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| <b>PSYC 204</b> | <b>Human Sexuality</b> | <b>Fall 2016</b> |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|

|                      |   |                           |                   |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Instructor:</b>   | Dr. Simon Spanswick/<br>Dr. Melissa Boyce   | <b>Lecture Location:</b>  | MFH 162           |
| <b>Phone:</b>        | 403-220-4948/<br>403-210-6257               | <b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> | MWF 12 – 12-50 pm |
| <b>Email:</b>        | scspansw@ucalgary.ca/<br>mboyce@ucalgary.ca |                           |                   |
| <b>Office:</b>       | A032/A258                                   |                           |                   |
| <b>Office Hours:</b> | TBA   |                           |                   |

**Course Description**

Examination of contemporary knowledge and attitudes toward human sexuality, relying on theoretical and empirical psychological research. Multiple perspectives are presented, including psychosocial, cross-cultural, and psychobiological. Sexuality across the life span is examined, including issues pertaining to sexual differentiation, intimacy and communication, gender role development, varieties of sexual relationships and behaviour, and legal and ethical issues.

*Please note that although sexuality may be considered from multiple perspectives, this course will take an empirical approach, drawing on current research data. The course will involve an open discussion of topics related to sexuality, which may be sensitive topics for some individuals.*

**Course Learning Outcomes**

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see [psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes](http://psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes)), and the expected level of achievement.

| Course Learning Outcomes  | PLO(s)        | Level(s) |
|---|---------------|----------|
| Understand and apply the different psychological theories to the study of human sexual behaviour. | 1, 4,<br>5, 7 | I        |
| Describe the biopsychological and psychosocial factors that influence human sexual behaviour.     | 1, 4,<br>5, 7 | I        |
| Trace the development of human sexuality from childhood to old age.                               | 1, 7          | I        |
| Compare variations in human sexuality found within society.                                       | 1, 7          | I        |
| Identify ethical and legal issues in human sexuality.   | 1, 2,<br>6, 7 | I        |

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

### **Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites to take this course.

### **Required Text**

Pukall, C. (Ed.). (2014). *Human Sexuality*. Don Mills, Canada: Oxford University Press.  
(available in the university bookstore)

**Note:** We will be using Top Hat in this course. You will receive an email with an invitation to join the course in Top Hat or you may search for the course and add yourself to it on your own by following this link: <https://app.tophat.com>.

### **Evaluation**

#### **Exams (19% each x 4 = 76% of final grade)**

There are four exams (October 3, October 26, and November 18, TBD – during the final exam period) for this course. Each exam is worth 19% of your mark. These multiple-choice exams are non-cumulative and will cover text and lecture material (including films and other demonstrations). No resources are allowed in any exams.

### **Research Papers**

Two research papers 1-2 pages double-spaced in length (with 12 pt Times New Roman font and 1" margins) worth 10% each where you will select a single facet of human sexuality (e.g., sexual orientation, gender identity, mating systems, etc.). In your first paper (due October 17), you will describe a biological influence on your chosen topic. In your second paper (due November 28), you will describe a social psychological influence on this topic. These papers are intended to help you develop insight into the biological and social psychological perspectives that inform issues of human sexuality. Further details will be provided in class and posted on D2L.

You are expected to hand in a digital copy of each of your papers to the dropbox in D2L by noon on the due dates. Late papers will not be accepted without medical documentation.

### **In-Class Participation using Top Hat (4% of final grade)**

Top Hat is being used in this class in order to enhance your participation, allow you to assess your mastery of course concepts, and ultimately, to help you to engage better with the material. To encourage student use of Top Hat, 4% of your grade has been assigned to Top Hat participation. To receive participation credit for using Top Hat, you will have to register for a Top Hat account online. Information will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard telling you how to register for the class account in Top Hat.

Top Hat participation marks will be broken down as follows:

- At least 80% of Top Hat questions answered = 4%
- At least 60% of Top Hat questions answered = 3%
- At least 40% of Top Hat questions answered = 2%
- At least 20% of Top Hat questions answered = 1%
- Less than 20% of Top Hat questions answered = 0%

### Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be “A” grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be “A” grades.

### Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

**A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.*** An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

**A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.*** Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student’s thorough knowledge of subject matter.

