

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

CSL6794.E1 Principles and Methods of Sex Therapy
Fall 2026

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

Professor: Dr. Don Hebbard
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COURSE INFORMATION:

CSL6794.E1 Principles and Methods of Sex therapy
Level: Graduate
Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, June 12, 2026
Ending Date of Session: Thursday, August 19, 2026

Student access available to the Student Portal: Saturday, June 12, 2026

Students enrolled in distance learning courses are not assessed any additional fees for security or identity verification.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: Systemic Sex Therapy
Author: Hertlein, Gambescia and Weeks
Publisher: Routledge
Year Published: 2020
Edition: 3
ISBN: 13:9780367277079
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Title: When Kids Say They're Trans
Author: Ayad, Marchiano and O'Malley
Publisher: Pitchstone Publishing
Year Published: 2023
Edition: 1st
ISBN: 13: 9781634312486
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Amberton University has an agreement with eCampus.com to provide a full-service online bookstore to students. The Amberton University Virtual Bookstore is accessible through the University's website, www.Amberton.edu. There is also a bookstore link in the Student Portal.

The AU Virtual Bookstore provides an easy to use interface, online buyback of books, and same day shipment of most titles with an average delivery time of 2-3 days depending on the student's location. Textbook options include new, used, rental, and electronic media as available.

Since no books are sold on campus, students should plan accordingly and purchase their books in advance of the first day of class, allowing time for shipping. Be certain you are enrolled in the course before purchasing your book(s). All textbook information (Title, Author, ISBN, etc.) is available in the course syllabi so students can shop competitively. Most textbooks can be purchased from many different textbook vendors. Some textbooks may only be available on the University's Virtual Bookstore. Students should be careful to obtain the exact resource(s) required for the course.

LINKS TO COUNSELING HANDBOOKS

MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
[CMHC Handbook](#)

MA in Marriage and Family Therapy
[MFT Handbook](#)

MA in School Counseling
[SC Handbook](#)

APA REQUIREMENT:

APA (American Psychological Association) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. This resource, revised according to the 7th edition, offers examples for the general format of APA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the reference page. For more information, please consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (7th ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

The following competencies are aligned with the approved course catalog and program.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

This course provides a basic introduction for counseling individuals and couples with sexual issues. Contemporary developments in human sexuality and the multiple sources of sexual problems are examined. Areas addressed include, psychological, relational, socio-cultural, and biological factors. The course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to assess and treat common sexual problems. Specific sexual problems such as sexual dysfunction, disorders, criminal sexual behavior, sexual trauma, pornography, sexual addiction, compulsivity, and sexual harassment are explored.

Students will learn to identify, assess, and treat sexual dysfunctions and problems in the context of ongoing couple therapy or individual psychotherapy. Basic intervention techniques and strategies will be developed through this course, as students acquire the ability to utilize therapeutic approaches and sex therapy techniques appropriate for working with diverse clients.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE COMPETENT IN:

1. Defining sex therapy and tracing the history of the field.
2. Assessing, evaluating, and treating compulsive and atypical sexual behavior.
3. Analyzing sex therapy techniques appropriate to LGTB's and persons of diverse cultural backgrounds.
4. Understanding sexual dysfunctions and problems in the context of individual, group, and couple therapy.
5. Identifying issues related to both male and female sexual dysfunction and sexual disorders.
6. Exploring the ethical aspects of the practice of sex therapy
7. Understanding contemporary models for treatment of sexual problems.
8. Assisting students in assessing their own sexuality.
9. Discussing, critiquing, and integrating faith-based perspectives in the practice of sex therapy.
10. Analyzing and treating sexual health problems in the presence of chronic illness and lifespan challenges.
11. Conducting psychosocial and psychosexual assessments related to problematic sexual behavior.
12. Demonstrating knowledge of medical conditions that impair sexual functioning.
13. Comprehending common sexual challenges in relationships.
14. Exploring issues regarding the use of pornography.
15. Identifying and assessing sexually transmitted infections and safer sex practices.
16. Exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence in the theory and practice of sex therapy.

ACQUIRED SKILLS:

1. Students will learn case conceptualization from a sex therapy perspective.

2. Students will learn to use a model for the treatment of sexual abuse and trauma.
3. Students will develop a study guide for preparation for the state licensure exam.

