

University of British Columbia  
Department of Psychology

# PSYC 350A: PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

## FALL 2021 COURSE OUTLINE

### COURSE DETAILS

<b>Professor:</b>	Dr. Kaitlyn Goldsmith (kmgold@mail.ubc.ca)
<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	Arezoo Shahnaz (arezoo.shahnaz@psych.ubc.ca)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment with the professor or teaching assistant
<b>Class Time:</b>	Tuesday 5pm to 8pm
<b>Class Room:</b>	Buchanan A (Room 201)
<b>Required Text:</b>	Hyde, J. S., DeLamater, J. D., & Byers, E. S. (2018). <i>Understanding Human Sexuality</i> (7 <sup>th</sup> 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
September 7	Overview, Sexuality in Perspective	1
September 14	Theoretical Perspectives	2
September 21	Sexual Anatomy	4 *except sections on cancer*
September 28	Sex Hormones, Sexual Differentiation, and Menstruation	5
October 5	<b>Midterm Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 4, 5)</b> Sexually Transmitted Infections	
October 12	Conception, Pregnancy & Childbirth	6
October 19	Childhood & Adolescence, Adulthood	11
October 26	Attraction, Love & Communication	12
November 2	Gender, Sexual Orientation & Identity *Guest Lecture*	14 *p. 416-423 only*
November 9	Reading Break (No Class)	
November 16	<b>Midterm Exam 2 (Ch. 6, 11, 12, 14)</b> Variations in Sexual Behaviour	15
November 23	Sexual Coercion, Sex for Sale	16, 17
November 30	Sexual Response, Sexual Disorders & Sex Therapy	18
December 7	Sexuality Education	19
<b>EXAM PERIOD</b>	<b>Final Exam (Ch. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19)</b>	

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, October 5
Midterm Exam 2	33%	Tuesday, November 16
Final Exam	33%	Final Exam Period
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS (EXAMS 1 & 2)

The midterm exams will take place during class time on Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be approximately 60 multiple choice questions and approximately 10 short answer/fill-in-the-blank items on the course material to that point. More details will be discussed in class before the exams.

### FINAL EXAMINATION (EXAM 2)

The final 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 are not handed out and LECTURES ARE NOT RECORDED. It will not be possible to attend the class remotely. If you are not able to attend the class in-person, I encourage you to change to another class or to a dedicated online course. Please remember that the Add/Drop Deadline is September 20.**

**If you have missed a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the lectures notes from another student.**

**If you are sick, it is important that you stay home.** Complete a self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms here: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19.en>. In this class, the marking scheme is intended to provide flexibility so that you can prioritize your health and still succeed.

### **If you miss class because of illness:**

- Make a connection early in the term to another student or a group of students in the class. You can help each other by sharing notes. If you don't know anyone in the class, post on the discussion forum on Canvas to connect with other students.
- Set up an appointment for office hours for help
- If you are concerned that you will miss a key activity due to illness, contact the instructor or teaching assistant to discuss

**If you are feeling ill and cannot attend class for a midterm or in-class assessment**, please email the instructor right away. If you arrive for a test and you are clearly ill, we will make alternate arrangements with you. It is better to email ahead of time and not attend.

**If you are feeling ill at the time of a final exam**, do not attend the exam. You must apply for deferred standing (an academic concession) through Arts Academic Advising. Students who are granted deferred standing (SD) will write the final exam at a later date.

**If I (the instructor) is feeling ill**, I will not come to class. I will make every reasonable attempt to communicate plans for class as soon as possible (on Canvas). I may ask you to do an activity or read something in place of class time. If I am well enough to teach, but am taking precautions to avoid infecting others, we may hold the class online. If this happens, there will be an announcement on Canvas informing you how to join the class. Our classroom will still be available for you to sit and attend an online session.

### **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.**

### **COVID-19 SAFETY**

You are required to wear a non-medical mask during our class meetings, for your own protection and the safety and comfort of everyone else in the class. For our in-person meetings in this class, it is important that all of us feel as comfortable as possible engaging in class activities while sharing an indoor space. Non-medical masks that cover our noses and mouths are a primary tool for combating the spread of COVID-19. Further, according to the provincial mandate, masks are required in all indoor public spaces

including lobbies, hallways, stairwells, elevators, classrooms and labs. There may be students who have medical accommodations for not wearing a mask. Please maintain a respectful environment.

### **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:

<b>Class Performance</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>% A</b>	<b>% A+B</b>	<b>% Fail</b>
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