



Psychobiology of Sexual Behavior

Psychology 119Y
328-513-200

Summer Session A
10:00 am – 12:05 pm Tue/
Thu **Franz Hall 1260**

Instructor: Jared Wong, Ph.D.
Office: Pritzker Hall 3524

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm, or by appointment
Course Website: <https://bruinlearn.ucla.edu/courses/134964>

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Office: Pritzker 5513
Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm, or by appointment

Course Description: Sexuality is integral to many aspects of our lives. It guides our courtship strategies, mate choices, and status-seeking behavior, and it fuels some of our most primal emotions such as love, lust, and jealousy. This course presents a broad overview of the scientific study of sexual behavior, with emphases on evolutionary, biological, psychological, as well as social considerations. Topics will include the historical antecedents of sex research, the evolution of sex, the influence of sex hormones on brain and behavior, sexual development, and the roles that genes and hormones appear to play on sexual orientation.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- appreciate the history of sex research as a field and its significance
- understand the evolution of sex and how it resulted in immense sexual diversity across species from an adaptive perspective
- understand the role of sex hormones in development and behavior
- better understand sexual development processes, including instances where such development may be atypical
- understand the social construct of gender and what science knows about sex differences with respect to gender

- understand what science currently knows about asexual and transgender identities
- understand what causes and mediates sexual attraction and arousal
- understand what science currently knows about the role that genes and hormones play on the development of sexual orientation

Textbook and Lectures: The textbook is **Human Sexuality (4th Edition)** by **Simon LeVay and Janice Baldwin**. Lectures will in some cases supplement and enhance the reading material, and for some topics will be the primary source of material. Previous editions are not encouraged, as assigned readings will be based off of the 4th edition.

This course is part of the UCLA Inclusive Access program. Your course materials are being automatically provided to you, digitally, through the course website (click on “UCLA Store Course Materials” on the left) before the first day of class or upon enrollment. The materials are being provided at a reduced and competitive price. You will receive e-mail from the UCLA Store (UCLA Store <no-reply>@verbasoftware.com) with program details and cost sent directly to your email address on file with the Registrar. It is ***your responsibility*** to read all communication coming from the bookstore. Please check your spam folder if you did not receive this email.

Everyone enrolled in this course is automatically a participant to start and will have access to the materials through 1st week of class. Those remaining in the program after 1st week will be billed for the materials directly to their BruinBill account and will continue to have access to the course materials. ***If you do not wish to participate in Inclusive Access, you must opt-out by the Friday of 1st week deadline or you will be billed.*** Those who opt-out will lose access to the digital materials starting week 2 and will be responsible for obtaining the materials on their own.

Do not pay for your materials through the publisher website unless you are opting out of Inclusive Access. All Inclusive Access course materials will be billed to your BruinBill account.

Any questions regarding the Inclusive Access program can be directed to inclusiveaccess@asucla.ucla.edu.

Exams and Grading: Grades will be based on study questions (****IMPORTANT: Please refer to the Study Questions Syllabus found under the “Study Questions” module on the course website for important details about the study questions!**), two noncumulative exams (Midterm and Final), and lecture attendance. Both exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions each. Questions will come from the both the assigned readings and lectures, so regular attendance is necessary. The various components will be weighted as follows:

Attendance	10%
Study questions	15%
Midterm	37.5%
Final	37.5%
Total:	100%

Lecture attendance will be worth 10% of your grade, and will be enforced in the following manner: At some point during each lecture, a quiz will be assigned (under “Attendance” on the course website), and it will only be open during that specific window of time. Each quiz will consist of only one random trivia question that will be graded by completion, not accuracy (i.e., correct answers are *not* required in order to earn attendance credit; only the attempt matters). Each of these quizzes will be password-protected, and each unique password will only be revealed when the quizzes are assigned in real-time. This ensures that attendance points can really only be earned through genuine attendance. If you are in attendance but are unable to complete any Attendance question on your mobile device or computer for some reason, please write your response on a small piece of paper and turn it in. However, it is understandable that life is far from perfect, and circumstances beyond your control could prevent attendance. For this reason, everyone will be given the allowance of missing **one** lecture without any penalty. If you have to miss more than one lecture due to extenuating circumstances (such as illness, hospitalization, death of an immediate family member, etc.), you can be excused if you provide documented proof (e.g., a doctor’s note, obituary notice, evidence of positive COVID-19 test results, etc.). **Proof is key.**

Grading will be straight scaled. This means that you and only you alone determine your grade. Grades will be earned and are **absolutely non-negotiable**. *Absolutely no attempts at grade-grubbing will be entertained!*

Grading Scale	
A+	97.0 – 100.0
A	93.0 – 96.9
A-	90.0 – 92.9
B+	87.0 – 89.9
B	83.0 – 86.9
B-	80.0 – 82.9
C+	77.0 – 79.9
C	73.0 – 76.9
C-	70.0 – 72.9
D+	67.0 – 69.9
D	63.0 – 66.9
D-	60.0 – 62.9
F	Below 60.0

However, in the event that less than 20% of the students earn A’s, a curve will be applied such that 20% of the class will earn A’s, 30% B’s, 40% C’s, and 10% D’s-F. I

will only curve upwards and never downwards. This means that a curve, if applied, could only help you if you are affected.

Policies on Exams: **Due to the tight schedule of the course, there will be no make-up exams** for either the midterm or the final.

You must be on time for exams. If you start the exams late, you will still be allowed to take the exams, but you will not be given any extra time. You cannot receive an Incomplete for missing an exam because of being too late.

