

# Course Outline

PSYC1029

Psychobiology of Sex, Love and Attraction

School of Psychology

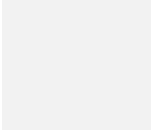
Faculty of Science

T2, 2022

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## 1. Staff

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No prior science or psychology knowledge is assumed; the content in this course is accessible to both science students and those in non-science programs.

## **2.2 Course aims**

This course aims to introduce students to the study of sex, love, and attraction in humans and other animals from a broad-based perspective including comparative, psychobiological, cross-cultural, and evolutionary approaches. Students will also learn self-regulated learning and scientific writing skills, providing them with a strong foundation of academic skills they can employ in their future studies.

## **2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)**

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Identify psychobiological and evolutionary concepts and principles and use them to explain issues and influences of sex, love, and attraction.
2. Appraise relevant literature and synthesise research findings to develop understanding of sex, love, attraction, and other theoretical issues.
3. Apply critical thinking skills and draw on empirical evidence from psychological science to examine physiological, behavioural, evolutionary, cognitive, and social factors involved in sex, love, and attraction.
4. Apply effective written communication skills to elaborate and advance scientific arguments.

**2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments**

| CLO | Program Learning Outcomes | Assessment |
|-----|---------------------------|------------|
|-----|---------------------------|------------|

## **3. Strategies and approaches to learning**

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### **3.1 Learning and teaching activities**

The lecture content of this course is presented entirely online. The format of the lectures will involve

Given that the course content and some assessable components are delivered online, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to a computer with a stable internet connection and a browser capable of handling the features of the Moodle eLearning website and any of its content.

The Moodle Course Q&A and Assessments forums should be the first line of contact with the Course Co-ordinator (meeting requests, personal or Equitable Learning Support matters can be sent by email in the first instance). Due to the online nature of the course, under no circumstances are specific exam/quiz questions/answers to be discussed online or via email, such matters can only be discussed during in person (via Teams, Zoom etc.) appointments with the Course Coordinator.

The final exam for this course will take place online during the UNSW examinations period. You are expected to be available during the entire exam period, including the Supplementary Exam Period. It is important that you do not make commitments during these periods, including travel, that will prevent you from sitting an exam or supplementary exam. The University exam timetable is determined centrally, and you can access your own exam timetables via myUNSW.

If you are registered with Equitable Learning Services, you must contact the course co-ordinator immediately if you intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. Letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

It is expected that you are aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if you are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure.

It is expected that you have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide and are aware of the UNSW Code of Conduct for students. In that regard, it is absolutely mandatory that all students in the course treat the staff, other students in the course, and the material in a respectful way. Offensive, rude, and/or disrespectful language/comments will not be tolerated.

## 4. Course schedule and structure

This typically consists of approximately 2 hours of online lecture material and 1-2 hours of online activities each week. In addition, students are expected to take an additional 6-7 hours of study to engage in self-determined study to complete assessments, readings, and exam preparation each week.

| Week                       | Lecture topic/s   | Online activities   | Virtual Classroom - Live Zoom consultation Wednesday 3pm (Sydney Time)                        | Self-determined activities |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b><br>30/5/2022 | <b>In the Beginning</b><br>Lecture 1.1: Introduction to course and to Evolutional Psychology<br>Lecture 1.2: Weird Sex<br>Lecture 1.3: Different Strokes for Different Folks: Mating Strategies | Course Information Quiz<br>Videos on mating strategies of kangaroos and praying mantis<br>Research and writing skills resources                 | Meet Kathryn Baker for an introduction to the course and Moodle page.                         | Exam prep                  |
| <b>Week 2</b><br>6/6/2022  | <b>It's a Man's World</b><br>Lecture 2.1: Is Bigger Better?<br>Lecture 2.2: Sperm Wars  | Online Discussion Question<br>Reading<br>Video on flatworm mating   | Meet Rick Richardson for a Q&A about Week 1&2 lecture material.                               | Exam prep                  |
| <b>Week 3</b><br>13/6/2022 | <b>It's a Woman's World</b><br>Lecture 3.1: Female Anatomy<br>Lecture 3.2: In Search of the Orgasm<br>Lecture 3.3: Are You Experienced: Learning and Sex  | Online Quiz for Weeks 1-3 material<br>Readings<br>Podcast   | Meet Kelsey Zimmermann for a Q&A about Week 3 lecture material.                               | Exam prep                  |
| <b>Week 4</b><br>20/6/2022 | <b>Attraction</b><br>Lecture 4.1: Simply Irresistible<br>Lecture 4.2: Chemical Romance  | Online Discussion Question<br>Readings<br>View Essay instructions, resources, and marking rubric<br>Library database search individual tutorial | Kathryn Baker will host a discussion of the essay topic and goal setting for this assignment. | Exam prep                  |

