

PSYC 350A-102

Winter Term 1

2021



IBLC Room 182
& recorded



T/TH 2:00-3:20



3 CREDITS

THE TEAM

Instructor:

Dr. Samantha Dawson
(she/her/hers)

Virtual Office Hours:

Thursdays 3.30pm-
4.30pm on Zoom

sdawson@psych.ubc.ca

Teaching Assistant:

Erin Fitzpatrick

(she, her, hers)

Virtual Office Hours:

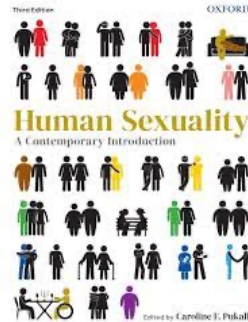
Tuesdays 3.30pm-4.30pm
on Zoom

Erin.Fitzpatrick@psych.ubc.ca

Psychological Aspects of Human Sexuality

ABOUT

The purpose of this class is to provide students with an overview of sexual behaviour and its variations. Topics include the history of sex research, sexual anatomy, the sexual response cycle, sexual dysfunction, sex therapy, relationships, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Particular attention will be paid to current issues in sex research and theory. *Note:* If you suffer from issues related to sexuality, you will likely not benefit personally from this class other than gaining information. If you are in need of resources, please contact the instructor.



REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Human Sexuality: A Contemporary Introduction, 3rd edition. Oxford University, 2020. Edited by Dr. Caroline Pukall.

(Note that you need to purchase the 3rd edition. The cover of the book is pictured left).

FORMAT

The course will be in-person but with no obligation to attend in-person (see next page for accessibility and concessions).

Video and accompanying lecture slides will be provided on Canvas each week. Lectures will be based on textbook content and other relevant content. Relevant content could include: video clips, empirical papers, and news or media articles. Thus, students should attend or watch the lectures, as well as read the textbook and relevant content in order to access all of the course content.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to acknowledge that this course takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. To learn more, please visit: native-land.ca.

COVID-19 POLICIES

COVID-19 continues to evolve and change impacting the ways in which we can teach and learn. The course has been designed in such a way so as to have some contingencies in place to account for potential issues that may arise during the term. Of particular importance is that the course is designed so that students who do not feel comfortable attending in person OR who may be under advisement not to attend in person, will not be disadvantaged in any way. **As such, IN PERSON ATTENDANCE is not mandatory.**

1. All lectures will be recorded and posted on Canvas.
2. There are no assessments related to class participation (e.g., through discussion or clickers), so not being present in class will not affect your grade in the course.
3. Office hours with the TA and course instructor will be held virtually via Zoom to ensure equitable access to the instructor and TA.
4. All quizzes during the semester will be held **online** during class time. The final quiz will also be online but will be scheduled during the designated final exam period.
5. Assignments will be submitted electronically via the course Canvas page.
6. See below under "Assessment" for accommodations/concessions related to missed assessments.

How can I stay safe and keep my fellow classmates safe?

1. If you plan to attend in person, please do a daily health assessment (see here: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>) prior to attending class to help you decide if it is safe for you to attend.
2. Please show your respect for the health and well-being of your classmates, teaching assistant, and instructor, as well as all of our loved ones by wearing a mask over your mouth and nose for every in-person encounter this term, and staying home if you do or may have COVID-19.
3. Provincial Health Orders and UBC policy now mandate masks in all indoor public spaces, including classrooms on campus. Students who wish to request an exemption to the indoor mask mandate must do so based on one of the grounds for exemption detailed here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-face-coverings.pdf>. Such requests must be made through the Center for Accessibility.

What happens if I am sick or don't feel comfortable attending?

You are strongly encouraged to stay home if you are unwell, have or are suspected to have COVID-19, or are under instruction to quarantine/isolate due to exposure or travel.

What happens if there is another lockdown and learning becomes virtual again?

Should there be a need to pivot to a virtual classroom at any point during the semester, the course will remain structured as is outlined in the syllabus in terms of the quizzes and assignments. The live in-person lectures will be replaced with pre-recorded lectures and Thursdays class time will be open for questions and discussion to ensure we are still able to engage with the material. All content will be recorded and posted on Canvas.

