

University of British Columbia
Department of Psychology

PSYC 350A: PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

WINTER 2019 COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE DETAILS

Professor:	Dr. Kaitlyn Goldsmith (kaitlyn.goldsmith@ubc.ca)
Teaching Assistant:	Arezoo Shahnaz (arezoo.shahnaz@psych.ubc.ca)
Office Hours:	By appointment with the professor or teaching assistant
Class Time:	Tuesday 6pm to 9pm
Class Room:	Buchanan A Room 201
Required Text:	Hyde, J. S., DeLamater, J. D., & Byers, E. S. (2018). <i>Understanding Human Sexuality</i> (7 th Canadian edition). McGraw-Hill Ryerson, Whitby.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the historical, cultural, developmental, physical, social, emotional, cognitive, sociological and relational components of human sexual experience across various contexts. Students will become familiar with the major contributions to this area, particularly as they relate to the lives of Canadians. They will also have a chance to examine a wide range of topics through readings, class and tutorial discussions, guest speaker presentations, and films.

Primary objectives guiding this course are to familiarize students with key content related to the area, as well as to sharpen students' critical thinking skills, and to create an atmosphere in which issues relating to human sexuality can be discussed thoroughly and freely.

The course material will address a variety of topics in sexuality, therefore, be prepared because some topics may challenge your belief systems and may create discomfort, whereas other topics may give you new insights into your experiences and worldview. You are highly encouraged to engage with the course material using critical self-reflection. If for whatever reason the course material creates emotional distress, you are advised to seek support from appropriate services both on and off campus. A list of resources is provided in the section **student resources** in the course outline. Be prepared: sexually explicit media (SEM) may be shown during the lecture sessions. Students will be informed beforehand, and can choose not to view it without penalty.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

DATES	TOPIC	CHAPTER
January 8	Overview, Sexuality in Perspective	1
January 15	Theoretical Perspectives	2
January 22	Sexual Anatomy	4 *except sections on cancer*
January 29	Sex Hormones, Sexual Differentiation, and Menstruation, Sexually Transmitted Infections	5
February 5	Midterm Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 4, 5)	
February 12	Conception, Pregnancy & Childbirth	6
February 19	Reading Break (No Class)	
February 26	Childhood & Adolescence, Adulthood	11
March 5	Attraction, Love & Communication, Gender, Sexual Orientation & Identity	12 14
March 12	Midterm Exam 2 (Ch. 6, 11, 12, 14) Variations in Sexual Behaviour	15
March 19	Sexual Coercion, Sex for Sale	16
March 26	Sexual Response, Sexual Disorders & Sex Therapy	18
April 2	Sexuality Education	19
EXAM PERIOD	Final Exam (Ch. 15, 16, 18, 19)	

The pace at which we'll move through the course material will depend on the amount of class discussion. Upcoming topics and information about which topics will be covered on the exams. Will be provided in class. Make sure to also check the class website for updates.

Classes will largely be in lecture format with occasional multimedia presentations and guest talks. Lectures will reflect the content of the course textbook; however, **information presented in class will often not be covered in the textbook and vice versa**. For this reason, it is essential that you attend class and read the assigned sections of your textbook if you want to receive a good grade. Material covered in lectures, in the PowerPoint slides, and in the textbook is all fair game for exams. **This includes information that is discussed in class, but is not included in the PowerPoint slides or in the textbook**. You are also responsible for any in-class announcements.

EVALUATION AND COURSE FORMAT

COMPONENT	VALUE	DATE
Midterm Exam 1	33%	Tuesday, February 5
Midterm Exam 2	33%	Tuesday, March 12
Final Exam	33%	Final Exam Period
TOTAL	100%	

MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS (EXAMS 1 & 2)

The midterm exams are worth **33%** of the student's final grade. The midterm will take place during class time on Tuesday, February 5th and Tuesday, March 12th. There will be approximately 60 multiple choice questions, approximately 15 short fill-in-the-blank items, and approximately 3 short answer questions on the course material to that point. More details will be discussed in class before the exams.

FINAL EXAMINATION (EXAM 2)

The final exam is worth **33%** of the student's final grade. The exam will be held during the final exam period (date, time and place to be announced). The final exam format will be multiple choice, short-answer/fill-in-the-blank and non-cumulative. It will include course material covered after the midterm examination. More specific details will be discussed during the last week of classes.

