



Course Outline

PSYC1029

Psychobiology of Sex, Love and Attraction

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T2, 2021

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1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor	Dr Kathryn Baker	k.baker@unsw.edu.au	Mon-Fri 10 am to 4 pm in person Mathews Bld or online by appointment. Available for drop-in consultation online 3-3:30 pm each Wednesday during term.	Email
Lecturers	Dr Kelsey Zimmermann Dr Kathryn Baker Professor Rick Richardson	k.zimmermann@unsw.edu.au k.baker@unsw.edu.au r.richardson@unsw.edu.au	Mon-Fri 10 am to 4 pm via email	Email

2. Course information

Units of credit:	6
Pre-requisite(s):	None
Teaching times and locations:	Online (see: PSYC1029 Timetable).

2.1 Course summary

What is love, why do we feel it, and what does it do to our body and brain? Many people believe that love is an ethereal force that engulfs the mind. Psychologists and biologists have a different view – that attraction and love are encoded by hormones and other chemicals activating brain systems of reward and connections with others. Yet, we all agree that sex, love, and attraction exert powerful effects on our lives by shaping our romantic partnerships, our desire to reproduce, and how we parent our offspring.

In this course you will be introduced 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. Along the way, you will learn about physiological, behavioural, cognitive, and social factors involved in sex, love, and attraction. An emphasis of the course is placed on evolutionary concepts and how these could be used to interpret sex, love, and attraction. This course will enable you to gain a better understanding of evolutionary psychology and apply principles from this discipline to examine various issues related to sex, love, and attraction such as relationships, sexual behaviour, social monogamy, paternity, parenting, and menopause.

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.

2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

4. Course schedule and structure

This typically consists of approximately 2 hours of online lecture material and 1-2 hour 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	Live Zoom consultation Wednesday 3pm (Sydney Time)	Self-determined activities
Week 1	In the Beginning	Course Information Quiz		
31/5/2021	Lecture 1.1: Introduction to course and to Evolutional Psychology Lecture 1.2: Weird Sex Lecture 1.3: Different Strokes for Different Folks: Mating Strategies	Videos on mating strategies of kangaroos and praying mantis Research and writing skills resources		

Week 6 5/7/2021	Flex week			
Week 7 12/7/2021	Love Lecture 6.1: A Crazy Little Thing called Love Lecture 6.2: Addicted to Love Lecture 6.3: Bad Love	Online Quiz for Weeks 4-7 material Readings Podcast on Heartbreak and online activity Critical thinking worksheet	Critical thinking worksheet relevant for essay research	Exam prep Essay prep
		Online Discussion Question Readings Podcast on Our Sexy Brain	Open discussion and repeat of critical thinking worksheet	Exam prep Essay prep
	Sex, Love, and Attraction pacts on Sex, Love, and Attraction	Online Discussion Question Reading Essay due Friday 11:59pm	Open discussion	Exam prep Essay prep

5. Assessment

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. Students 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.

We recommend that you refer to these [Moodle System Requirements](#) to ensure that your setup has sufficient speed/1e0.3 (as)-8 ()JFE (ur)-6.t012.3 (ed/1e0.3 (as)-8 ()JFE (u4 (t00124an 3 9.96 72gr)-18.4 (e t)0 Tc1.(l)-8.3

5.4. Feedback on assessment

Feedback on all pieces of assessment in this course will be provided in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment	When	Who	Where	How
Quizzes	Automated	Automated	Online	Online
Discussion questions	Within 10 working days of due date	Markers	Online	Online
Essay	Within 10 working days of due date	Markers	Online	Turnitin
Final exam	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

Recommended internet sites[UNSW Library](#)[UNSW Learning Centre](#)[ELISE](#)[Moodle System Requirements](#)[Turnitin](#)[Student Code of Conduct](#)[Policy concerning academic honesty](#)[Email policy](#)[UNSW Anti-racism policy](#)[UNSW Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy](#)