

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2024
Biopsychosocial Challenges Within LGBT Communities
*** PSYC 4670-071 * 3 hours ***

Department: Sociology & Psychology

School: Liberal Arts & Sciences

Instructor: Candice "Dr. K" Kowalski-Dulaney

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Phone: 720-764-1865 (Text Only)

Virtual Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 4:00 - 6:00 pm CST

Class Location: Online

Class Day/Time: Online

UNT Dallas Library Contact Info:

972-780-1616; <http://www.untDallas.edu/library>; library@untDallas.edu

UNT Dallas Bookstore Contact Info:

972-780-3652; <http://www.untDallas.edu/bookstore>; untDallas@bkstr.com

Course Catalogue Description: Understanding the health-related behaviors and psychosocial factors associated with sexual minorities (LGBT: lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender), primarily in the U.S., designed for healthcare workers, educators, service providers, and individuals who work with or are interested in the LGBT communities.

Pre-requisite(s): PSYC 1100

Required Textbook: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, and Queer Psychology: An Introduction (2nd edition). Sonja J. Ellis, Damien W. Riggs, and Elizabeth Peel. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9781108419628 (Hardback), 9781108411486 (Paperback), 9781108303750 (Digital).

Course Overview:

This course will explore the health-related behaviors and psychosocial factors associated with sexual minorities (LGBT: lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender).

Students will review historical, political, social, and cultural developments, issues, and research, particularly focusing on national and international developments. This course is designed for healthcare workers, educators, service providers, and individuals who work with or are interested in LGBT communities.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

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

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the progression of LGBT rights and describe how the LGBT movement changed over time.
2. Describe social movements in the context of LGBT identities and politics by providing arguments to contemporary debates surrounding LGBT communities.
3. Identify health challenges relevant to LGBT communities.
4. Describe “best practices” in LGBT health research, including sexual identity operationalization.
5. Discuss LGBT-specific factors that influence such population’s access to and experiences with the U.S. healthcare system, including quality of care and the patient-provider relationship.

Course Schedule

- All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the Sunday of their respective week and should be submitted via Canvas.
- This will NOT be the case for Finals Week; **Finals will be due by 11:59 pm on FRIDAY OF FINALS WEEK – NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Additionally, assignments for week 14 will not be due until the following week (as denoted in the course calendar below) to allow for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Week	Unit	Start Date	Chapter	Assignment(s)	Due Date
1	1: History & Context	Aug 26	None	Introduction Post	Sept 1
2		Sept 2	1: LGBTIQ Psych in Context	Chapter 1 Quiz	Sept 8
3		Sept 9	2: Perspectives	Chapter 2 Quiz	Sept 15

4		Sept 16	3: Sex, Gender, & Sexualities	Chapter 3 Quiz, Unit 1 Discussion	Sept 22
5	2: Identities & Fluidity	Sept 23	4: Gender Diversity	Chapter 4 Quiz	Sept 29
6		Sept 30	5: Identities	Chapter 5 Quiz, Unit 2 Discussion	Oct 6
7		Oct 7	None	Midterm, Reflection 1	Oct 13
8	3: Families & Relationships	Oct 14	6: Recognition	Chapter 6 Quiz	Oct 20
9		Oct 21	7: Children & Parenting	Chapter 7 Quiz	Oct 27
10		Oct 28	8: ART	Chapter 8 Quiz, Unit 3 Discussion	Nov 3
11	4: Health	Nov 4	9: Prejudice	Chapter 9 Quiz	Nov 10
12		Nov 11	10: Sexual Health	Chapter 10 Quiz	Nov 17
13		Nov 18	11: Aging	Chapter 11 Quiz	Nov 24
14		Nov 25	12: Challenges	Chapter 12 Quiz	*Dec 8
15		Dec 2	13: Conclusion	Chapter 13 Quiz, Unit 4 Discussion	Dec 8
16		Dec 9	None	Final Exam, Reflection 2	*Dec 13 (FRI)

Course Evaluation Methods

Assignment	Point Value	Total
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Introduction Post	1 @ 10 points	10 points
Chapter Quizzes	13 @ 10 points each	130 points
Unit Discussions	4 @ 25 points each	100 points
Exams (Midterm & Final)	2 @ 50 points each	100 points
Reflections	2 @ 20 points each	40 points
TOTAL POSSIBLE		380 points

Grade Determination

A	89.5 – 100%	340 – 380 points
B	79.5 – 89.4%	302 – 339 points
C	69.5 – 79.4%	264 – 301 points
D	59.5 – 69.4%	226 – 263 points
F	0 – 59.4%	0 – 225 points

*Note: I do not “bump up” at the end of the semester. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grade throughout the semester and apply yourself. If you wait until the end of the semester to work with me, it may be too late to achieve the grade you want.