COURSE POLICIES:

Assignments are due on the due date. Late work is automatically deducted one letter grade for every day late. No late work is accepted after five days. Any evidence of cheating, improper use of AI, lack of proper citations for work from another source will result in an automatic zero. Students are expected to have books and materials on the first day of class, no moving of assignment deadlines for lack of materials. Students are expected to exhibit a respectful manner to fellow students and professor. Students are responsible for reading and following all course instructions. Failure to follow course instructions will result in a reduction of grade. Student is responsible for communicating any issues with the professor in a timely manner to address.

Student's Responsibilities

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular and punctual class attendance and engagement is expected at Amberton University. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor as soon as possible. If a student intends on withdrawing from a course, it is the student's responsibility to follow the university's policy on formally withdrawing from a course. **Ceasing to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal.**

Attendance in a distance learning course is defined as active participation in the weekly online class sessions. "Active participation" can be defined as: submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, engaging in an interactive tutorial, participating in an online discussion forum (or chat session), or initiating (or responding to) a communication with a faculty member about an academic assignment or the subject matter of the course. A student not meeting these requirements may be assigned a grade of an "F" or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as though it were your own. If you use another person's words, ideas, or information; or if you use material from an outside source – whether a book, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, or electronic media – you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism is a violation of the University's code of student ethical conduct and is one that is taken seriously. Amberton University operates on an honor system; therefore, honesty and integrity are essential characteristics of all who are associated with the institution. All Amberton students are expected to abide by the honor system and maintain academic integrity in all their work. Amberton University and its instructors monitor student work for plagiarism and reserve the right to submit such work to technology-based plagiarism detection services and applications at any time.

Self-plagiarism means reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve:

- Resubmitting an entire paper
- Copying or paraphrasing passages from your previous work

Self-plagiarism misleads your readers by presenting previous work as completely new and original. Students may not submit the same paper in substance in two or more classes without prior written permission of the instructors involved.

Amberton University students who use Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content must adhere to the following policies:

Originality: Students must avoid presenting AI generated content as their own original work. It is essential to acknowledge the involvement of AI in the content creation process in order to maintain academic and ethical standards.

Paraphrasing: When using AI generated content, students must rephrase and/or modify the generated text. Paraphrased AI generated content should also be properly cited.

Acknowledgement: When using AI generated content in any assignment, proper credit must be given to the AI system that generated the content. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism and self-plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in future papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Turnitin is a writing improvement and plagiarism prevention tool which uses special algorithms, to compare text-based student submissions to the Turnitin database and other online sources. Turnitin produces a detailed **similarity report** that can be customized and viewed by instructors and students.

Turnitin “Draft Coach” is a Google based add-on to Turnitin which supports students in developing high-quality academic writing; and serves as an integrity coach. Draft Coach helps address errors and improve the quality of student’s writing by highlighting grammar mistakes, identifying incorrectly cited sources, and scanning for similarity across several databases. By providing formative feedback on how to address citation issues, incorrect grammar, and matches with the Turnitin database, Draft Coach provides explanations to help students become more confident writers, capable of producing higher quality work both in academics and in the workplace.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

The course will cover the principles and practices of sex therapy using an integrated Intersystems Approach compatible with family systems theory. The course will cover major concepts in the practice of sex therapy thorough the use of course readings and responses to essay questions covering a broad range of topics related to sex therapy. Weekly course lectures will cover key areas of practice and contemporary issues in the field. Embedded course videos will discuss the assessment and treatment of extramarital affairs. The student will be asked to reflect on their own view of and experiences with sexuality and how those may shape their professional practice.

