South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC2306 and SOCI2306
Revised August 2023

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Disciplines: Psychology and Sociology

Course Number: Psyc2306 and Soci2306 (cross-listed course)

Course Title: Human Sexuality

Available Formats: conventional and internet

Campuses: May include Levelland, Plainview, Lubbock Downtown Center, and Lubbock Center

Course Description: This course will provide an overview of the broad field of human sexuality. Topics will be covered from various perspectives -biological, psychological, sociological, and anthropological. The goal is for each student to learn factual, scientifically-based information that will provoke thought and contribute to the student's own decision-making on sexual issues outside of the classroom. (Cross-listed as PSYC 2306 and SOCI 2306).

Prerequisite: No prerequisite for conventional sections; must be TSI compliant in reading for Internet sections

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

Textbook: *Discovering Human Sexuality*, 5th ed, Enhanced e-book* (includes access code for the Oxford Insight Study Guide) **ISBN :** 978-0-19-752258-5

Supplies: Computer and Internet access for all course formats and campuses.

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (080)

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:
- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Empirical and quantitative competency skills**—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Social Responsibility**—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Approval Number: 42.0101.53 25

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.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: See instructor's course information sheet for information on assessment that may include the following: pretests and posttests, quizzes, discussions, essays and/or other types of assessment tools.

Course Evaluations: Refer to instructor's course information sheet for specifics on coursework and grading.

Attendance Policy: As per the SPC General Catalog: Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus. When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first-class meeting. Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy. It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through Texan Connect If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

See instructor's course information sheet for additions to the attendance policy.

Academic Integrity: As per the SPC General Catalog: It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed

is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

Cheating: Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.

Plagiarism: Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

More Information About Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill; 2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation; 3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; 4. Missing in-text citations; and 5. Using any form of A.I. to create or write your respones

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion; 2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given; 3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment; 4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage; 5. Taking an examination for another; 6. Altering grade records; 7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment; 8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's; 9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

 Student Code of Conduct Policy: As per the General Catalog: Rules and regulations relating to the students at South Plains College are made with the view of protecting the best interests of the individual, the general welfare of the entire student body and the educational objectives of the college. As in any segment of society, a college community must be guided by standards that are stringent enough to prevent disorder, yet moderate enough to provide an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and personal development. A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. When a student enrolls at South Plains College, it is assumed that the student accepts the obligations of performance and behavior imposed by the college relevant to its lawful missions, processes and functions. Obedience to the law, respect for properly constituted authority, personal honor, integrity and common sense guide the actions of each member of the

college community both in and out of the classroom. Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. A student is not entitled to greater immunities or privileges before the law than those enjoyed by other citizens. Students are subject to such reasonable disciplinary action as the administration of the college may consider appropriate, including suspension and expulsion in appropriate cases for breach of federal, state or local laws, or college rules and regulations. This principle extends to conduct off-campus which is likely to have adverse effects on the college or on the educational process which identifies the offender as an unfit associate for fellow students. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw. Rules and regulations regarding student conduct appear in the current Student Guide.

In addition to the above policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Students can find the Diversity Statement, Disabilities Statement, Non-Discrimination Statement, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement, and Campus Concealed Carry Statement here: https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/.

Course Information Sheet
Psyc/Soci 2306 Internet Sections
Human Sexuality

Note: *All deadlines are on Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:59pm. See calendar for details. Late work is not accepted for grading.*

Instructor: Brant Farrar

Office Location: Lubbock Downtown Center, Room 2003
Office Hours: Listed on Blackboard
Email Address: bfarrar@southplainscollege.edu (preferred method of contact) *I will typically respond to all student messages within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends and/or holidays unless I have notified you differently.*
Office Telephone: (806) 716-4657 → If you leave a message include your name, class you are in, phone number, and a short message. Be sure to speak clearly and leave your number slowly.
Textbook: *Open Educational Resource listed in Blackboard*

Mental Health Services:
Free counseling services are available through the Student Health and Wellness office in building 8 on the Reese campus. Counseling if available for ANY issues students may be experiencing. If you have any questions do not hesitate to speak to me. I have interest in your success as a student AND an individual!
(http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=46&navoid=1130#Health_and_Wellness)

Attendance Policy: See Common Course Syllabus. Since this course is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken according to the following:
- Participating in class discussion by posting to the discussion board.
- Submitting Unit assignments.
- Taking chapter quizzes on or before the due dates.
- Logging in is NOT attending class. Attending class is completing course work.