|                            |  |  |  |                             |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Week 5</b><br>27/6/2022 | <b>Desire for Variety</b><br>Lecture 5.1: The Spice of Life?<br>Lecture 5.2: Consequences of a Desire for Variety  | Online Discussion Question including podcast on Our Sexy Brain<br><br>Reading  | Open discussion about the essay topic and repeat goal setting if required. | Exam prep<br><br>Essay prep |
| <b>Week 6</b><br>4/7/2022  | <b>Flex week</b>   |  |  |                             |
| <b>Week 7</b><br>11/7/2022 | <b>Love</b><br>Lecture 6.1: A Crazy Little Thing called Love<br>Lecture 6.2: Love, Drugs, and the HPA Axis   | Online Quiz for Weeks 4-7 material<br><br>Readings<br><br>Podcast on Heartbreak and online activity<br><br>Critical thinking worksheet | Critical thinking worksheet relevant for essay research                    | Exam prep<br><br>Essay prep |
| <b>Week 8</b><br>18/7/2022 | <b>The Brain</b><br>Lecture 7.1: Sex on the Brain<br>Lecture 7.2: Sexual dimorphism<br>Lecture 7.3: Love on the Brain                                      | Online Discussion Question<br><br>Readings   | Open discussion  | Exam prep<br><br>Essay prep |
| <b>Week 9</b><br>25/7/2022 | <b>Age and Culture: Effects on Sex, Love, and Attraction</b><br>Lecture 8.1: Cross-cultural Impacts on Sex, Love, and Attraction<br>Lecture 8.2: Menopause | Online Discussion Question<br><br>Reading<br><br>Essay due Friday 11:59pm  | Open discussion  | Exam prep<br><br>Essay prep |
| <b>Week 10</b><br>1/8/2022 | <b>Parenting</b><br>Lecture 9.1: The Parental Bond<br>Lecture 9.2: Motherhood<br>Lecture 9.3: Fatherhood   | Online Quiz for Weeks 8-10 material<br><br>Readings  | Open discussion  | Exam prep                   |



## 5. Assessment

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### 5.1 Assessment tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

| Assessment task                                 | Length      | Weight              | Mark | Due date  |
|---|-------------|---------------------|------|---|
| <b>Assessment 1:</b> Group discussion questions | 5 questions | 10% (each worth 2%) | /20  | Fri 11:59pm in Weeks 2, 4, 5, 8.<br>Sun 11:59 PM in Week 9. |

**Assessment 4:** The final exam will be worth 50% of the total course mark. There will be 60 multiple choice questions drawn randomly from a larger pool. No two students will answer exactly the same questions. The examination will be 1 hour, and will assess lecture and reading material from Weeks 1-10. You will only be able to attempt the final exam once. Further details regarding the exact time and will be released on myUNSW as they become available.

**UNSW grading system:** <https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades>

**UNSW assessment policy:** <https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment>

an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information see <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

## 7. Readings and resources

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Textbook</b>                   | Nil  |
| <b>Course information</b>         | Available on Moodle  |
| <b>Required readings</b>          | <a href="#">School of Psychology Student Guide</a> .<br>Refer Section 4 of this outline/Moodle   |
| <b>Recommended internet sites</b> | <a href="#">UNSW Library</a><br><a href="#">UNSW Learning Centre</a><br><a href="#">ELISE</a><br><a href="#">Moodle System Requirements</a><br><a href="#">Turnitin</a><br><a href="#">Student Code of Conduct</a><br><a href="#">Policy concerning academic honesty</a><br><a href="#">Email policy</a><br><a href="#">UNSW Anti-racism policy</a><br><a href="#">UNSW Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy</a> |

## 8. Administrative matters

The [School of Psychology Student Guide](#) contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Equitable Learning Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide.

## 9. Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/>

