



PSYC 2301.088– Human Sexual Behavior - Online

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

Instructor: J Nicole Sutton

Office: HUM 120

Email: jsutton@ntcc.edu

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description:

Welcome to Human Sexuality! This course will provide an overview of the broad field of human sexuality. Topics will be covered from various perspectives - biological, sociological, anthropological, etc., but will focus primarily on the psychological perspective. The goal is for each student to learn factual, scientifically based information that will provoke thought and contribute to his/her own decision-making on sexual issues outside of the classroom. Upon completion of the course, you should be able to identify the major theories, terminology, and principles in the above areas.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

%	Requirement
5%	Smart Book Reading
10%	REAs
5%	Common Myths Essay

10%	Contraception Paper
10%	STI Project
40%	8 Quizzes
10%	Midterm Exam
10%	Final Exam

Semester grades will be earned as follows

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and above	A
80 %–89%	B
70 %–79%	C
60%–69 %	D
59.9% and below	F

Smart Book Readings: You will be required to spend at least 45 minutes reading each chapter (1-20) of your textbook through Connect Smart Book. This electronic version of the text will highlight important sections of the reading, will cause you to stop and answer questions along the way, and will help prepare you for any of the graded assignments in this course. These readings are accessible through Blackboard.

Reading Engagement Assignments (REAs): These assignments are designed to ensure students are engaging with the reading material and will take the place of in-class discussion and most online discussion posts. Students will complete one REA per module. Due dates are listed on the assignment checklist. REAs are each worth 100 points.

There will be a total of 10 quizzes: All quizzes will be multiple-choice format. Three of the quizzes will also include a short essay question (please see section on essays): Quiz 1, Midterm Exam, & the Final Exam. Quiz due dates are listed on the assignment checklist. Quizzes are each worth 100 points.

Essays: You will be asked to write three short essays in conjunction with your first quiz, the Midterm Exam, and the Final Exam. You will be given the essay topics in advance. The first essay is worth 25 points. The 2nd & 3rd essays will be graded as a part of the Midterm and Final Exams. These will also serve as discussion posts. You will be required to post your essays, respond to classmate essays, and reply to both classmate and/or professor comments on your essay. Essay due dates are listed on the assignment checklist.

Contraception Paper: You will write a paper that will identify various methods of contraception and explain how each of those methods prevents conception. Your primary resource will be your textbook, but you will also be expected to use additional resources. Papers will be typed, double spaced, and written in third person and complete sentences, using APA format. This will be worth 100 points.

APA format is different than MLA! If, in any section of a written paper, you give information that comes from your textbook or other source, you must use in-text citations in APA format. Sources, which are cited in the text, must also be referenced at the end of the paper on your References page. You will need to look up the APA guidelines on Blackboard, under the Contraception Paper tab, so that you know how to write correctly in APA format. Purdue OWL, Citation Machine & AI sources are additional helpful sources to ensure proper APA citation.

STI Project: You will present a Power Point-style project (with narration) that describes the causes, symptoms, and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, as well as the behaviors that increase and decrease the risk of contracting an STI. This project will need to include proper APA citations. You can find more specific details on the project under the STI Project tab in Blackboard. This project is worth 100 points.

Late papers/projects will lose 20 percentage points and may not be accepted later than 1 week after the due date. Paper/project due dates are listed on the assignment checklis

Extra credit: You may take the chapter assessments in Connect as extra credit. These are accessible through Blackboard. If you pass both chapter assessments (70% or above) associated with any quiz/exam, you will earn 5 bonus points toward that quiz/exam. You will have 2 attempts at each assessment and may use your textbook and notes to complete these assessments. Please complete these assessments independently. Extra credit points will be added after the module quiz has been completed & graded.

Required Instructional Materials:

SmartBook by McGraw Hill materials are provided electronically with course costs. There are no additional required course materials.

Publisher: McGraw Hill

Minimum Technology Requirements:

Students must have access to a computer with Windows XP SP3 or later OR MAC OS X10.3 or higher. Students will also need Office 2003 or higher and broadband internet access. Computers are available for student use in the Learning Commons building if a student does not otherwise have access to adequate technology.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

Students will need to be able to navigate Blackboard to read course materials and complete online assignments, use email, and type and print assignments.

Course Structure and Overview:

Students will complete Smart Book Readings, Reading Engagement Assignments (REAs), quizzes, short essays (Discussion Posts), a Contraception Paper, and an STI project for this course. The Midterm Exam and Final Exam will each include a quiz over two chapters and an essay. Extra credit opportunities are available throughout the semester to help students improve their overall grade in the course.

Communications:

Students can expect my reply to any email correspondence within 12-24 hours, typically within a couple hours.

***Reminder: NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college.** I do not have set office hours on campus or online, and will only be on campus Mondays and Wednesdays. You may contact me via email to arrange to meet with me in office or online. Please be sure to include your name, as well as your class and section number, in any email correspondence.

Institutional/Course Policy:

Due to the sensitive nature of this course, it is critical that all participants (students & instructor) demonstrate respect for one another at all times. We will make our best effort to understand and appreciate different points of view. Online discussions will remain civil and confidential (unless specific permission has been granted to share

outside the “classroom”).

Anyone who wishes to withdraw from class must take the responsibility to formally drop with the Registrar. Otherwise, a failing grade will be given if you just stop submitting assignments. You should consult with me about your grade before withdrawing. I reserve the right to drop you from class due to lack of participation. Please talk with me if, at any time, you are concerned about your grade.

Plan to participate in online discussions and demonstrate an interest in the subject matter. A positive attitude and polite demeanor will enhance online discussions. Be prepared and ready to be an active learner. Earning the grade and learning should go hand-in-hand. Thinking deeply and relating information to life experiences will greatly enhance understanding.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC’s website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources

with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Psyc 2306.088

Human Sexuality

Fall 2026

Nicole Sutton

Online

Week of	
8/24/26	Introduction video, Syllabus Quiz, Ch. 1 Power Point
8/31/26	Ch. 2 PP Reading Engagement Assignment (REA)
9/7/26	Quiz 1 (Ch. 1 & 2) Common myths essay – discussion post*
9/14/26	Ch. 3 & Ch. 4 PPs, REA
9/21/26	Quiz 2 (Ch. 3 & 4) Ch. 5 & Ch. 6 PPs, REA
9/28/26	Quiz 3 (Ch. 5 & 6) Ch. 7 & 8 PPs, REA
10/5/26	Quiz 4 (Ch. 7 & 8) Ch. 9 & 10 PPs, REA, begin working on Contraception Paper
10/12/26	Midterm exam (Ch. 9 & 10) Midterm essay – discussion post

10/19/26	Contraception Paper due Ch. 11 & 12 PPs, REA
10/26/26	Quiz 5 (Ch. 11 & 12) Ch. 13 & 14 PPs, REA
11/2/26	Quiz 6 (Ch. 13 & 14) Ch. 15 & 16 PPs, REA
11/9/26	Quiz 7 (Ch. 15 & 16) Ch. 17 & 18, REA, begin working on STI project presentation
11/16/26	Quiz 8 (Ch. 17 & 18) Ch. 19 & 20 PPs, REA
11/23/26	No class – Use this time to catch up &/or finish your project
11/30/26	STI project presentation due
12/7/26	Final exam (Ch. 19 & 20) Final exam essay – discussion post

All assignments are due at 11:59pm.

If an assignment is not completed/submitted online, it should be turned into me directly via email at:
jsutton@ntcc.edu.