Late work: There is no late work accepted. Due dates are each Tuesday and some Fridays by **11:59pm,** unless indicate on the Course Checklist/Calendar. **Note: Deadlines are *DUE* dates but you need to set your *DO* date ahead of the official *DUE* date.**

Administrative Drop Policy: Please communicate with me if you know of a situation that will impact your participation for any period of time. Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College requirements for participation/attendance a student, **you may be dropped from the course if you fail to submit 3 exams, six (6) quizzes, or fail to submit course work for two consecutive weeks (14 days in a row).**
If you are new to the online course environment I encourage you to use the Student Orientation course that is set up for you and the Student Tutorials in MySPC. Check out the resources above before you contact technical support or the instructor. You will find

links to the Student Tutorials and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in the Start Here area of your course under the Technical and Student Support link.

Course Technology:

Since this course are entirely online, participants are expected to have at least an elementary knowledge of their microcomputer operating system and basic knowledge of software and tools such as a word processor, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines.

Required hardware:
- Computer available for download/installation of software and plug ins
- Speakers / Sound card

Required software:
- Microsoft Office (Word) – *Acceptable files are .docx, .rtf or .pdf. Do NOT submit .pages, google docs or other types of files. Points will be deducted if you use a file that is not on the acceptable file list.*
- Blackboard (see note below)
- Internet access – regular, dependable, fast enough to watch videos
- Web browser – a **current** version of one of the following – Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, or Google Chrome. Downloads for the newest browser versions are available free of charge from their websites.
- Virus protection
- Latest version of Java Available here

Blackboard:
Blackboard is an electronic learning resource that is designed to provide students with information requirements related to the courses. This includes up-to-date announcements, course information, assessment, assignments, deadlines, and the like. For this resource to function to its full potential, it is important that students log in multiple times during the week. **Students will post their responses to discussion prompts on the Discussion Forums through Blackboard.** Students can also monitor their progress in the course by using the "My grades" link on the left-hand side of the course page.
<div align="center">

Blackboard can be accessed via an Internet link:
https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/
</div>

You may also use the link to Blackboard in the upper right-hand side of the SPC Homepage. It is recommended that you bookmark the Blackboard page as it is on a separate server and if the SPC website is down you can typically still access your Blackboard course if you use the URL or bookmark. Your log-in is the same as you MySPC log-in.

Technical support:
If you have any questions or need assistance, you are to contact Blackboard technical support at blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-2180. A note, contact your instructor for any questions you have about course content as technical support is only for issues concerning computers or Blackboard performance.

What to do if you experience technical problems:

If you are unable to submit an assignment, complete a quiz, or otherwise participate in our course because of an issue with Blackboard, it is YOUR responsibility to notify me via email when the problem occurs. It is also YOUR responsibility to notify technical support (contact information is in the box above) for assistance and to document your attempts to resolve the problem. In addition, take a screenshot to document your problem and submit this with your email to me and to technical support. If Blackboard outage is verified by the Division of Instructional Technology staff, I will work with you to make alternative arrangements. However, you are responsible for your technology and ability to submit work (including your access to an Internet connection). I strongly recommend that you submit your work early to avoid last minute problems. I also strongly recommend that you save a copy of your discussions and/or assignments to the course in case of technology disruption. Also, I strongly recommend that you have a back-up plan in case you have technical issues.