Course-related Correspondance: You may email us with questions, but you are also encouraged to use the discussion board that is part of the course webpage. When posting a question in that forum, please clearly identify the subject of your question in the post title (e.g., "Question about kin selection"). The advantage of using the discussion board are: (a) Your fellow students can help in answering questions, thereby creating a virtual "study group", which is an extremely helpful collaborative learning technique; and (b) Someone may already have asked and answered your question previously, so you will not have to spend time waiting for a response. Thus, **before you post on the forum, look over the subjects of previous posts to make sure your question has not already been addressed in a previous post.**

Academic Dishonesty: There is absolutely, positively, **ZERO TOLERANCE** for cheating in this course. It is disrespectful to me, to your fellow classmates, and ultimately to yourself. If you cheat or plagiarize, you will immediately be referred to the Dean of Students and receive an F for the course. **There will be absolutely no exceptions.**

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings:

Week	Date/Day	Topic	Readings
1	6/21 (Tues)	Understanding sexuality: History of sex research; Emergence of feminism; Impact of biomedical research	Ch 1
	6/23 (Thurs)	Understanding sexuality: Obstacles in research & education; Evolution of sex: Basics; Why sexual reproduction?	Ch 1, Ch 2
2	6/28 (Tues)	Evolution of sex: Reproductive strategies (Anatomical & behavioral)	Ch 2
	6/30 (Thurs)	Evolution of sex: Diverse relationship styles; Kin selection; Nonreproductive sex	Ch 2
3	7/5 (Tues)	Sex hormones: Classes; Role of the pituitary gland; Sexual development: Basics; Atypical chromosomal configurations	Ch 5; Ch 6

	7/7 (Thurs)	Sexual development: Sexual dimorphism of the CNS; Activational/organizational effects	Ch 6
4	7/12 (Tues)	MIDTERM (Chapters 1, 2, & 5)	
	7/14 (Thurs)	Gender: Differences in cognitive, physical, & behavioral traits; Biological factors; Role of Life experiences; Trans identities	Ch 7
5	7/19 (Tues)	Sexual attraction & arousal: Characteristics influencing attractiveness; Cultural influences; Nonvisual indicators; Sexual attraction	Ch 7; Ch 8
	7/21 (Thurs)	Sexual attraction & arousal: Familiarity; Asexuality; Role of classical conditioning; Sexual Orientation: Spectrum; Historical explanations	Ch 8; Ch 14
6	7/26 (Tues)	Sexual Orientation: Homosexuality & bisexuality in nature; Biological & behavioral differences; Genetic & hormonal correlates *EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS DUE!*	Ch 14
	7/28 (Thurs)	FINAL (Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 14)	

Extra Credit (Optional): We understand that it can be frustrating when you find yourself just a point or two away from the next higher letter grade. For this reason, there will be opportunities to earn extra credit of up to a **maximum of 2 percentage points**. Here are the guidelines:

1. Find a **maximum of 2 journal articles** that are relevant to *any* topic that is covered in this course. These must be **peer-reviewed articles** from official and **credible scientific journals** (so no BuzzFeed or Cosmopolitan or Vogue articles, please) - the kind that you had to search for when you took Psychology 100B. Review articles from such journals are acceptable. Please search for relatively current articles (as opposed to, say, an article from the 1950s, the findings of which are most probably outdated).
2. For each article that you choose, write a **typed, double-spaced** summary of the article. Pretend that you're writing a textbook, and relay the information in a way that would be as if it appeared in a textbook. Be sure to include the research question, a summary of the procedures, the results, and the conclusions of the articles (E.g., A rough outline would be "The authors investigated _____. They did _____, and they found that _____. They concluded that _____.") Please keep each summary to a **MAXIMUM of 3 pages**.
3. Each article summary will be worth 1 percentage point. Content **will** be graded

- if it is clear that you didn't actually read/understand the article and your summary is basically a facsimile of the article's abstract, you will either earn 0.5% or 0% per article, depending on the degree of effort.

4. On each summary, please be sure to **include your full name and your student ID number** at the top. **Please submit your summary on the course website (link will be provided under "Week 6")**, and **email the full PDF(s) of the article(s)**. **Please do NOT upload the PDFs onto the course website**, or it will be flagged for plagiarism! *In your email, please be sure to include your full name so that we can match your PDF(s) with your summary!* **If you submit just your summary without the article (or vice-versa), it will count as non-submission.**

5. This is **entirely optional**. You can submit 2 article summaries, you can submit 1 article summary, or you can submit no article summaries. *There is no penalty for not submitting any article summaries.*

6. Due date is **Tuesday (Week 6). It is due by 11:59pm PDT**. We will **not** accept anything past 11:59 pm PDT.

7. If this very-strict deadline makes you anxious, **you can always turn it in early!** Might also be a great idea to do so, since you'll be able to get this out of the way to clear up time to prepare for all your other final exams.

8. Here are the crucial terms and conditions of this offer: The point of this extra credit offer is so that students can have an opportunity to lift themselves up a grade level if they are on the cusp to the next grade, or to make up for having missed an assignment deadline. But if you score, for example, 87.5%, and you earn 2% from this extra credit, and you end up with 89.5%, even though you are *then* close to 90%, **please do not email us, asking if you can be bumped up further** to an A-, because the extra credit bump has **already** been applied, and it only works once! Every student gets the same equal opportunity, and no student will get more than other students. **Remember that your original score was 87.5% to begin with** - not so close to 90%! Any "grade-grubbing" emails will be ignored as such.