COMMUNICATION

WEBSITE

Lectures, quizzes, assignments, and grades are available on Canvas.

QUESTIONS

Steps to follow if you have questions about course content, assignments, quizzes, or policies:

1. Check the course syllabus
2. Check the discussion board on Canvas.
3. If you cannot find the answer to your question, post your question on the discussion board for that week. This will be the fastest way to get your question answered.

CANVAS MESSAGES/EMAILS

If you have a simple question that can be answered in one sentence, send a message to **Erin through Canvas**. (Be sure to read the discussion board carefully before you send an email.) **Erin** is a highly knowledgeable clinical psychology graduate student **who has research expertise in human sexuality**. She is eager to help you understand the course material and prepare for exams. If you send a question that is likely to be of interest to other students in the course, she will post the question (not your name) and response on the Discussion board. If you would like her to not post your question, simply let her know when you send your message. For non-course content related emails (e.g., missed quiz), please send Dr. Dawson a message through Canvas.

OFFICE HOURS

Students can sign up for virtual office hour appointments through the calendar on Canvas during scheduled weekly office hours (see first page). To schedule an appointment with **Dr. Dawson** or **Erin** outside of these times, please send a Canvas message.

OUR CLASSROOM

DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY

Sexuality is a human universal and this course covers material that is often of personal interest to students. As such, course content can elicit strong and varied opinions. At times you may find that the material challenges your belief systems and existing knowledge, which may create discomfort. It is also possible that the course will lead to new insights into your own and others' experiences and worldview. You are encouraged to engage with the material using critical self-reflection. If you feel distress related to the course content, please reach out to Dr. Dawson or access the resources listed at in the syllabus.

Our classroom is one that is safe, equitable, diverse, inclusive, and supportive. In all communications we show respect for the ideas, values, and background of others. This includes your fellow classmates, the TA, guest lecturers, and the instructor. Behaviours inconsistent with these values will not be tolerated.

ASSESSMENT

Quizzes (75%; 15%, 25%, and 35% each)

This course will include 3 quizzes. The first two quizzes will be held online during class time on Tuesdays (see schedule below), and the last quiz will be online but scheduled during the final exam period. The format of each quiz will be discussed in advance, but you can expect a mix of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, labelling, and short answer questions. Expect to see questions based on material from the textbook, lectures, supplementary readings and videos, regardless of whether or not these are discussed in lecture. The quizzes are non-cumulative in terms of content. The purpose of the quizzes are to assess the learning outcomes for the course.

Missed Quizzes: Please contact Dr. Dawson as soon as possible if you miss a quiz. If you miss a quiz and are approved for an academic concession (see <https://www.arts.ubc.ca/degree-planning/academic-performance/academic-concession/>), your other work will be reweighted. If you miss a quiz without a concession, you will receive a mark of zero for the missed quiz.

Knowledge Translation Writing Assignments (25%; 10% and 15% each)

Knowledge translation is an important skill that involves translating empirical research into lay language for non-experts. Sexuality is one of the most misunderstood areas of human behaviour and is rife with misinformation. The two writing assignments are intended to provide you with an opportunity to identify myths or misconceptions you have encountered about sexuality and then using course content as well as empirical papers find information that debunks these myths. These assignments offer an opportunity for you to reflect on the messages and information you may have received about sexuality during your life and then correct the misinformation through research. The assignments will also help you develop critical thinking, research, and effective communication skills. An optional part of the assignment includes the possibility of being a guest contributor to Dr. Dawson's social media knowledge sharing initiative—@misconSEXions—on Instagram. If you do well on the assignments and you provide consent for your content to be shared, Dr. Dawson may feature your assignment. There is no obligation to do so and this does not impact your grade in any way. The two assignments are identical but are weighted differently so that you have the opportunity to improve based on feedback between Assignment 1 and 2. Specific instructions for the writing assignments will be available separately on **Canvas** under the assignments tab. You should upload your assignment on Canvas by 11.59pm (PST) on the due date (see schedule below).

