Psych 2810 Human Sexuality  
Fall 2009

Lecture: TuTh 3:30- 4:45  
Ellis Auditorium

Instructor: Melanie (Meli) Sheldon, PhD.  
sheldonm@missouri.edu (BEST WAY TO REACH ME)  
Office: 28 McAlester Hall  
Mailbox in 217 McAlester

Office Hours:  
Monday 11-12  
Tuesday 11-12  
or by email appointment M-F 11-4

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:


Course Description
The course catalogue (somewhat inaccurately) describes this course as follows:

**PSYCH 2810—Human Sexuality (3).** Survey of research on sexual behavior including sex norms, gender identity, sexual dysfunctions, sexual deviation, homosexuality, and legal aspects of sexual behavior.  
Prerequisite: PSYCH 1000

Course Objectives  
My course is designed as a broad survey of human sexuality. As a psychology course, the emphasis is on the subjective experience of sexuality, but will include an overview of the sexual biology of men and women. Topics include evolution of sexuality, cross-species comparisons, gender, sexual orientation, attraction and desire, romantic relationships, normative behaviors, non-normative behaviors, cultural variation, and sexual violence. (Doesn't that sound more interesting than the one in the catalogue?)  

When you complete this course you should have an introduction to the important topics and findings in the contemporary psychological research on human sexuality. In addition, you should feel informed about general sexual issues that you may encounter in your own life.
**WARNING! Sensitive & Challenging Content**

Most people are sensitive about sexual topics. In addition, and depending on your background, the content of this course may challenge assumptions or even deep convictions that you hold about a number of issues, including gender, sexual behavior, and sexual orientation. As a result, you may find that your participation in this class makes you uncomfortable on occasion. Ironically, even students who consider their views liberal, informed, and open may feel quite uncomfortable because they least expect to have their views challenged.

You will be exposed to sexually explicit materials in this course. Also, you will need to learn material that is inconsistent with the Bible as inerrant (note: you do not have to believe the material, but you will have to learn it to pass the tests). If you foresee yourself being offended by either explicit materials or perspectives inconsistent with your worldview, you should strongly reconsider whether or not this is a suitable class for you.

Be respectful of diverse opinions and perspectives that you encounter. With such a large class, it is certain that we will not all be on the same page with certain issues - especially those that challenge our moral, ethical, and/or spiritual backgrounds. Feel free to share your opinions and perspectives and be respectful when others share their own as well.

The University has some strict guidelines about discrimination and academic dishonesty. For your convenience, I have posted these on the Blackboard website. If you feel that you have been exposed to discriminatory or unfair practices and/or insensitivity to cultural issues in this or any other setting affiliated with MU, you have the right to have your concerns addressed. Please, please, please, let me know (email is best to start) if you have been stigmatized or disrespected by either something I said or by another student in this class. If you feel that someone other than me should hear your concerns, you will find a list of pertinent University contacts on the BB website (under Policies).

*Also Please...*

The large number of students in this class *forces* us to be considerate of each other. We aren’t always aware that we may be bothering others with our technology or our grooming, but please try to be considerate of the students around you.

**Course Structure, Grading, & Assignments**

**Exams.** Because the only feasible way to assign grades in this class is using mechanically graded tests, the bulk of the points earned in this class will be via *multiple-choice tests*. Three test scores are required, and each test will be worth 100 points. All three tests will be scheduled during a class session, and will be predominantly scan format multiple choice exams (see syllabus). Many students report that my tests are difficult. They cover both lecture and text material; Lectures will not be duplications of material in the text – sometimes I will lecture on text material, but in general, lectures are ADDITIONAL material. *(Note: You are responsible for learning the chapters in the text via reading, discussions with other students, and interaction with the text website.)*

**NO EXAM MAKE-UPS, NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Note: If you are attending a university-sponsored event during a test (e.g., you are playing in a tournament out of state), ask me about arrangements to have the test proctored for you off-site. I must have at least 2 weeks’ notice and you must take the test at the time it is given in class.

Missed a test? README: I do not have alternate versions of my tests. Any student who is unable to take the test during the scheduled time will have to make up the missing test score during the final time. THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE. THE MAKE-UP EXAM WILL BE CUMULATIVE OVER THE COURSE MATERIAL. Missing more than one exam pretty much guarantees that you will do poorly in the course. I will not change exam dates – make sure you can make them!!! You MAY take all four tests, and then your lowest score will be dropped.
Lecture Quizzes/Responses. FS09 has 29 scheduled class meetings. One lecture is an intro, and six are set aside for review and tests. An additional three occur during the Distinguished Lecture Series, and those lectures are recommended in lieu of class. This leaves 19 lectures. To reward regular attendance, I will at random assign either a lecture response (not graded for accuracy) or a quiz during the lectures. Lecture responses/quizzes are included in your grade and count (in total) as much as an exam (100 points). Responses/Quizzes will be worth 10 points each. Incomplete responses will be awarded fewer points. Incorrect answers on quizzes earn you fewer points. Only 100 points (10 perfect scores) are needed for 100%. I will give out at LEAST 10 unannounced responses/quizzes. In addition, you may attend a Distinguished Lecture and write a one-page lecture response to earn your 10 points. All the points you earn will count toward your grade, so you may earn up to ~130 points for lecture attendance. Before the first Distinguished lecture on Sept 10, a lecture response instruction page will appear on Blackboard, and I will call your attention to it during class. Please note: THE FUNCTION OF LECTURE POINTS IS TO REWARD ATTENDANCE.