Classroom Policies and Procedures

Assignment Policy:

All assignments will be administered via Canvas. For additional information on final grade percentages and calculations, please see the grade table provided above in the syllabus.

For this course, you will be expected to complete the following assignments:

-Introduction Post: During the first week, you will have an opportunity to post a personal introduction. After you introduce yourself, please respond to at least one other person. Your introduction is worth 5 points, and your response to at least one classmate is worth 5 points (total of 10 points).

-Unit Discussions: At the close of each unit, you will be asked to draft a scholarly response to an essay/short answer styled question in reference to the textbook and course material. These responses should be a minimum of 250 words with at least ONE outside scholarly, peer-reviewed source - not the textbook - properly

referenced in APA style formatting. You will also be expected to provide an academic response to at least one classmate in a minimum of 100 words. Your initial post is worth 20 points, and your response is worth 5 points (total of 25 points).

-Chapter Quizzes: Each week, you will be expected to complete a reading quiz based on the current week's content. Quizzes consist of 10 multiple choice questions and are worth 10 points each.

-Reflections: There will be two reflection assignments during the course of the semester - one during midterms and one during finals. This is an opportunity for you to reflect on your findings of the course and construct an informed framework for moving forward. Please respond to the questions posed online via Canvas to complete these self-reflection assignments.

-Exams: There will be two comprehensive exams (the midterm and the final); they consist of 25 multiple choice questions. Please note that rather than the usual Sunday due date, the FINAL will be due on Friday.

APA Format:

This course, along with every psychology course at UNT Dallas, employs the use of APA formatting in *all* writing assignments. This is vastly different from MLA formatting, so I encourage everyone to familiarize yourself with this method of formatting. Please refrain from using shortcut citation generators (e.g., Citation Machine, EasyBib, etc.) as these *do not* provide accurate references.

Outside of the APA Manual, I recommend referring to the Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab) for accurate guidelines and assistance. You may either enter *APA Purdue OWL* in any online search engine or access the site directly at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html.

Exam Policy:

Traditional on-site classes typically have Midterms, Finals, and/or periodic exams throughout the course of the semester. We will have similar assessments which will be administered online via Canvas; these quizzes are designed to test your

knowledge and comprehension of assigned readings. Quizzes will be multiple choice format, will open on the Monday of the designated week, and will close the following Sunday at 11:59 pm. **The only exception to this is anything due during Finals week, which MUST be completed by Friday.** Please refer to the course calendar above for further clarification.

Attendance & Participation:

Regular attendance and consistent participation is expected because this class is designed as a shared learning experience. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it very challenging to catch up on missed information and/or receive credit for missed activities. Participation in all class activities is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Late Work Policy:

Any work submitted after the designated due date will AUTOMATICALLY be docked 5% for each day it is missing. This policy will be enacted for every student regardless of reason. I provide students an entire week to complete their assignments, and so I expect you to utilize your time responsibly.

Virtual Office Hours:

As I am 100% online, my office hours are virtual only. I will hold my virtual office hours Monday through Thursday from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm central standard time. Please schedule with me via email and I will send you the appropriate Zoom link for our meeting.

Communication Preferences:

Emails

I encourage everyone to reach out to me via email should you have questions or concerns. Please use your university email to contact me at Candice.Kowalski@untDallas.edu, as the security filters often flag messages from “external” sources and do not properly include any attachments you may be sending. You may also email me through the Canvas messaging system, which will forward directly to my university email.

When sending me emails, please remember to provide your name and class. If you wish to ask about a particular assignment, please tell me which assignment you are specifically referring to.

