam I (MT)	40%	1, 2, 3
C.	Case study exam II	45%	3,4

G. AUB/FHS policies

✓ Attendance

- Attendance is mandatory. "Students who miss more than one-fifth of the sessions of any course in the first ten weeks of the semester (5 weeks in the case of the summer term) are dropped from the course if the faculty member has stated in the syllabus that attendance will be taken."

✓ Academic Integrity

- The AUB student code of conduct is available on the following web page <https://www.aub.edu.lb/sao/Documents/Student%20Handbook%202016-2017.pdf>
- Education is demanding and time management is essential. Do not hesitate to use the resources around you but do not cut corners. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please review the Student Code of Conduct in your handbook and familiarize yourself with definitions and penalties (p. 72). If you're in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, ask your instructor because it is your responsibility to know. The American University of Beirut has a strict anti-cheating and anti-plagiarism policy, including AI. Penalties include failing marks on the assignment in question, suspension or expulsion from University and a permanent mention of the disciplinary action in the student's records.

✓ Students with Disabilities:

'AUB strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (such as ADHD, learning difficulties, mental health conditions, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please do not hesitate to inform the Accessible Education Office. In order to ensure that you receive the support you need and to facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you must register with the Accessible Education Office (AEO) as soon as possible: accessibility@aub.edu.lb; [+961-1-350000](tel:+961-1-350000), x3246; West Hall, 314'.

✓ Non-Discrimination – Title IX – AUB

AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to, and protects, all students, faculty, and staff. If you think you have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. If you speak to a faculty or staff member about an issue such as harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, the information will be kept as private as possible, however, faculty and designated staff are required to bring it to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator. Faculty can refer you to fully confidential resources, and you can find information and contacts at www.aub.edu.lb/titleix. **To report an incident**, contact the University's Title IX Coordinator Trudi Hodges at 01-350000 ext. 2514, or titleix@aub.edu.lb. An anonymous report may be submitted online via EthicsPoint at www.aub.ethicspoint.com.

N.B Cell phones must be turned off or silenced in purses and bags. In the unlikely case of an emergency situation, please inform the instructor

H. Course Outline

Date: Fall 2019/20	Topics	Textbook Chapters Additional and suggested readings for specific topics
Week	Part I. Human sexuality (LO1)	
1	1. What is human sexuality - Perspectives on human sexuality and sexual rights: Global discourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text book Chapter 1 • Class notes
2	2. Status of Sexual reproductive health & rights in Lebanon and the Region: The public health factor - Research - Policies - Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health project • Collective of papers and resources
Part II. Reproductive sexuality & public health (LO1,2)		
3, 4	3. Sexuality & reproductive health - Female & male reproductive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters 3, 4, 5, 6,7,8

systems

- Sexual response cycle
- Conception & childbirth
- Contraception and the power of

choice

Part III. Psychosocial Aspect of Sexuality (LO2,3,4)

5, 6

4. Gender identity, roles, and expressions

- Textbook Chapter 9,10

7

5. Sexual communication

- Textbook Chapter 3 & 13

- Relationships/intimacy/pleasure

8.

6. Sexuality across life span
(Adolescence, adult, and older age)

- Textbook Chapter 11, 12
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	Part IV. Sexual behavior and Public health (LO1, 2, 3,4)	
9, 10	7. "Virginity" , abstinence, and patterns of sexual behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chap 13 • Perception of virginity (collective of articles by El- Kak et al) • Publication of YSRH project/FHS/AUB
11	8. Contraceptive behavior and infertility	• Textbook Chapter 7
12, 13	9. Public health burden - (STIs/HIV/AIDS, abortion, hymen restoration, reproductive cancers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook Chapters 13, 14, 15 • Collective papers
14	10. Epidemic of sexual disorders and the making of a disease	• Textbook Chapter 16
	Part V. Socio-political aspect of sexuality (LO,3,4)	
15	11. Gender based violence, sexual coercion and co-modification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook Chapters 14, 17 • #MeToo

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marriages in Lebanon and the Arab region: Patterns, legal age, forced marriages, marital rape - Sexual consumerism (Transactional/trans-generational sex) - Sexuality and pleasure: World Association of Sexual Health declaration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article by Dr ElKak on "Sexual Violence"
15	<p>12. Situating sexuality within public health policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents