

Psychology 350A-951 – Psychology of Human Sexuality

Course Information:

Instructor: Silvain Dang

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Office hours: after class & by appointment

Teaching assistants:

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Please contact your TAs directly to arrange for meeting times with them

Course description: This course will cover the definition, description, organization, and etiology of various aspects of human sexuality. There will be an emphasis on how and why sexuality manifests the way it does, and how they fit into a broader individual, biological, and societal context. You will be expected to think critically about relevant issues and examine the empirical literature, not merely memorize information.

Lecture time & location:

Monday & Wednesday, 9:00-12:00

Room 222, West Mall Swing Space

Key dates:

Jul 2 – Start of term

Jul 8 – Last day to withdraw without W standing

Jul 19 – Last day to withdraw with W standing

Aug 9 – Last day of class

Aug 13 – Start of final exam season

Aug 19 – End of final exam season

Course Materials:

Lecture materials:

Most of the material in this class will be presented by in-class lectures and slides. Slides will be posted on Canvas, and I will do my best to post slides before lecture. You **are** required to know all information from these for exams.

Course notes:

I may at times provide additional course notes and readings, which may contain material not covered in lecture. You **are** responsible for knowing this content for exams.

Textbooks:

These texts are all **optional**. You may find them useful for providing additional perspectives, examples, and references. You **are not** required to obtain any of these books.

- Pukall (2018) *Human Sexuality: A Contemporary Introduction – 2nd Canadian edition*
- LeVay, Baldwin, & Baldwin (2018) *Discovering Human Sexuality – 4th edition*
- Hyde, DeLamater, & Byers (2018) *Understanding Human Sexuality – 12th edition*

Additional resources:

For each lecture topic, I will be providing additional links to books, articles, and/or media that will provide additional perspectives or information on the topic. These are for your interest and **are not** required for exams.

Evaluations:

Midterms:

There will be two midterms (see schedule for dates). They will be 1 hour 20 minutes in length, scheduled during class time. They will be scheduled for the 1st half of class (we will have lecture in the second half). Midterms are non-cumulative for specific content, but general ideas and concepts will span the entire course. Questions may include recognition (multiple choice, true-false), recall (fill-in-the-blank, short answer), and synthesis (informal essay) questions.

Final exam:

The final exam will be scheduled by the university during the final exam season. It will be similar in structure as the midterm exams.

Grade breakdown:

Midterm 1	33%
Midterm 2	33%
Final Exam	34%

Optional assignment:

Students have the option of writing a term paper. If you choose to write the term paper, I will exempt you from one exam of your choice and substitute it with your grade for this paper. You must let me know ahead of time which exam you wish to substitute, and you will not sit for that exam. If you wish to take this option, please let me know as soon as possible for more details.

Instructions for term paper: Find a recent news or popular media article related to the topic of sexuality. In your paper, discuss whether the information presented is or is not scientifically supported. Use and cite empirical research to justify your discussion. You should run the media article by me beforehand. Your paper should be 2500 words maximum (not counting references section) and use APA style for citations.

General Course Policies:

Attendance: Attendance to lectures is required, as all lecture content are potentially testable material for exams. If you do miss a lecture, it is **your responsibility** to get notes from a classmate. Instructor and TAs will not re-teach lecture materials for those who miss a class.

Electronics: Feel free to use electronic devices (laptops, etc.) to take notes or look up materials in class. However, please make sure that you are not disrupting the class (e.g., ringing phones, loud OS sounds, etc.) with these devices.

Recordings: If you need to record my lectures, please make sure to get permission from me first.

Participation: Participation in class is highly encouraged. Please ask questions, get clarification if anything doesn't make sense, and give a shot at answering questions that I raise.

Personal anecdotes: Topics covered in this class are likely relevant to the personal lives of some, if not most, of the students in the class. Therefore, I welcome students to share their perspectives and experiences in class if it is in service of helping the class understand and learn more. However, I ask the class to keep the following in mind:

- 1) If someone else is sharing a personal anecdote, please be respectful towards them and their experience. This includes maintaining their confidentiality when you leave the classroom.
- 2) If you are sharing a personal anecdote, try to come at it from a place of providing more information for the class. If you need support for your own difficulties, please come talk to me individually (where we will have more time and I can provide you with specific resources).

