

# HES 3523 Human Sexuality

## Sexual Orientation Class Notes

**\*\*SEX - GENDER IDENTITY - SEXUAL ORIENTATION - SEXUAL BEHAVIORS are**

**Independent Variables** **!\*\***  
(Exam Question!)

### Sexual Orientation

#### Traditional Definitions

**Sexual Orientation** (With whom do we form our primary loving and sexual relationships?)

**Heterosexuality** (straight) – when we form our primary loving and sexual relationships with people of a different sex; physical and emotional attraction

**Homosexuality** (gay, lesbian) – when we form our primary loving and sexual relationships with people of the same sex; physical and emotional attraction

**Bisexuality** (bi, pansexual) – when we form our primary loving and sexual relationships with people of either sex; physical and emotional attraction

**Asexuality** – when we do not feel physical or emotional attraction to people of any sex; loving and sexual relationships are not typically of interest

Is this an accurate way to understand a person's entire sexuality? Why or why not?

## Sexual Orientation – Alternative Definition

The extent to which individuals are oriented toward the same sex or different sex for their loving and sexual relationships...

- o Affectional Orientation (emotional; personal connections)
- o Erotic Orientation (sexual desire, "Turn on")
- o Romantic Orientation (love)

## Sexual Fluidity:

Many factors influence sexual interests & attraction: sexual chance, opportunity, practical necessity; political values, and emotional considerations.

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REMEMBER: sex, sexual identity, sexual orientation, and sexual behaviors are

\_\_\_\_\_ Independent variables \_\_\_\_\_ !

Keys to these variables:

- Sex =
- Gender Identity =
- Sexual Orientation =
- Sexual Behavior =

## **ASEXUAL**

NOTE: There is no consensus on whether asexuality is truly a sexual orientation or within the range of usual sexual feelings and behaviors.

## STRAIGHT

Most scholarly research on human sexuality and relationships uses straight individuals and couples as its studied population. Similarly, most information on sexuality in the popular media is geared toward the norm of heterosexuality. Because of this, challenges or issues unique to people who are straight have not been identified.

## LGBTQ

Lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer

**Queer:** an umbrella term to describe any sexuality, gender identity, gender expression, &/or relationship that falls outside the mainstream; sometimes self-identified as gender queer  
Also can be Questioning- when someone is unsure about their sexual attractions

Current feelings – past messages & experiences.....

## BISEXUAL:

The capacity to be sexually attracted to and/or fall in love with another person regardless of that person's sex or gender identity.

Sexual & emotional attraction to another person regardless of that person's sex or gender (class definition) = Need to know for Exam

Research?

It does exist – its not a "phase"