

University of British Columbia  
Department of Psychology

# PSYC 350A: PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

Winter 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 7:30pm PST
<b>Class Room:</b>	Online Lectures
<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
January 12	Overview, Sexuality in Perspective	1
January 19	Theoretical Perspectives	2
January 26	Sexual Anatomy	4 *except sections on cancer*
February 2	Sex Hormones, Sexual Differentiation, & Menstruation	5
February 9	Conception, Pregnancy & Childbirth	6
February 16	NO CLASS – READING BREAK ☺	
February 23	Sexually Transmitted Infections	
<b>March 2</b>	<b>Take-Home Midterm Exam Due</b> Childhood & Adolescence, Adulthood	11
March 9	*Guest Lecture* Gender, Sexual Orientation & Identity	14 *p. 416-423 only*
March 16	*Guest Lecture* Attraction, Love, & Communication	12
March 23	Variations in Sexual Behaviour	15
March 30	Sex For Sale & Sexual Coercion	16
April 6	Sexual Response, Sexual Disorders, & Sex Therapy	18
April 13	Sexuality Education	19
<b>March 26</b>	<b>Optional Paper Due</b>	
<b>April 20</b>	<b>Take-Home Final Exam Due</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 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	DUE DATE
Take Home Midterm	50% or 33%	Tuesday, March 2
Optional Paper	0% or 33%	Friday, March 26
Take-Home Final Exam	50% or 33%	Tuesday, April 20
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	

## **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

The midterm exam will be a take-home format with short and long answer questions. It will include course material covered up until October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. More specific details will be discussed in class.

## **FINAL PAPER**

Students have the option to write a final paper worth 33% of their grade due December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (the other option is to not hand in a paper and instead have midterm 1 weighted 50% and the final exam weighted 50%. Paper topics and guidelines will be posted on Canvas.

## **FINAL EXAMINATION**

The final exam will be a take-home format with short and long answer questions due on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. 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. Please do not send messages to the professor on Canvas, use email instead.

### **EMAIL**

You can 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. Lectures will be recorded and posted on the course website for students in different times zones and so that you can watch missed content on your own time. Keep in mind that I will be entirely unsympathetic to those students who do not watch the lectures and then do poorly on exams or miss announcements about important dates, exams that have been re-scheduled, and changes in the topics covered.

### **VIRTUAL LECTURES (ZOOM)**

Zoom lecture links will be posted on Canvas. The links will be password protected to ensure that only members of our class can attend. You will only be able to join the meeting when you are signed into your Zoom account – no anonymous accounts allowed. The Zoom links will be locked 10 minutes after the start of the lecture so that no new participants can join – please be on time. Do not give out the links or passwords to individuals not enrolled in this course.

If you are attending the virtual lecture live via Zoom, please ensure that your microphone is muted so as not to disturb others. Please also turn off your camera for your privacy. If you have questions during the

lecture, I encourage you to enter them into the chat box so that they can be answered live. There will be no private chat feature available during the Zoom meetings, but I encourage you to make use of the discussion boards in Canvas.

Disrespectful and derogatory language and/or images will not be tolerated. Individuals who display these behaviours will be promptly removed from the meeting and may face disciplinary action.

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>

### **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 written 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. 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. 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>.

### **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.

I expect PSYC 350 students to meet these expectations. Any instance of cheating or taking credit for someone else's work, whether intentionally or unintentionally, can and often will result in at minimum a grade of zero for the assignment, and these cases will be reported to [e.g., department head], and [e.g., the Faculty of Arts Associate Dean, Academic]. Be sure you understand UBC's expectations: see the UBC Calendar entries on "[Academic Honesty](#)," "[Academic Misconduct](#)," and "[Disciplinary Measures](#)," and check out the [Student Declaration and Responsibility](#). Use resources to help you meet those expectations: See "[Understand Academic Integrity](#)" from the Chapman Learning Commons and their page of [Resource Guides](#) (how to cite sources, media, data, etc.), plus bookmark the [OWL](#) website for how to use MLA citation style.

### 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 Support.** 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. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here: (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policiesresources-support-student-success> )

### 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**