Open Computer Lab: There is an Open Computer Lab located on the Levelland campus in the Technology Center. It is available to all students, with priority given to those students enrolled in computer classes. Computers are also available on the Reese Center, Lubbock, and Plainview campuses. Check with libraries and labs for hours.

PLEASE, DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN ASSIGNMENTS IN OR YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS! Remember the saying "TECHNOLOGY HAPPENS"!

Anti-virus Software: Please make sure that your computer has an up-to-date antivirus software program installed.

See Course Calendar for deadlines.
You MUST submit the Online Participation Agreement Quiz before the rest of the course work will be available to you.
Then, the first deadline you have the work in Week 1 Module that is due. The material here will familiarize you with the e-mail, discussion, and assignment tools.
There are three types of assignments required for this course: chapter quizzes, brief written assignments, and class participation/discussion postings.

All course work is in your Learning Modules.

Online Participation Agreement Quiz: This is a quiz that you **MUST** take and earn full points on it before the remainder of the course work will become available to you.

Chapter Quizzes:

There is a thirty question multiple choice quiz for each of the 17 chapters in the course. These are located in the Learning Modules (LMs) and are available to you from the beginning of the semester. The 17 chapter quizzes are 40 minute timed quizzes. These are "open book" quizzes but you will probably not have enough time to look up all the answers without reading and studying the material prior to taking the quiz. In addition, there are resources in the course that you can take to prepare for the chapter quizzes.

Do not click on the link for the quiz until you are ready to take the test, as once you enter the quiz and get out of it, you cannot re-enter the quiz. Quizzes will not be accepted after you surpass the time limit or after the deadline so plan ahead. **Late quizzes are not accepted.** If you fail to submit 6 quizzes, you may be dropped from the course.

Essay Assignments:
There is an Introduction Assignment that includes e-mailing contact information through the Blackboard Course – e-mail link located on the left-hand side of your course home page and submitting an essay covering your Internet course and general online experience. There are 4 assignments, but students are only required to submit 2 assignments by the appropriate due dates. Each is worth 50 points, for 100 total points. **See the Assignment Instructions document in the "Start here" area of the course and the assignment in each Learning Module for instructions and grading rubric for information on point distribution.**

Class Participation/Discussion Board postings

Note: You MUST post your original message before you will be able to view the posts of other students.

This course includes an Introduction Discussion that will help us get to know a little about each other and Discussions for each module that will include a video, article, or other material related to information that is covered in that section of the textbook.

Each Substantive Discussion (Disc) is worth 50 points and includes one Original Discussion and at last two Reply Discussions. Each Original Discussion is worth 20 points and the Reply Discussions are worth 15 points each. For each Disc, you will be graded on (1) your original post and (2) your replies to classmates' discussion of that same discussion topic.

The Online Discussion component of this course is comprised of weekly Discussion topics and is an important part of the class. Each week there will be discussion related to the course material. The faculty member posts weekly main discussion prompts that may include videos, articles, or other resources related to a topic that is being covered for that week. Students are expected to respond to ALL Discussions.

Online discussion is a very important part of online learning. Through your responses to weekly discussions, you will learn to integrate class material into your thoughts and learn more about how others view the topics that are covered in the course. Additional discussion with classmates and the professor help us all learn more about the material. As such, each week you are also expected to make at least two thoughtful and substantial responses to classmates.

I suggest that members participate at least two times per week. It is a good idea to check in early in the deadline period and again closer to the final day of the deadline period.

This assures that you are an active member of the class throughout the week and have ample opportunity to interact with other members.

Discussion posts are not accepted for grading after the deadline. Drop policy is if you fail to participate in 3 discussion grading periods you may be dropped from the course.

Online Discussions will be graded as follows:

Discussion topics are listed in the Learning Module and in the Discussion link on the left-hand side of the course page. Most discussion topics will require viewing a video and the links are provided in the discussion topics instructions.