COURSE CORRESPONDENCE

CANVAS

A course website supports the teaching and learning activities for this course. Information pertaining to the course will be updated regularly on Canvas UBC. Please ensure that you log in throughout the semester to check announcements, obtain copies of course outlines, and instructions for assignments. All grades will be posted on Canvas.

EMAIL

You can also send emails directed to the professor or TA. Emails typically will be answered within 48 hours and only between the hours of 9am-5pm from Monday to Friday. Messages sent on the weekend will only be read on the following Monday.

COURSE POLICIES

CLASS ATTENDANCE

I will not be taking attendance; the responsibility of attendance is up to the student. However, keep in mind that I will be entirely unsympathetic to those students who miss class and then do poorly on exams or miss announcements about important dates, exams that have been re-scheduled, and changes in the topics covered.

My lecture notes and slides are not handed out. If you have missed a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the lectures notes from another student. If you do not know anyone in the class—introduce yourself to someone, say hi, make a friend...

EXTENSIONS AND MISSED EXAMS

Extensions on assignments will only be given with my advance permission. Opportunities to write a make-up exam if a student has missed one will also require my advance permission, and will require documented medical or compassionate reasons before consideration. When you find yourself unable to meet course requirements due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the professor in writing, and your academic counsellor. If possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, or as soon as possible after the due date, and no longer than one week later.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Increasingly, students are using electronic devices (e.g., laptops, tablets, smart phones, etc.) while in class. Recent research has shown that the use of electronic devices has a substantial negative impact on students' grades. The temptation to multi-task or use electronic devices to surf the web, watch videos, visit social networking sites, email, etc. is too great, and draws attention away from class. The negative impact is not only experienced by the device users themselves; the distraction of electronic devices also negatively affects the grades of those students sitting near device users. **If students, guest speakers, or instructors are distracted by the misuse of technology, you may be asked to leave the classroom.**

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT (from the UBC Calendar)

Students are responsible for informing themselves of the guidelines of acceptable and non-acceptable conduct for graded assignments established by their instructors for specific courses and of the examples of academic misconduct set out below. Academic misconduct that is subject to disciplinary measures includes, but is not limited to, engaging in, attempting to engage in, or assisting others to engage, in any of the actions described below.

1. Cheating, which may include, but is not limited to:
 - I. falsification of any material subject to academic evaluation, including research data;
 - II. use of or participation in unauthorized collaborative work;
 - III. use or possession in an examination of any materials (including devices) other than those permitted by the examiner;
 - IV. use, possession, or facilitation of unauthorized means to complete an examination (e.g., receiving unauthorized assistance from another person, or providing that assistance); and
 - V. dishonest practices that breach rules governing examinations or submissions for academic evaluation.
2. Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.
3. Submitting the same, or substantially the same, essay, presentation, or assignment more than once (whether the earlier submission was at this or another institution) unless prior approval has been obtained from the instructor(s) to whom the assignment is to be submitted.
4. Impersonating a candidate at an examination or other evaluation, facilitating the impersonation of a candidate, or availing oneself of the results of an impersonation.
5. Submitting false records or information, orally or in writing, or failing to provide relevant information when requested.
6. Falsifying or submitting false documents, transcripts, or other academic credentials.

7. Failing to comply with any disciplinary measure imposed for academic misconduct.

MARKS & SCALING

The Department of Psychology has a policy in place to ensure that class averages and distribution of marks for all courses are within specified ranges. Instructors are required to scale grades if their class averages and/or distribution of marks do not fall within those ranges. The following guidelines are provided by the department:

Class Performance	Mean	SD	% A	% A+B	% Fail
Good	70	13	22	56	6
Average	68	13	18	50	8
Weak	66	13	14	44	11

Students with Special Needs. Students requesting special consideration for any course requirement (due to a disability) should make arrangements with the UBC Centre for Accessibility and the professor before assignment or exam deadlines. Formal documentation regarding this special need is required.

STUDENT RESOURCES

Student Health Service, UBC, (604)-822-7011
Counselling Services, UBC, (604)-822-3811
AMS Sexual Assault Support Centre (604)-827-5180
UBC Centre for Accessibility (604)-822-5844
UBC Campus Security (604)-822-2222

Syllabus model by R. Milhausen, L. O'Sullivan, and E. S. Byers