Sexuality and Sex Therapy - 02PSY573/01
February 9 – March 16, 2015
Mondays – 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sharon A. Hersh, M.A., LPC, CLC
sharon@sharonhersh.com

"We walk through ourselves, meeting robbers, ghosts, giants, old men, young men, wives, widows, brothers-in-love. But always meeting ourselves."
-James Joyce
_Ulysses_

Course Instructor

Sharon A. Hersh M.A., LPC, CLC has been a therapist for over fifteen years and continues with an active practice that has an emphasis in addiction, relationships, adolescents, and personal transformation. She is an author, speaker, teacher, and certified life coach. She is the author of several books, including _The Last Addiction_, the award-selling _Bravehearts_, and her most recent book - _Begin Again, Believe Again_. She has written five parenting books including the award-winning Bible Study, _Mothering Without Guilt_. She is a frequent speaker and teacher at universities, seminaries, conferences, and retreats.

Office hours: By appointment.

Course Description

This course will investigate spiritual, psychological, and social-cultural variables associated with sexual identity, sexual behavior, and sexual disorders, including diagnosis and treatment for the individual and couples seeking therapy. The class will address both healthy and unhealthy practices from a Christian worldview. Classes will be in seminar format and will include lectures, readings, film, and discussion.
Course Objectives

Through class assignments, students will demonstrate the following:

1. Understanding of the terms, language, and concepts of human sexuality.
2. Knowledge of sexual development, as well as experiences, family dynamics, and cultural roles impacting sexual development.
3. An in-depth understanding of their individual sexual history integrated with their Christian faith and practice, for the purpose of preparation for working in a therapeutic setting.
4. An awareness of the responsibilities and ethics of the counselor.
5. An ability to identify common sexual questions, myths, and problems and provide therapeutic answers and interventions to both individual and couples seeking counseling.

“The question for our lives is not whether we will surrender, but rather, to what or whom? Surrender to Jesus does not mean putting on rose-colored glasses, but rather, daring to face head-on the world’s brokenness – even in yourself.”

Gordon Dalbey, *Healing the Masculine Soul*

Course Textbooks & Articles

**Required:**
In order to fully participate in class discussion, students will complete required reading by the date specified on the Syllabus. *At the end of the term, students will indicate on a Required Reading and Assignments form (provided in class) that they completed the reading.*


**Recommended:**


*“Did God create us male and female to relate in unique ways that together reveal the glory of how God relates, within His own community and with us? That is the question raised by the idea of relational gender.”*

Larry Crabb, *Fully Alive*

**Course Content, Topics and Schedule**

2/09/15  
Course overview & syllabus review  
- Sexuality  
- Sex as Sign  
- John 4:1-38  
- Class discussion  
Come to class having read:  
*Smedes, Sex For Christians*  
and the chapter from  
Wendell Berry.

2/16/15  
- Sex Appeal  
- Sex & Community  
- Romans 12:1,2  
- Class Discussion
- Sex & Adolescents
- Sex & Singles
- 1 Corinthians 7:1-35
- Class Discussion

2/23/15  
- The Subject of Abuse
- Romans 1:18-32
- Class Discussion

3/02/15  
- Same-Sex Attraction
- The Power of Shame
- Learning a New Language
- John 1:1-5

3/09/15  
- Sex & Marriage
- The Crucible
- Genesis 2:24-26
- The Normal Sexual Cycle
- Genesis 19:16; Psalm 139; 1 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 5:31-33
- Sexual Dysfunctions
- James 1:14-18
- Affairs & Addiction
- Titus 3:3; Romans 6:19; Romans 7:24; Proverbs 22:5; Proverbs 7:1-26

3/16/09  
- Sexuality, Sex & the Counselor
- The Passion of the Spiderman
- The Passion of Christ
- John 2:1-11
- Class Discussion

**Course Requirements**

Attendance is mandatory for all class days. If a student needs to miss class, please submit a request via email. Missing class may affect the student’s grade.