Subject matter: Given the nature of the course (it's focus on human sexuality), the content will include sexual material. This includes explicit depictions of genitals and sexual activities, and discussion about sexual violence. Please keep this in mind when deciding if this course is right for you, and you are welcome to discuss this with me further if needed.

Trigger warnings: I will NOT be providing trigger warnings throughout the course as almost all topics that we will cover have the potential to upset some students. However, I will provide warnings for particular slide images. If you think that the course content may interfere with your learning and performance in your program, I encourage you to consider other courses instead of Psyc 350A.

Differences of perspectives: People often have strong values and reactions regarding various topics in sexuality. Students are encouraged to explore their own values and responses. If you disagree or are uncomfortable with some of the perspectives I present, I encourage you to either discuss in class or discuss with me after class. However, I also reserve the right to end discussions in class out of consideration for time.

Missed Exams & Paper Extensions:

Alternative arrangements for exams or the paper will be considered in the following situations:

- 1) If you need to miss a midterm due to medical reasons, please provide me with a note from your physician. For non-medical reasons, please provide equivalent documentation (note that I reserve the right to make the final decision about whether your reason is acceptable). In either case, there will NOT be a make-up exam. Instead, the exam you missed will be waived (i.e., it won't be counted in your overall grade). Only one midterm may be missed in this way, please come talk to me as soon as possible if you are concerned you might miss both midterms.
- 2) Accommodations requested through Access and Diversity Office, with appropriate A&D documentation, will of course be accepted. Please let me know as early as possible if this is the case, and also please let me know what type of accommodation is needed.
- 3) If you need to miss the final exam, please contact your program faculty advising office (e.g., Arts Advising) as only they can approve final exam deferrals.

Department of Psychology Policy on Academic Misconduct

"Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to TurnItIn – a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>)."

Grade Scaling

The Department of Psychology requires that all grades in this course be scaled to a certain mean average and distribution. Please note that this is not my personal policy, but a departmental requirement. For this course, I am required to produce a final grade distribution as follows:

- 1) Class average (mean): 66% – 70%
- 2) Letter grade distributions:
 - Grade A: 5%-25% of students in the class
 - Grade A or B: less than 75% of students in the class
 - Grade F: less than 20% of students in the class

Bonus Marks

You may receive up to 3 bonus marks (i.e., +3%) to your course grade by participating in research studies or completing optional library assignments. This is through the Department of Psychology Human Subject Pool. These bonus marks are applied after scaling. If you have not used this system before, please see below for additional information on how to get set up on this system: <https://psych.ubc.ca/undergraduate/opportunities/human-subject-pool>

Course Outline & Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Pukall (2018) chapters</u>
07-03	Introduction; Thinking clearly about sexuality	1, 2, 3
07-08	Sexual anatomy & physiology; Sex differentiation and gender	4, 5, 6, 10
07-10	Sexual orientation & sexual identity	10, 11
07-15	Midterm 1 ; Sexual health	7, 8, 19
07-17	Sexuality across the lifespan	9, 13
07-22	Sexual response; Sexual behaviours & activities	2, 13, 14
07-24	Attraction, love, & relationships	12, 13
07-29	Midterm 2 ; Variations in sexual attractions	15
07-31	Sexual dysfunctions; Sex therapy	13, 16
08-05	Sexual violence; Commercial sex	17, 18
08-07	Politics of sexuality; sex and culture	7, 19

Student Resources

UBC Student Health Services
<https://students.ubc.ca/health/student-health-service> | 604-822-7011

UBC Counselling Services
<https://students.ubc.ca/health/counselling-services> | 604-822-3811

AMS Sexual Assault Support Centre
<https://www.ams.ubc.ca/student-services/sasc> | 604-827-5180

UBC Centre for Accessibility
<https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility> | 604-822-5844

Options for Sexual Health
<https://www.optionsforsexualhealth.org> | 604-731-7803