**B Range: *Good Performance.*** Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

**C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.*** Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

**D range: *Marginally meets standards.*** Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

**F grade: *Course standards not met.*** Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

### Grading Scale

|    |         |    |        |    |        |    |        |
|----|---------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| A+ | 96-100% | B+ | 80-84% | C+ | 67-71% | D+ | 54-58% |
| A  | 90-95%  | B  | 76-79% | C  | 63-66% | D  | 50-53% |
| A- | 85-89%  | B- | 72-75% | C- | 59-62% | F  | 0-49%  |

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

### Tentative Lecture Schedule

| Week | Date     | Topic   | Readings                            |
|------|----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1    | M Sep 12 | Intro to Human Sexuality  | Course Outline                      |
|      | W Sep 14 | Perspectives on Sexuality   | Ch 1                                |
|      | F Sep 16 | Perspectives on Sexuality   | Ch 1                                |
| 2    | M Sep 19 | Theory and Methods  | Ch 2/3                              |
|      | W Sep 21 | Theory and Methods  | Ch 2/3                              |
|      | F Sep 23 | Theory and Methods<br><i>Last day to drop Winter Term Half Courses.</i>   | Ch 2/3                              |
| 3    | M Sep 26 | Sexual Anatomy<br><i>Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses.</i><br><i>Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i> | Ch 4                                |
|      | W Sep 28 | Sexual Anatomy  | Ch 4                                |
|      | F Sep 30 | Sexual Anatomy<br><i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i>   | Ch 4                                |
| 4    | M Oct 3  | <b>Exam 1</b>   | <b>All material to date</b>         |
|      | W Oct 5  | Sex Hormones  | Ch 5                                |
|      | F Oct 7  | Sex Hormones  | Ch 5                                |
| 5    | M Oct 10 | <b>Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</b>                   |                                     |
|      | W Oct 12 | Sex Hormones  | Ch 5                                |
|      | F Oct 14 | Pregnancy and Childbirth  | Ch 6                                |
| 6    | M Oct 17 | Pregnancy and Childbirth  | Ch 6<br><b>Research Paper 1 Due</b> |
|      | W Oct 19 | Contraception and Pregnancy Options   | Ch 7                                |
|      | F Oct 21 | Sexuality over the Lifespan   | Ch 9                                |
| 7    | M Oct 24 | Sexuality over the Lifespan   | Ch 9                                |
|      | W Oct 26 | <b>Exam 2</b>   | <b>All material since Exam 1</b>    |
|      | F Oct 28 | Gender  | Ch 10                               |
| 8    | M Oct 31 | Gender  | Ch 10                               |
|      | W Nov 2  | Gender  | Ch 10                               |
|      | F Nov 4  | Sexual/Affectional Orientations and Diversity   | Ch 11                               |
| 9    | M Nov 7  | Sexual/Affectional Orientations and Diversity   | Ch 11                               |
|      | W Nov 9  | Attraction, Intimacy, and Love  | Ch 12                               |
|      | F Nov 11 | <b>Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business</b>                                  |                                     |

|    |           | <b>Libraries). No lectures.</b>  |                                      |
|----|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 10 | M Nov 14  | Attraction, Intimacy, and Love   | Ch 12                                |
|    | W Nov 16  | Sexual Communication   | Ch 13                                |
|    | F Nov 18  | <b>Exam 3</b>  | <b>All material since Exam 2</b>     |
|    | M Nov 21  | Sexual Communication   | Ch 13                                |
|    | W Nov 23  | Sexual Behaviours and Relationships  | Ch 14                                |
|    | F Nov 25  | Sexual Behaviours and Relationships  | Ch 14                                |
| 12 | M Nov 28  | Sexual Behaviours and Relationships  | Ch 14<br><b>Research Paper 2 Due</b> |
|    | W Nov 30  | Sexual Dysfunctions  | Ch 16                                |
|    | F Dec 2   | Sexual Dysfunctions  | Ch 16                                |
| 13 | M Dec 5   | Sex and the Law  | Ch 17/18                             |
|    | W Dec 7   | Sex and the Law  | Ch 17/18                             |
|    | F Dec 9   | Sex and the Law<br><i>Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.</i> | Ch 17/18                             |
|    | Dec 12-22 | <b>Final Exam</b>  | <b>All material since Exam 3</b>     |

### Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### **Academic Accommodation**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services ; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf) .

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final). Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

### **Travel During Exams**

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final). Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act**

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

### **Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)**

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 9, 2016**.

### **Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 403-220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Student Ombudsman's Office**

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca) (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

### **Safewalk**

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333.

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 23, 2016**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 26, 2016**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 9, 2016**.