

GENS9007 – The Psychobiology of Sex, Love, and Attraction - 2012

Course Information

Lectures: Monday 10-11 (CLB8) and Wednesday 11-12 (CLB6)

Lectures will occur in Week 1 – 12

Tutorials: Monday 11-12 (Mat 307), Monday 12-1 (Mat 307), Wednesday 12-1 (Mat 306), Wednesday 1-2 (Mat 306)

Tutorials start in Week 2

Course co-ordinator: Professor Rick Richardson, Room 511 Mathews, 9385-1048, r.richardson@unsw.edu.au

Lecturers: Professor Rick Richardson (Weeks 1 – 9)

Dr Lisa Williams (Weeks 9 - 12); 1302a Mathews, 9385-1643, lwilliams@psy.unsw.edu.au

Tutors: Miri Den, level 14 Mathews, m.den@student.unsw.edu.au

Helen Nasser, level 14 Mathews, h.nasser@student.unsw.edu.au

This lecture-based course is an introduction to the study of sex, love, and attraction in humans and other animals. Although a broad-based perspective is taken throughout the course (using comparative, historical, and cross-cultural approaches), evolutionary interpretations are emphasised. The goal of the class is to increase our understanding of the powerful influences of sex, love, and attraction on our lives.

Few activities have as great an impact on our lives as do those related to sex, love, and attraction. Gaining a better understanding of these powerful influences is the main aim of this course.

By the end of this course, students should have a better understanding of evolutionary psychology. This will involve learning specific terms/concepts related to evolution and to psychology. Further, this greater awareness of the principles underlying evolutionary psychology should allow students to think about various issues related to sex, love, and attraction from a wider variety of perspectives.

Lectures will be recorded (via Lectopia), and lecture overheads will be available from the course Blackboard page. However, please note that no guarantees can be made about the reliability of the Lectopia recordings (i.e., sometimes the system may not work).

Assigned readings: You are required to read several non-specialist articles for this course. Each of these articles will be available from the course BlackBoard page, and you will be notified as to when they are available. Four papers that will be required reading are listed below (one or two additional papers may be assigned during the course).

1. Why Humans Have Sex. Meston & Buss.
2. Love: What is it, Why Does It Matter, and How Does It Operate? Reis & Aron
3. Strategies of human mating. Buss.
4. Evolutionary Psychology of Facial Attractiveness. Fink & Penton-Voak.

Assessment:

1. Exam 1 – This exam will consist of 20-25 multiple-choice questions, and will cover the material presented in lectures 1-6 (16 July- 1 August) and the assigned reading(s) for this part of the course. There may also be some questions from the material presented in the tutorials in weeks 2 and 3. **This exam will occur during the regularly scheduled lecture time on Monday 6 August, and is worth 19% of the final mark.** Marks will be available on the course web page (in MyGrades) by the end of week 5.

2. Exam 2 - This exam will consist of 20-25 multiple-choice questions, and will cover the material presented in lectures 7-13 (8 August – 29 August) and the assigned reading(s) for this part of the course. There may also be some questions on the material presented in tutorials in weeks 4-6. **This exam will occur during the regularly scheduled lecture time on Monday 10 September, and is worth 22% of the final mark.** Marks will be available on the course web page (in MyGrades) by the end of week 9.
3. Exam 3 - This exam will consist of 20-25 multiple-choice questions, and will cover the material presented in lectures 14-20 (12 September – 8 October), and the assigned reading(s) for this part of the course. **This exam will occur during the regularly scheduled lecture time on Wednesday 10 October, and is worth 19% of the final mark.**
4. Class activity - 30% of final mark. The class activity will be a group project presented in tutorials. Each group will be given a topic, and a hand-out describing how they can illustrate this topic to the rest of the class. **The class activities will occur during scheduled tutorial times during Weeks 7-10.** More details concerning the class activity are in the tutorial handout. Marks will be available by the end of Week 12.
5. Tutorial participation – 10% of final mark. These marks will be determined by active participation in the tutorials, especially the class presentations (i.e., your active, constructive participation in the presentations by the other groups).

You are expected to attend at least 80% of all tutorials. Failure to do so may result in your being denied final assessment. Further, you must complete all pieces of assessment to pass the course. If you are unable to attend any exam, then you must contact the Student office as soon as possible following the exam and lodge a special consideration form (with required documentation). You should also contact the course convenor so that alternative arrangements can be made. The special consideration form and further relevant details about this process (eg., time available to submit request, documentation required, etc) are available from <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html>.

Please note that the final marks for all subjects in the School of Psychology are scaled. This process is intended to maintain consistency in assessment, and to remove any potential effects of differences in marking standards across courses. However, in no case will a student receiving over 50% be scaled down to a failing mark.

