

**Psychology 350A: Human Sexuality**  
Winter Session 2009  
Section 901, 3 credits  
Course website: [www.psych.ubc.ca/~brotto](http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~brotto)

**Course Instructor:**

Dr Lori Brotto

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**Teaching Assistants:**

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Office hours: Wednesdays, 11 - noon

Room: Kenny 3512

**Course Time and Location:**

Wednesdays, Sept 9 – Dec 2, 2009

5pm – 7:20pm, Room 121, West Mall Swing Space

**Course Description:**

This course will provide an overview of human sexuality, theory, research, and treatment, relying on theoretical findings and empirical research. Multiple perspectives will be presented, including psychological, biological, and socio-cultural. Topics will include: history of sex research, human sexual anatomy and physiology, conception and pregnancy, healthy and abnormal sexual function, sexual attraction, prostitution, sexual orientation, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, sexuality education, gender identity, and sexual coercion. Emphasis will be placed on the critical analysis of sexuality research. In addition, sexuality in contemporary media will be considered as students select a newspaper article on the topic of sexuality (published during the term of the course) and write a 5-page paper outlining the issue and providing empirical data to support or refute the conclusions of the article. Students will be encouraged to develop an appreciation for the complexity of human sexuality by the end of this course.

**Class Format:**

Material will be covered in the form of lectures (2.5 hours in duration) and assigned readings. Students will be encouraged to ask questions when appropriate. Please note that some material in the examinations will not be covered in class. Therefore, it is in students' best interests to attend each class.

**Required Text:**



**Format for Paper:**

Students will be required to submit a Paper by November 18, 2009 (two weeks before the last lecture); however, the paper may be handed in at any time before that. The paper is based on a recent newspaper article covering some aspect of sexuality. For example, the August 6, 2009 Vancouver Sun article on "Hot cars boost male hormones" by Misty Harris describes the rise in testosterone among men who drive certain cars. The paper would summarize the newspaper article, then provide a broader overview of the topic based on at least 7 empirical publications. The paper should be 5 double-spaced pages using APA format (see online for more information). Unless there are legitimate, extenuating circumstances supported by documentation, no extensions will be granted for this paper for any reason. A 5% penalty (off your raw score) will be applied for each day the paper is submitted late (including weekends). The paper must be submitted as a hard copy at the **start of class** on November 18. In addition, an email copy must be submitted to the TA at an email address that will be posted on the course website. Be sure to retain a copy for your own records, in the event of a loss.

**Proposed Course Outline (subject to minor changes):**

<b>Class #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
1	Sept 9	History of Sex Research	Text Ch 3
2	Sept 16	Sexual Anatomy, Physiology, and Hormones	Text Ch 4 and 5
3	Sept 23	Conception & Pregnancy	Text Ch 6
4	Sept 30	Contraception; Sex Education	Text Ch 7 & 19
5	Oct 7	Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS	Text Ch 8
6	Oct 14	<b>Midterm Examination (120 min)</b>	
7	Oct 21	Sexuality and Culture Sexual attraction	Ch 12 and Assigned Reading (see website for link)
8	Oct 28	Sexual Orientation	Text Ch 14
9	Nov 4	Prostitution, Pornography, & Legal Issues	Text Ch 17
	Nov 11	No class – Remembrance Day	
10	Nov 18	Sexual dysfunction in men and women	Text Pages 251-260, 465-467, Ch 18
11	Nov 25	Paraphilias, Sexual Variations, and Gender Identity Disorders	Text Ch 13 and pages 468-491
12	Dec 2	Sexual Coercion and Abuse	Text Ch 16

Please take note of the following important dates:

- September 22, 2009: Last date for change in registration and for withdrawal from this course without withdrawal standing of "W" recorded on transcript.
- October 16, 2009: Last day for withdrawal with withdrawal standing of "W" recorded on a student's academic record
- December 8-22, 2009: Final Exam Period.

### **Course Policies:**

Please turn off pagers and cell phones during class.

### **Psychology Department's Policy on Grade Distributions and Scaling**

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70 for a good class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13). The corresponding figures for 100- and 200-level Psychology courses are 67, 65, and 63, with a standard deviation of 14. Scaling is likely to be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor or department.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism:**

There will be no tolerance for cheating on examinations or plagiarism on papers. A student caught cheating on an examination will automatically receive a score of zero on that test. Plagiarism is the use of another author's research, ideas, or language without proper credit. According to the UBC Calendar, plagiarism is "a form of academic misconduct in which an individual submits or presents the work of another person as his or her own." Plagiarism will result in a score of zero for the paper, and may result in suspension from the University for a specified time or indefinitely. Note that UBC now subscribes to a service called TurnItIn which will be used in this course, and is designed to scan papers for plagiarized material.

### **Research Participation:**

You may participate in research conducted in the UBC Department of Psychology and earn up to 2 credits (i.e., 2 percentage points) for this course. There may be an opportunity to participate as a volunteer in psychological research related to the course material. Such research may be conducted in the classroom or in the UBC Sexual Health Laboratory, located at Vancouver Hospital. You are completely free to choose whether or not you would like to participate. Information regarding research participation will be given throughout the course. This may be a fun and an interesting way to learn more about topics covered in the course.