The final grade will be based on class participation, (which includes discussion of class material, required reading, and student’s Journal article, **At the end of the course, students will indicate on a Required Reading and Assignments form (provided in class) that they completed the**; the 1-2 page paper “The Two Faces of Trauma” (due 3/01/15).
Class Discussions:

- Students will have an opportunity to discuss class material at the end of most classes and are asked to incorporate discussion about the reading or assignment due by that date.

- Due 2/16/15  Students will share a summary from a Journal article in this field on Environmental Influences on Sexual Development.

"Fairy tales are more than true; not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten."

-G.K. Chesterton

Tremendous Trifles

Papers

1. Students will write a 1-2 page reflection paper on “The Two Faces of Trauma.” The subject matter for this paper will be explained in class. **Due: 2/16/15**

2. Students will write a 12-14-page paper on the development of their individual sexuality addressing both psychological research and Christian ethical standards surrounding that development. Issues to be addressed include (but are not limited to):
   * How sexuality was presented in your family.
   * Issues that led up to specific behaviors.
   * Your emotional response to specific behaviors.
   * How specific behaviors/emotions impacted your spiritual life and growth.
   * How gender identity and gender roles were presented and integrated.
   * How you overcame or will overcome any destructive patterns, beliefs, or consequences.
   * How your own sexual development will contribute to your counseling.

3. Since this is an integration paper of class material and personal story, students will need to demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter by citing a minimum of six sources. Turn in the paper to Mrs. Alisa Jones. Papers should be sealed in a manila envelope with student’s name written on the outside of the envelope. The graded papers will be mailed to Alisa to distribute in student mailboxes. If the student wants the paper mailed to an address other than the school, please include a self-addressed, stamped enveloped. Otherwise, the paper will be mailed to Alisa. Due to the confidential nature of this paper, electronic papers will not be accepted.
5. All papers are to be written in APA format, 6th edition.

Course Policies

1. Grading Policy:
   - Class Discussion of class material and assignment due for that day. 10%
   - “Reflection Paper,” Two Faces of Trauma” paper 15%
   - Completion of Required Reading 25%
   - Final Integration Paper 50%

2. Grading Scale:
   - A  97-100
   - A-  94-96
   - B+  91-93
   - B   88-90
   - B-  86-87
   - C+  83-85
   - C   80-82
   - C-  78-79
   - D+  75-77
   - D   72-74
   - D-  70-71
   - F   below 70
Course Objectives Related to MAC Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Sexuality & Sex Therapy - 02PSY573/01
Professor: Sharon A. Hersh, M.A., LPC
Campus: Orlando, FL
Date: February 9 – 16, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAC Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>In order to measure the success of the MAC curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process.</strong> Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MAC outcomes.</td>
<td></td>
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<td><em>As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</em></td>
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**Articulation (oral & written)**

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<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Student will understand and articulate through written papers and class discussions the Biblical, theological, historical, and cultural details, concepts and framework with regard to their own personal sexual development and to sexuality in general.</td>
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**Scripture**

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<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Student will know the original meaning of Scripture when it comes to many of the categories that have to do with Sex in the Scriptures as applied to real life.</td>
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**Reformed Theology**

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<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Student will understand how sex, uniquely is God’s premier reference point to call us to sanctification that as male and female, joined together, we might most fully represent His image.</td>
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**Sanctification**

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<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Student will understand how sex, uniquely is God’s premier reference point to call us to sanctification that as male and female, joined together, we might most fully represent His image.</td>
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**Desire for Worldview**

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<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Especially the area of sexuality and, thus, sex therapy.</td>
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**Winsomely Reformed**

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<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students will learn through film and current day stories, including their own, about using this category of sex to represent Christ to an unbelievers.</td>
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**Preach**

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<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Whether to the individual (n counseling) or to a larger Body, students will see sexuality as a category to most powerfully represent the Gospel.</td>
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**Worship**

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<td>Strong</td>
<td>Through classroom experiences and discussions, student will have an opportunity to lead work and construct a skill uses categories with sexuality</td>
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<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
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<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
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