

***TENTATIVE* SYLLABUS**
PSYCHOLOGY 3AC3: HUMAN SEXUALITY
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour
McMaster University
Winter Term 2009

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Please note: This syllabus is subject to change if circumstances warrant.

Course time: TRF 11:30
Course location: ITB-137

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Professor:

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Teaching Assistants:

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Course Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce you to research and theory on human sexual attitudes and behaviours. We will discuss sexuality mainly from evolutionary and social psychology perspectives. Our main topics will be: sex drive; mate choice; attraction/attractiveness; love; non-normative sexuality.

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Readings (required):

Buss, D.M. *Evolution of Desire*.
Human Sexuality reader (available exclusively at the bookstore)

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Website: This course has a Blackboard website. You are responsible for all information posted on the website. You are expected to check the website regularly for announcements, changes to our schedule, discussion board postings, and other valuable information.

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Assessment: Your final mark will be based on the following.

- (1) Midterm 1 (5 Feb) = 30%
- (2) Midterm 2 (19 Mar) = 30%
- (3) Final Exam (to be scheduled by the Registrar) = 40%

Midterm 1 will test material covered during the first third of the course; Midterm 2 will test material covered during the second third of the course (i.e., it is *non-cumulative*). The final exam will be cumulative, and will be held during the examination period. The midterm and final will be written (short and/or longer essays), with no multiple choice.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to alter the evaluation scheme if circumstances warrant it (e.g., TA loss, inability to hold tutorials).

Missed Tests Policy: You are strongly encouraged never to miss an assessment. If something comes up that will

interfere with your ability to write a test or to hand in an assignment, then you must immediately contact me (for tests) or your tutorial leader (for assignments) – before the fact, if at all possible. If you do not contact us in a timely manner, then your mark in the course will suffer.

If you miss a test and/or makeup test, then you must provide a doctor's certificate (or equivalent for non-medical situations) to your Dean's office, or you will receive a grade of zero on that test and/or makeup test. Makeup test information will be provided on the course website. Makeups always occur during class time, a week to the day after the original test.

Please see your website, under "Important Info" for a more detailed explanation of what to do when you miss a test.

Final Grade Calculations: Your final grade will be converted to a letter grade, according to the following scheme:

<u>Percentage (Grade)</u> 90-100 (A+)	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u> 77-79 (B+)	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u> 67-69 (C+)	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u> 57-59 (D+)
85-89 (A)	73-76 (B)	63-66 (C)	53-56 (D)
80-84 (A-)	70-72 (B-)	60-62 (C-)	50-52 (D-)
			0-49 (F)

Academic Integrity: You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g., a grade of zero (0) on an assignment, loss of course credit with a notation on the transcript ("grade F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on academic dishonesty, please refer to Mac's Academic Integrity Policy, at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>.

SCHEDULE AND READINGS

A note on the readings: Extra readings may be assigned as we go. These will be announced on WebCT; it is your responsibility to keep track of extra materials.

Course Outline and Readings

Please note: This is a new course, and so exact dates are not given. The amount of interest and discussion generated by each topic will affect how long we spend on it.

Introductory Stuff

Read Bullough, "Alfred Kinsey and the Kinsey Report..."

Read Cotton, "How definitive is the new sex survey?"

Read Newman & Bancroft, "Should state funding of the Kinsey Institutes' sexual research end?"

Sex Drive

Read Kinsey et al., "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male"

Read Ostovich & Sabini, "How are sociosexuality, sex drive, and lifetime number of sexual partners related?" (available on course website)

The Evolutionary Approach

Read Buss, *Evolution of Desire*.

The Social Psychology Approach

Read Dion, Berscheid, & Walster, "What is beautiful is good"

Read Dutton & Aron, "Evidence for heightened sexual attraction under conditions of high anxiety"

Love

Read Sternberg, "Triangulating love"

Read Narayan, "Lessons from an arranged marriage"

Read Rusbult, "A longitudinal test of the investment model ..."

Non-Normative Sexuality 1: Homosexuality

Read Rosenbluth, "Is sexual orientation a matter of choice?"

Read Bower, "From exotic to erotic: Roots of sexual orientation..."

Read Adams et al., "Is homophobia associated with homosexual arousal?"

Non-Normative Sexuality 2: Transsexualism, Paraphilias

Read Cohen-Kettenis & Gooren, "Transsexualism: A review of etiology, diagnosis, and treatment"

Read Wise, "Fetishism – Etiology and treatment"