Original discussions should:

- You must post your original discussion message before you will be able to see the posts of other students.
- Be made before the deadline stated on the course calendar/checklist.
- Contain a minimum of 300 words.
- Be thoughtful, organized, and analyze the information in the video/prompt.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the video/prompt and the course material. Each video/prompt is chosen because it illustrates at least one topic in the chapter(s) covered for the grading period. You are to identify and discuss the topic(s) that are shared content of the video/prompt and the course material. Base your discussion post on the material you have read AND watched. Show me you have read and understand the course material in your post.
- Contain more than just your opinion: justify your statements using course materials.
- Do NOT simply state a recap of the video/prompt. Everyone should have watched/read the material and I am looking for a deeper level of thought than just stating what was in the video/prompt.
- Incorporate *__and cite information from the textbook__*, outside academic sources, credible websites, etc. Textbook citations should include the page number(s) and other sources should include citations to show where you located the information. Note: Wikipedia is NOT an academic source.
- You may include personal experiences and/or reactions. CAUTION: remember to use the sociological perspective in all of your course work.
- Utilize appropriate language, grammar, and spelling

Responses to Original discussions should:

- Be made before the deadline stated on the course calendar/checklist.
- Contain a minimum of 100 words.
- Include at least two responses to classmates.
- Add to the overall value of the discussion (simply posting a statement similar to "I thought this week's ideas were interesting" or "I agree") will not count towards your points for a grade.
- Ask questions to encourage other students to think more deeply. Just asking, "What do you think?" will not earn full points here.
- Share your own experiences that relate to the topic of discussion.

- Constructively and/or respectfully disagree at times.
- Refer to class course work (text or video information) and apply the information or ask other students how they are applying course information.
- If you repeat yourself in your reply messages you will not earn full points.
- Utilize appropriate language, grammar, and spelling.

All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. (This means no "texting" abbreviations or shortcuts!)

Acceptable files are .docx, .rtf or .pdf. Do NOT submit .pages, google docs or other types of files. Points will be deducted if you use a file that is not on the acceptable file list.

1. Before writing your assignment, click on the **Chs—Assignment** link above
 the Chs—Assignment.docx link, then click on View Rubric to see what you need to do to maximize your assignment grade.
2. All written work should be typed or computer generated, double spaced, with one inch margins in a standard 12 pt. font. Please use Word for attachments.
3. Any references used should be listed at the end of the paper using APA style and within the body of the text according to APA procedure. Using reference material without proper documentation constitutes plagiarism which is a serious academic offense. Wikipedia is not considered a valid academic source. Do not use it!
4. For the assignments in this class, it is better to write using first or third person pronouns. Therefore, it is appropriate to use "I, me, mine" or "he, she their, we." It is not appropriate to use "you" or "your." Please avoid writing in 2nd person.
5. Be sure to proofread your work for grammatical and spelling errors. Use the "Test editor is ON" button within the email, assignments, and discussion functions to run a spell check. However, the editor will not find all types of errors so it is your responsibility to proofread your work. Also remember that "healthy" paragraphs are usually comprised of at least three sentences organized around a central idea.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE:

A few words about communication and online discussion are in order. As you imagine, some conversations easily become emotional, especially if we touch on people's deeply held beliefs. Unfortunately, online posting can mislead one into thinking that cyberspace is an "anything goes" kind of forum. This isn't the case. Civil interaction is as much expected here as in the "traditional" classroom. Below I provide some guidelines for communicating more effectively online. I will deduct points from posts that violate the spirit of these suggestions. IF I DEEM THE COMMENTS ESPECIALLY OFFENSIVE I WILL DROP YOU FROM THE COURSE.

Keep in mind:

· There will be disagreement and this is good, otherwise we will be bored.
· Disagreement can be very constructive; it encourages us to reconsider our own positions and either recommit, expand, or discard them.

· I must at all times hear/see you debating the IDEA and not making a personal attack on an individual. Note that this is a skill to learn like any other – how to debate and get your point heard.