Late & Missed Assignments: In the absence of a concession (see link below), you have the option of submitting your assignment late. There is a 10% late penalty per calendar day for lateness. The assignment will not be accepted for grading if it is submitted more than 7 days past the original due date. For example, if the due date is a Tuesday, the last day it will be accepted is the following Tuesday. If you are unable to submit an assignment, please contact Dr. Dawson as soon as possible. If you are approved for an academic concession, your other assignment will be reweighted. If you do not submit an assignment and do not have a concession, you will receive a mark of zero for the missed assignment.

Extra Credit (3%)

One way to learn more about psychology is to be a participant in ongoing research projects. See [here](#) for information. You may earn up to 3 credits toward your course grade by participating in studies that are posted [here](#). Please register in this online system by end of the first month of class. As an alternative to participating in studies, you may choose to complete library writing projects, in which you read and summarize a research article; each article summary counts as one hour of research participation. More information about this option can be found [here](#). All of your credits for study participation or the library option will be added to your final course grade, after any scaling that may have been applied.

How can you contribute to our supportive learning environment:

1) **BE PREPARED:** Come to class (or before listening to the lectures) prepared. This means reading the textbook and/or other materials before class.

2) **BE ACTIVE:** Be an active participant in the course. This means asking and answering questions in class and posting on the discussion forum when questions arise outside of class time. We have the privilege of learning from one another, which means expressing and hearing about research, as well as ideas and views that may be new to us or differ from our own.

3) **BE RESPECTFUL:** Every individual's perspective is valued and considered legitimate for that person. Being open to other perspectives is important to academic and personal growth. All comments should be made with the desire to educate, not hurt. You can express disagreement with an issue or idea, but be aware of HOW you express yourself. Also, express WHY you disagree - this continues the learning process for all of us.

4) **MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY:** There may be times when class members share personal experiences and beliefs. Because we all benefit from hearing each other's perspectives, we must be respectful of those who feel comfortable in sharing this personal information. Therefore, we will have a policy that nothing shared in class can be divulged outside of the class. While you may discuss general issues with others, you cannot share any information that may identify another member of the class.

At the end of the course you will be able to:

Compare and contrast historical and contemporary perspectives on sexuality.

Identify the major structures of the genitals to appreciate their complexity and compare their optimal and nonoptimal functioning.

Analyze the benefits and drawbacks of different models of sexual response, sexual communication strategies, and treatments for sexual dysfunctions.

Appreciate the complexity of the components of sexuality, including genital anatomy, sexual response, sexual behaviour, relationship configurations, sexual attraction, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation.

Distinguish whether sexual concerns are diagnosable or not and integrate knowledge about diagnosable sexual dysfunctions into case studies.

Critically evaluate scientific findings related to human sexuality and translate these findings for dissemination with the public in an accessible way.

SCHEDULE

Week	Topics	Readings	Assessments
1: Sept 7 & 9	Sept 7th: No class for Imagine Day Introduction to the course	None	
2: Sept 14 & 16	Perspectives on Sexuality & Theoretical Approaches	Chapters 1 & 2	
3: Sept 21 & 23	Sex Research Methods	Chapter 3	
4: Sept 28 & 30 * No class Sept 30th for Truth & Reconciliation Day	Genital Anatomy & Sexual Response	Chapter 4	
5: Oct 5 & 7	Quiz #1 Chapters: 1-4 (inclusive) Sex Hormones & Human Sexuality	Chapter 5	Quiz 1 October 5th, 2021 (in class time)
6: Oct 12 & 14	Gender & Sex	Chapter 10	
7: Oct 19 & 21	Sexual/Affectional Orientations & Diversity	Chapter 11	Assignment #1 Due October 21st (11.59pm)
8: Oct 26 & 28	Sexual Behaviours & Relationships	Chapter 14	
9: Nov 2 & 4	Quiz #2 Chapters: 5, 10-11, & 14 (inclusive). Sexual Communication	Chapter 13	Quiz 2 November 2nd, 2021 (in class time)
10: Nov 9 *No class Nov 11th	Variations in Sexual Behaviour Guest Lecture: Dr. Cara Dunkley	Chapter 15	
11: Nov 16 & 18	Sexual Dysfunctions	Chapter 16	Assignment #2 Due November 18th (11.59pm)
12: Nov 23 & 25	Sexual Dysfunction Treatment	Chapter 16	
13: Nov 30 & Dec 2	Pregnancy and Childbirth & Sexuality over the Lifespan	Chapters 6 & 9	
14: Dec 7	Wrap up of course content; Q & A	None	
Dec 11-22 (Final Exam period)	Quiz 3 TBD; Chapters: 6, 9, 13, 15, 16, (inclusive).		