Some lecture topics:

Weird Sex
 Is bigger better?
 Girls just want to have fun
 Variety: The Spice of life?
 Sex on the brain
 Addicted to love
 Love hurts
 Sex through the ages
 Simply Irresistible
 Make love not war
 Are you experienced: Learning and love
 Crazy little thing called love

Course evaluation and development: This course is constantly undergoing revision in response to student feedback. Therefore, constructive feedback on how the course might be improved is actively encouraged.

Equity and Diversity:

Those students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their teaching or learning environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to, or at the commencement of, their course, or with the Equity and Diversity Unit (9385 4734 or <http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au/>). Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.

Grievances: Any students with grievances about the course should first contact the course co-ordinator. If that isn't possible, however, then the Grievance Officer in the School of Psychology should be contacted (see information on the School's home page (<http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/>)).

Notes about Assessment:

- Students can attend an examination only once, either in the regularly scheduled or the deferred examination period. As students will not be permitted to attend both the regularly scheduled and deferred examinations, you should not attend the exam as originally scheduled if sick on that day. Instead, you should ensure that you obtain the appropriate medical certificate to support your case for taking the deferred medical exam. In such a case, a formal application for special consideration must be submitted online via myUNSW within three working days of the assessment to which it refers.
- A medical-deferred examination is offered only at one time (i.e., multiple times for the deferred exam cannot be set).
- Deferred and alternative assessment materials may be in a different format from the original (i.e. short answers instead of MC questions, oral examination instead of written examination etc). In addition, the original and deferred assessment materials may also differ in the specific content, although overall both will be sampled for the same relevant course material. These principles will apply to all assessments.
- Exams cannot be given prior to the scheduled date.

Additional information about assessment policies are described in the School of Psychology Student Guide (see below). You are responsible for being aware of these policies.

School of Psychology Student Guide

The School of Psychology Guide (available on the School of Psychology's homepage) contains further information about (a) expectations of students (including attendance at lectures and tutorials), (b) procedures for submission of assignments and the School's policy on late submissions, (c) examination procedures and advice concerning illness and misadventure, (d) student support services (including services for students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their teaching and learning environment), and (e) plagiarism (see also <http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/plag.html>).

UNSW Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- **Copying:** using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.
- **Inappropriate paraphrasing:** changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.
- **Collusion:** working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- **Duplication:** submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Where can I find out more information?

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism. The first place you can look is the section about referencing and plagiarism in each Course Guide, as this will also include information specific to the discipline the course is from. There are also other sources of assistance at UNSW:

- **How can the Learning Centre help me?**

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

- **How can Elise help me?**

ELISE (Enabling Library & Information Skills for Everyone) is an online tutorial to help you understand how to find and use information for your assignments or research. It will help you to search databases, identify good quality information and write assignments. It will also help you understand plagiarism and how to avoid it. All undergraduate students have to review the ELISE tutorial in their first semester and complete the quiz, but any student can review it to improve their knowledge: <http://elise.library.unsw.edu.au>.

- **What is Turnitin?**

Turnitin is a checking database which reviews your work and compares it to an international collection of books, journals, Internet pages and other student's assignments. The database checks referencing and whether you have copied something from another student, resource, or off the Internet. Sometimes students submit their work into Turnitin when they hand it in, but academics can also use it to check a student's work when they are marking it. You can find out more about Turnitin here: <http://telt.unsw.edu.au/turnitin>.

What if plagiarism is found in my work?

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student's work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in a honours thesis) even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here

www.unsw.edu.au/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf

Examples of plagiarism

Using the internet appropriately

A first year student handed in an assignment where she had copied from a website. Her lecturer realised she didn't understand you have to reference websites in the same way you reference books and journal articles. The lecturer explained how to reference and sent her to a workshop at the Learning Centre to help her improve her skills.

Working together on a math assignment

A group of Mathematics students worked together on an assignment when they had been told this was not allowed. All questions where the students had worked together were given zero, and this lead to some student failing the assessment.

No referencing in an assessment

A third year student submitted a major assessment that included material from a journal article published in Canada. When his essay was submitted into Turnitin, it let the academic know that the student didn't reference the material. The student was given zero for the essay, and because it was worth 50 per cent he failed the course.

Copying design work

A final year design student used images of someone else's designs in her work and he said the designs were his own. The matter was formally investigated by his Faculty and he was found to have committed academic misconduct and failed the course.

Further information and assistance

If you would like further information or assistance with avoiding plagiarism, you can contact the Learning Centre. The Learning Centre at The University of New South Wales has two locations:

UNSW Learning Centre

Lower Ground Floor, North Wing, Chancellery Building
(C22 Kensington Campus – near Student Central)

www.lc.unsw.edu.au

Phone: 9385 2060

Email: learningcentre@unsw.edu.au

Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 9am - 5pm and

Friday: 9am - 2.30pm

COFA Campus Learning Centre

Email: cofalearningcentre@unsw.edu.au

Phone: 9385 0739