Please give me at least 24 hours to respond to your emails. I limit my screen time on the weekends, so keep this in mind if you decide to wait until Sunday to address your weekly assignments.

Text Messaging & Voice Calling

For my courses, I utilize a free text app called Talkatone to remain readily available to my students. This number should be used for text messaging only (**720-764-1865**). For the quickest response from me, you may text me any time during normal business hours. I cannot guarantee quick responses outside of these times. In addition, my phone enters “Do Not Disturb” mode every night at 9:00 pm; if you text after then, I will not see it until the following morning.

If you wish to speak to me over the phone, please text the above number to request a voice call. Unless you tell me otherwise, I will call the number from which you texted; your caller ID will read “Restricted” for security purposes.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

This is meant to be a safe environment for the exchange of ideas. Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive and inappropriate language and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual identities, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated; no hate speech is permitted in this course. Please conduct yourself with dignity and respect. Disruptions that violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as I deem appropriate. Furthermore, please practice discretion when discussing personal matters and give others a chance to share.

Note on Course Content:

As this is a university level course, the content is geared toward adult students. This means we may tackle conversations that could be uncomfortable for some students. Sensitive topics will be approached respectfully, and I encourage everyone to remain objective and academic in their contributions; I will be doing the same. I would also like to ask my students to speak to me directly should anything offensive surface in our class; otherwise, I will not have the opportunity to learn myself and correct the situation.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7 (7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see Disability Services Office <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDDisability@untDallas.edu.

Canvas Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Canvas Instructor Accessibility Statement is also provided <https://www.canvaslms.com/accessibility>.

*Note: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNTD. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. The university is very interested in feedback from students as faculty work to continually improve teaching and course delivery strategies. The SETE is an important part of your participation in this class.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of academic integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Code of Academic Integrity at

[http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic Integrity.pdf](http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf)

In addition, conduct all academic work turned in for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments according to the following:

On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.

Bad Weather Policy:

While this is an online course, please note that on those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In the event of inclement weather, call the UNT Dallas main voicemail number at 972-780-3600 or search posting on the campus website at

<http://www.untDallas.edu>. Students are also encouraged to update their Jag Alert contact information so they will receive these notifications automatically.

Online "Netiquette":

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper "netiquette" (i.e., no writing in all caps – usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no "flaming" messages (angry, personal attacks). Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the UNT Dallas Student Code of Conduct at https://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/hds0041/pdf/7_001_student_code_of_conduct_may_2014.pdf. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

Disruptive Behavior in an Instructional Setting:

Students are expected to engage with the instructor and other students in this class in a respectful and civil manner at all times to promote a classroom environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. Students who engage in disruptive behavior will be directed to leave the classroom. A student who is directed to leave class due to disruptive behavior is not permitted to return to class until the student meets with a representative from the Dean of Students Office. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the Dean of Students before class meets again and to provide the instructor confirmation of the meeting. A student who is directed to leave class will be assigned an unexcused absence for that class period and any other classes the student misses as a result of not meeting with the Dean of Students. The student is responsible for material missed during all absences and the instructor is not responsible for providing missed material. In addition, the student will be assigned a failing grade for assignments, quizzes or examinations missed and will not be allowed to make up the work.

The Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (UNTD Policy 7.001 found at <https://www.untDallas.edu/hr/upol>) describes disruption as the obstructing or interfering with university functions or activity, including any behavior that interferes with students, faculty, or staff access to an appropriate educational environment. Examples of disruptive behavior that may result in a student being directed to leave the classroom include but are not limited to: failure to comply with reasonable directive of University officials, action or combination of actions that unreasonably interfere with, hinder, obstruct, or prevents the right of others to freely participate, threatening, assaulting, or causing harm to oneself or to another, uttering any words or performing any acts that cause physical injury, or threaten any individual, or interfere with any

individual's rightful actions, and harassment. You are encouraged to read the Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct for more information related to behaviors that could be considered disruptive.

Technology Assistance:

In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with minimum system requirements. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using the Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical difficulties, first, notify your instructor.

If the problem is still not resolved, call Student Assistance (Distance Learning) at the phone number listed on the first page of the syllabus. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups.

For more information see:

UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements

<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721>

Canvas Instructure Supported & Unsupported Operating Systems

<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720>