· Personal insults and attacks impede the development of critical thought. Avoid "you" statements, which can be more easily interpreted as accusations ("you don't know what you're talking about", "the problem is people like you," etc., etc.). Try, instead, to use "I" statements ("I disagree with your position on "X" or "I find that Durkheim was actually saying blah…").

· In addition, people have to be given the benefit of the doubt on occasion. Because this is an online class and we cannot see each other's facial expressions or hear the tone in our voices, it is important to clarify issues that are confusing. Before jumping to a conclusion and putting words in someone's mouth, ask them to clarify their point. And if someone asks you to restate your opinion, do not be afraid to restate it.

· Finally, I will be most impressed with individuals who can incorporate course materials into their posts. A key skill you should leave college with is the ability to support your positions; this online forum is an appropriate place to hone this skill. Refer to readings and module material to support your points.

Academic Integrity: See Common Course Syllabus. Students found guilty of plagiarism in this course may receive a grade of zero (0) for the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an "F" should a second offense occur. For further information and examples please see http://www.southplainscollege.edu/information-for/current-spc-students/library/cslibrarylvl/plagiarism.php or http://tlt.its.psu.edu/plagiarism/tutorial

Student Appeals: See college catalog or the student guide for SPC.

Student Conduct: See Common Course Syllabus section. Also, please note that this is an online environment and others will see your comments posted to the discussion board area and/or in e-mail communications. Do not post any pictures, comments or data that others may find offensive. Since this is an on-line classroom, any e-mails or correspondence sent by the instructor to a student or students are considered lawful directions.

Accommodations: See Common Course Syllabus section. Please note: Instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided.

Equal Opportunity: See Common Course Syllabus section. In addition, in this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and

employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. In addition, this instructor will not tolerate remarks nor gestures that can be construed to be sexist, racist, heterosexist or in any way disparaging to another person in this classroom. Students who exhibit such behavior will be dropped from the class with a semester grade of "F" regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, or sexual orientation. In short, "Bigotry will not be tolerated." (Student Guide)

Psychological/Sociological perspective: Students will use what is termed the Psychological/Sociological Perspective since you are now students of Psychology/Sociology. This perspective stresses the social context in which people live and steps away from what is termed "person blaming." Sociologists look beyond individuals and individual experiences. This perspective strives to understand human behavior by placing it within its broader social context. Depending on a person's characteristics including gender, age, race, sexual orientation and religion among others, we each have different experiences. Psychologists/Sociologists using this perspective (and that includes you, the student) evaluate people and behaviors in terms of what is typical or atypical (or not typical) by studying society and finding general patterns of behavior. They do NOT judge others or their behaviors with terms such as good/bad, moral/immoral or right/wrong. Do NOT use these terms in your assignments or discussion posts or you will lose points.

Grading scale:
There are 1200 possible points to earn in the course.
Grading scale:

1080 to 1200	A
960 to 1079.9	B
840 to 959.9	C
720 to 839.9	D
719.9 and below	F

Note, grades are NOT automatically rounded up.
Another way to calculate your grade is to take the total points that you earn and divide that by the total possible points.

Opportunities to earn your grade in this course:

Online Participation Agreement Quiz	10 points
Introduction Discussion	50 points
Introduction Email Assignment	10 points
15 Quizzes @ 30 points each	450 points
3 Unit Discussions @ 50	150 points
2 Unit Assignments @ 50	100 points
Weekly Topic Assignments @ 10 points	100 points
3 Exams @ 100	300 points
Letter to Future Students	30 points
Total points	**1200 points**

**Please note two things:
1. **There are 17 quizzes, but only 15 will be taken for grades. This means if you miss a couple or don't do well, only the 15 highest grades will be taken.**

2. **There are four assignments but you only need to submit two. However, if you do poorly on the first one, or two, you can do the other assignments and only the two highest grades will be taken.**

I hope this gives you some "wiggle room" and makes the workload seem more manageable.