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
1	The Intersystem Approach	Systemic Ch. 1 and Questions Trans. Chp. 1 and Questions	1,4,7	
2	The Profession of Sex Therapy	Systemic Ch. 2 and Questions Trans Ch. 2 and Questions	6,8,9	Assignment 1 Due
3	What Every Sex Therapist Needs to Know	Systemic Ch. 3 and Questions Trans Ch. 3 and Questions	11	
4	Male Hypoactive Issues	Systemic Ch. 4 and Questions Trans Ch. 5 and Questions	5, 12	Assignment 2 Due
5	Sexual Interest and Arousal Issues	Systemic Ch. 8 and Questions Trans Ch. 6 and Questions	13	

6	Therapy with Same Sex Couples	Systemic Ch. 12 and Questions Trans Ch. 12 and Questions	3	Assignment 3 Due
7	Sexual Desire Issues	Systemic Ch. 13 and Questions Trans. Ch. 13 and Questions	2	
8	Aging and Sexual Health	Systemic Ch. 14 and Questions Trans Appendix One and Questions	10	Assignment 4 Due
9	Infidelity	Systemic Ch. 15 and Questions Trans Appendix 2, 3 and Questions	15	
10	Technology and Contemporary Issues	Systemic Ch. 17 and Questions Trans Appendix 4, 6 and Questions	14, 16	Assignment 5 Due

GRADING CRITERIA:

Assignment One: Essay Questions and Video Reviews 20%
 Assignment Two: Essay Questions and Video Reviews 20%
 Assignment Three: Essay Questions and Video Reviews 20%
 Assignment Four: Essay Questions and Video Reviews 20%
 Assignment Five: Essay Questions and Video Reviews. 20%

Graduate

92 – 100 A
 82 – 91 B
 72 – 81 C
 62 – 71 D
 Below 62 F

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

Students should review instructor feedback provided through Moodle or Amberton CampusWeb Portal. Final grades are processed approximately one week after the session and may be viewed through the student portal. Grades will not be released by phone or through unsecured channels. University instructors will not leave a message with comments or grades in any type of media that is not secure.

For questions regarding grades after the semester has ended, students should use their university email account and contact the instructor at the faculty email address as provided above in Professor Information area.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

An "I" (Incomplete) grade is granted only at the professor's discretion for emergencies or illness.

Students have 30 days from the end of the session to complete the course requirements. If the conditions are not met within this 30-day window, the "I" automatically converts to an "F".

HOW TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE

To be official, the class withdrawal must be in writing and signed by the student requesting the withdrawal; no withdrawal is accepted verbally. Please review the "Schedule of Classes" (online or in-print) for procedures for class changes or withdrawals and the refund policy and schedule.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:

This course is delivered through Moodle. Students are expected to have reliable internet access, basic computer skills, the ability to upload/download files, use Amberton email, and submit assignments in the required format. Students needing assistance should use the Amberton SSO support/ticket process.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURSE:

SINGLE SIGN-ON (SSO) INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMBERTON UNIVERSITY

Students should access Amberton systems through the Single Sign-On portal at <https://sso.amberton.edu>. After logging in, students can access Moodle, Amberton email, CampusWeb, and other assigned applications. Students who need help accessing SSO should submit a support request through the SSO support option or contact support@amberton.edu.

MOODLE TUTORIAL:

Upon successful log in and access to the Moodle learning platform, there is a Student Moodle Tutorial course available, to learn about the basics of Moodle. Simply click on the link for the Student Moodle Tutorial and read through the various learning topics: Navigating; Communicating; Assignments & Exams; Grades; and Student Resources.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:

Students will communicate with faculty through the Moodle Learning Platform or the Amberton University email system.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

Students are expected to use their Amberton email account and Moodle for course communications. Students must use their official university email account for all university related communication and should check their Amberton emails regularly for course and university notices.

Upon completion of a session, all communication and course specific information is removed from the Moodle system. If a student needs to maintain a record of communications or assignments, the student is strongly encouraged to print out or download these items to a disk for their own records.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Moodle assignment link unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Students are responsible for submitting files in the format required by the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous course and instructor evaluation near the end of the session. Instructions and dates will be provided through Moodle and/or Amberton email.

RESEARCH RESOURCES:

The Amberton Library provides access to full-text articles, peer-reviewed databases, and research tools, with options like Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and TexShare for items outside its collection. For research assistance, students can connect with library staff during operating hours via email (Library@amberton.edu), phone (972-279-6511 ext. 185), "How-to" videos, live online chat, or in person at the Garland campus. The online library is available through Single Sign On (SSO).

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 EDUCATION:

Amberton University students may access Microsoft 365 Education resources as provided by the university.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE FOR EDUCATION:

Amberton students are assigned a Google Workspace for Education account, including Amberton Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Students should use their Amberton Google account for course-related work when required.