

Reformed Theological Seminary  
Sex & Sexuality  
January 23 – 27, 2012  
Sharon A. Hersh, M.A., LPC

*“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 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. We 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. A knowledge of the terms, language, and concepts of human sexuality.
2. An understanding of sexual development.
3. An in-depth understanding of their individual sexual history integrated with their Christian faith and practice.
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.

### **Course Textbooks & Articles**

#### **Required:**

Rosenau, D.E., *A Celebration of Sex*, Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2002, ISBN-10: 0785264671

Rosenau, D.E., Sytsma, M., & Taylor, D.L., “Sexuality and Sex Therapy: Learning And Practicing the DEC-R Model. In T. Clinton and G. Ohlschlager (Eds.), *Competent Christian Counseling*, Colorado Springs: Waterbrook, 2002, ISBN-10: 1578565170

Schaumburg, Harry, *Undefined: Redemption from Sexual Sin, Restoration For Broken Relationships*, Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2009, ISBN-10: 0802460690

Schnarch, David, *Intimacy & Desire: Awaken the Passion in Your Relationship*, NY: Beaufort Books, 2011, ISBN-10: 0825305675

**Recommended:**

Hersh, Sharon A., *Mom, Sex is NO Big Deal!*, Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook, 2006, ISBN-10: 0877882029

Smedes, Lewis B., *Sex for Christians*, Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1994, ISBN-10: 0802807437

Berry, Wendell, *Sex, Economy, Freedom & Community*, NY: Pantheon Books, 1994, Chapter 8 – “Sex, Economy, Freedom, and Community.” ISBN-10: 0679756515

**Course Content, Topics and Schedule**

1/16/12	Course overview & syllabus review Sexuality <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sex as Sign</li><li>- Sex Appeal</li><li>- Sex &amp; Community</li><li>- John 4:1-38</li></ul>	<i>Come to class having read:</i> <b>Wendell Berry, “Sex, Economy, Freedom, and Community”</b>
1/17/12	Sex & Adolescents Sex & Singles The Subject of Abuse Romans 1:18-27	<i>Come to class having read:</i> <b>Smedes, Chapters 5-7</b> <b>Schaumburg, Chapters 6-7, 9-10</b>
1/18/12	Sex & Marriage <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Crucible</li><li>- Affairs &amp; Addiction</li><li>- The Last Idol</li></ul> Matthew 22:23-40	<i>Come to class having read:</i> <b>Schnarch</b> <b>Rosenau, “Sexuality &amp; Sex Therapy”</b>
1/19/12	Homosexuality Sexuality, Sex & the Counselor “The Passion of the Christ/The Passion of the Spiderman” John 2:1-11	<b>Smedes, Chapter 3</b> <b>Hersh, Chapter 10</b>
1/20/12	Class Presentations	

## Course Requirements

Attendance is mandatory for all five class days. Your final grade will be an average of the class participation, sexual self-study term paper, and final presentation. Missing class hours may result in the loss of a letter grade in the class.

Reading: Students are asked to read all required texts by the dates shown on the course schedule. Texts not listed specifically in the course content and schedule should be referred to throughout the course.

Class Presentation: Students will present to the class a 3-5 minute presentation reflecting personal response to the course. Presentations may include information from class texts, current literature, novels, films, Scripture, and personal experience. This presentation should take into consideration “real issues and problems, as they are experienced and suffered in people’s lives”. The presentation is for the sake of the class community’s “mutuality of interests” to “live and act by the common virtues of trust, goodwill, forbearance, self-restraint, compassion, and forgiveness” (Berry). Further details will be given in class.

Term Paper:

1. 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.
2. Since this is a research paper, students will need to demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter by citing a minimum of six sources.
3. Papers will be in APA format, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.
4. **Papers are due in Earlene Harvey’s office by February 1, 2012. I will not accept papers via electronic media.**
5. Papers should be sealed in a manila envelope with your name written on the envelope. Earlene will mail the envelopes to me, and then I will mail the graded papers back to Earlene to distribute in your mailboxes. Please note that under no circumstances will I show anyone the papers.

6. A late paper will receive one letter grade lower for each calendar day that it is late.

### **Course Policies**

1. Grading Policy:

Class Participation	25%
Term Paper	50%
Presentation	25%

2. Grading Scale:

A = 97-100 points	B- = 86-87 points	D+ = 75-77 points
A- = 94-96 points	C+ = 83-85 points	D = 72-74 points
B+ = 93-91 points	C = 80-82 points	D- = 70-71 points
B = 88-92 points	C- = 78-79 points	F = below 70 points