POLICIES

Grading

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology classes are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. However, in the spirit of flexibility and compassion in light of COVID-19, those departmental norms have been adjusted upwards by 5% for 2021W. According to these adjusted norms, the average grade in 300- and 400-level Psychology classes will be 75 for an exceptionally strong class, 73 for an average class, and 71 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13. Scaling may be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by an instructor or the department. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record. You will receive both a percent and a letter grade for this course. At UBC, they convert according to the key below:

A+	90-100%	C+	64-67%
A	85-89%	C	60-63%
A-	80-84%	C-	55-59%
B+	76-79%	D	50-54%
B	72-75%	F	F 0-49%
B-	68-71%		

Disputing a Grade

Any complaint about a graded item should be made in writing to Erin and should detail the point of contention. All complaints should be made within 1 week of receiving your grade. After 1 week, we will not accept complaints. If you received your mark on a Tuesday, you will have until the end of the day on the following Tuesday to file a complaint.

Missing a Quiz

There are no make-up quizzes. For course policies regarding in-term academic concessions, please refer to the relevant UBC calendar entry: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0> Faculty of Arts-specific information here: <https://www.arts.ubc.ca/degree-planning/academicperformance/academic-concession/>. If you miss a quiz and are granted concession, your other work will be reweighted. If you miss more than one quiz without a legitimate excuse and are not granted concession, you will receive a mark of zero for the missed quiz.

Missing an Assignment

The assignments are intended to be a valuable learning activity where you gain feedback from the first assignment to integrate into the second assignment. You will have until midnight on the due date to upload your assignment to Canvas for grading. If you have a concession (see concession link above), your assignment grade will be reweighted. If you miss an assignment without a legitimate excuse and are not granted concession, you will receive a mark of zero for the missed assignment.

Academic Integrity

"The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or quiz and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee

on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at <http://calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>."

University Policies

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>)

Learning Outside of Canada

During this pandemic, the shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0> for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/support-resources/freedom-expression>

Copyright

All materials of this course (syllabus, course handouts, lecture slides, podcasts, assessments, course readings, etc.) are the intellectual property of Dr. Dawson or licensed to be used in this course by Dr. Dawson at the University of British Columbia. Redistribution of these materials by any means without permission of the copyright holder(s) constitutes a breach of copyright and may lead to academic discipline. For example, you are not permitted to redistribute any recordings of lectures, slides, or assignments without permission (including posting online to sites off the University of British Columbia servers).

Resources

The Equity and Inclusion Office has put together a list of resources to help you when you need it, available at <https://equity.ubc.ca/resources/students/>. Here are some:

The Centre for Accessibility

Provides support for students with a disability or ongoing medical condition (academic accommodations, exam accommodations, financial support and assistance).

Tel: 604.822.5844

Email: accessibility@ubc.ca

Counselling Services

Offers a variety of services to help you manage mental health concerns

Tel: 604.822.3811

The Wellness Centre

Includes a staff of trained student volunteers available to help you with mental and physical health

Tel: 604.822.8450

Email: wellness.centre@ubc.ca

Here2Talk

A mental health service which provides free, confidential counselling as well as community referral services 24/7

via app, phone and web.

Tel: 1-877-857-3397 (Canada-wide toll free)

Tel: 604-642-5212 (direct)

AMS Sexual Assault Support Centre

A service that is committed to the education, support, and empowerment of people of all genders who are survivors of sexualized violence, as well as their friends and family.

Tel: 604-827-5180