NO Lecture/quiz MAKE-UPS, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Please monitor your lecture/quiz points in Blackboard and email the TA right away if you are missing points — your paper/quiz may have gotten overlooked or your name may not have been legible. The longer you wait, the more likely your paper will never be found... by the end of the semester, the TA will have roughly 250 X 13 = 3250 papers.

Research Participation. Similar to Introductory Psychology, you are required to either participate in the Sexuality Research opportunities, in an alternative project, or to prepare an APA format paper on sexuality research. The Research participation includes several online and in-class surveys that you must complete during the weeks they are open. Links to online surveys will be emailed as well as posted on the BB course site, and each survey will be worth 5-30 points, depending on the length. If you earn 100 points you will get full credit for the research participation; it may be possible to earn extra credit depending on the number of researchers in the department who are conducting sexuality research in any given semester. If you wish to write the paper, see me (Dr. Sheldon) for details. If you wish to discuss a creative alternative project, and you have a proposal, set up an appointment to tell me about it. Alternative research participation opportunities will be available at the end of the semester, and details will be posted on Blackboard.

Grade.
You will earn points as follows:

3 Class content Exams @ 100 points each = 300
10 Lecture responses/quizzes @ 10 points each = 100
Research participation = 100
Total = 500 points

Your grade will converted to a percentage of 500 points, and then to a letter grade using the University default percentages (e.g., 90.00% is the A-/B+ cutoff). Thus, if you earn 450 points, you will have a 90.00%, which is an A-.

Personal Issues

Grading issues: At least some of you are going to have traumatic semesters. Out of 250 enrolled students, something unexpected will happen to several of you. Several students will lose a parent, uncle, or grandparent this semester. Also, some students will either become very ill or learn that they have a debilitating illness. Many automobile incidents will occur, and some of you may even be hospitalized as a
result. The flu always takes a toll. Backpacks containing texts and computers get stolen. Every one of these events happens to several students every semester that I teach (and those are just the things I hear about).

**SO READ THIS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU ASK ME ABOUT MAKE-UPS:**

I do not have alternate versions of quizzes and tests, and responses to lecture require you to be in lecture. Also, the TA is too busy to provide make-up opportunities for you. Therefore, you cannot make up a missed test, quiz, or lecture response. No exceptions. Zero, Zip, Nada. You CANNOT write a paper for lecture or test points, because we are too busy to read make-papers and fairly assess points. There is no way to make this fair; life is unfair. No lecture make-ups, no test make-ups.

**Non-grading Issues:** If a topic comes up in class that makes you think you may need some guidance, advice, or a medical opinion, what should you do? Your first impulse might be to contact me about it. This might be appropriate if you need more information about a topic we discussed. But, you should bear in mind that I am not a clinical psychologist or physician, and I have no training in therapy, medicine, sexual dysfunction, or relationship counseling. In other words, I can teach you the research about the topic, but I don’t have any training for helping you with a problem.

There are excellent campus resources available to you as a student. A place to start would be to contact any of the organizations below and tell them that you have some concerns based on material you learned in your Human Sexuality class; they will arrange to have someone answer your questions. Here are places to contact:

Student Health Center 882 – 7481 (Any physical or mental health concern) [http://studenthealth.missouri.edu/](http://studenthealth.missouri.edu/)

LGBT Resource Center 884 - 7750 (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender advocacy, support, and education) [http://web.missouri.edu/~umcstudentlifelgbt/](http://web.missouri.edu/~umcstudentlifelgbt/)

Rape Education Office 882 - 6638 (Information about sexual violence) [http://studentlife.missouri.edu/women/services.php](http://studentlife.missouri.edu/women/services.php)

Women’s Center 882 – 6621 (Counseling and Crisis Intervention, Referrals) [http://studentlife.missouri.edu/women/](http://studentlife.missouri.edu/women/)

**PLEASE NOTE**

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and does not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. In addition, equal treatment and opportunity shall be provided to all regardless of sexual orientation. Exposure to discrimination and/or insensitivity to cultural issues impairs the University's goals of facilitating the transmission of knowledge, pursuit of truth, and the development of students. If you feel that you have been exposed to discriminatory practices and/or insensitivity to cultural issues in this or any other setting affiliated with MU, you have the right to have your concerns addressed. **One way to begin addressing these concerns would be to meet with me privately after class or outside of class during office hours or by appointment.** Alternatively, you may want to speak to the Vice Provost for Minority Affairs, International Programs, and Faculty Development (MAIPFD). Office: 211 Jesse Hall; phone: 882-9061; email: mafd@missouri.edu). In addition, the Vice Provost can assist students with filing of informal/formal complaints and grievances. For more information about the rights of students who experience discriminatory practices and/or insensitivity to cultural issues, please see:

- [http://www.missouri.edu/~mafdwww/](http://www.missouri.edu/~mafdwww/) (Office of the Vice Provost, MAIPFD)
- [http://web.missouri.edu/~mbookwww/NoticeofNondiscrimination.html](http://web.missouri.edu/~mbookwww/NoticeofNondiscrimination.html)

Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this class should first address concerns to me, or to Dr. Alan Strathman, the director of undergraduate studies in Psychology ([strathmana@missouri.edu](mailto:strathmana@missouri.edu)). Concerns may also be directed to either the Departmental Chair or Divisional leader or Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities ([http://osrs.missouri.edu/](http://osrs.missouri.edu/)). All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation at the end of the course.

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately.
Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about the integrity of the grades assigned in this course (i.e., you have knowledge of any form of cheating), please contact me.
## Tentative Schedule of Topics for Human Sexuality (8/09)

**Date of Class** | **Chapter in LeVay & Valente** | **Topic/Content**
---|---|---
Aug 25 | Introduction |  
Aug 27 | Chapter 1 | What is sex? Who should teach sex?  
Sept 1 |  | Missouri Sex Laws and Sexual rights  
Sept 3 | Chapter 2 | Attraction – evolutionary perspectives  
Sept 8 | Chapter 8a | Human Mating Context and attraction  
Sept 10 | **Phillip R. Shaver**  
**UC Davis** | **Distinguished Lecture**: “Close Relationships Conceptualized in Terms of Attachment, Caregiving, and Sex” |  
Sept 15 | Chapter 3 | Female Anatomy  
Sept 17 | Chapter 4 | Male Anatomy  
Sept 22 | | Review  
Sept 24 | | Exam 1  
*Note: Sept 28 is last day to Drop*

## Section 2. Reproduction and Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Ensoelment/personhood (film)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Contraception</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pregnancy, Childbirth &amp; Lactation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fetal Gender Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>13 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Childhood sexual development/Gender Identity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>8b</td>
<td>Sexual Orientation (after p. 225)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Boy who was Raised as a Girl (film)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Oct 22 | **Martie G. Haselton**  
**UCLA** | **Distinguished Lecture**: The hidden side of female desire |  
| Oct 27 | | Review |  
| Oct 29 | | Exam 2 |  

## Section 3. Romance and sexual issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Biology of Love &amp; The Three Love Mechanisms (before p. 128, no boxes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Love Styles &amp; Love research (p. 301 -307) guest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sex Motives &amp; Normative Sexual behavior</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Nov 12 | **David C. Geary**  
**MU** | **Distinguished Lecture**: Evolution and cultural expression of sex differences |  
| Nov 17 | 13 / 15 | Lifespan romantic development and Atypical Sexuality* |  
| Nov 19 | 11 | STI’s and safe sex (Heather Eastman-Mueller)  
Thanksgiving Recess |  
| Dec 1 | 18 | Sexual Violence |  
| Dec 3 | | Recap on data collections/Review |  
| Dec 8 | | Exam 3 |  
| Dec 17 | Cumulative | Make-up Exam 10:30-12:30 |  

*Note: Thanksgiving Recess*

**Dec 17**: Cumulative  
**Make-up Exam**: 10:30-12:30
Syllabus Revisions:

The Department of Psychological Sciences is hosting a Distinguished Lecture Series on Love, Sex and Close Relationships that will be held during class time (3 of our Thursdays during the semester). These renowned scholars from around the country will journey to MU to share their research. I have combined lectures to make room for these talks in our schedule.

As a result, I will give only 11 response/quiz opportunities in the remaining 20 scheduled lectures. You can “make-up” a missed lecture response by attending a Distinguished Lecture and writing a one-page reaction paper to the talk (see BB for format instructions).

If you never miss a Tuesday or Thursday all semester, you can earn up to 140 points (out of 100) toward your grade!

Department of Psychological Sciences 2009-2010 Distinguished Lecture Series
Love, Sex and Close Relationships
3:30pm in Jesse Wrench Auditorium

September 10, 2009  Phillip R. Shaver, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, University of California Davis
“Close Relationships Conceptualized in Terms of Attachment, Caregiving, and Sex”

October 22, 2009  Martie G. Haselton, Associate Professor of Psychology, University of California Los Angeles
“The hidden side of female desire”

November 12, 2009  David C. Geary, Curators’ and Thomas Jefferson Professor of Psychological Sciences, University of Missouri Columbia
“Evolution and cultural expression of sex differences”