



## UNSW Course Outline

# PSYC1029 Psychobiology of Sex, Love and Attraction - 2023

Course Code : PSYC1029  
Year : 2023  
Term : Term 3  
Teaching Period : T3  
Delivery Mode : Online  
Delivery Format : Standard  
Delivery Location : Kensington

## General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC1029  
Year : 2023  
Term : Term 3  
Teaching Period : T3  
Is a multi-term course? : No  
Faculty : Faculty of Science  
Academic Unit : School of Psychology  
Delivery Mode : Online  
Delivery Format : Standard  
Delivery Location : Kensington  
Campus : Sydney  
Study Level : Undergraduate  
Units of Credit : 6

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

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.

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.

## 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.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Identify psychobiological and evolutionary concepts and principles and use them to explain issues and influences of sex, love, and attraction.
CL02 : Appraise relevant literature and synthesise research findings to develop understanding of sex, love, attraction, and other theoretical issues.
CL03 : 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.
CL04 : Apply effective written communication skills to elaborate and advance scientific arguments.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Identify psychobiological and evolutionary concepts and principles and use them to explain issues and influences of sex, love, and attraction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quizzes</li> <li>• Final exam</li> <li>• Essay</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> </ul>

	questions
CLO2 : Appraise relevant literature and synthesise research findings to develop understanding of sex, love, attraction, and other theoretical issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quizzes</li> <li>• Final exam</li> <li>• Essay</li> </ul>
CLO3 : 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group discussion questions</li> <li>• Quizzes</li> <li>• Final exam</li> <li>• Essay</li> </ul>
CLO4 : Apply effective written communication skills to elaborate and advance scientific arguments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group discussion questions</li> <li>• Essay</li> </ul>

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Zoom

## Additional Course Information

**Psychology Student Guide:** 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

## Assessments

### Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Quizzes Assessment Format Individual	12%	

Final exam Assessment FormatIndividual	50%	Start DateNot Applicable Due DateNot Applicable
Essay Assessment FormatIndividual	28%	Due Date10/11/2023 11:59 PM Post Date24/11/2023 11:30 PM
Group discussion questions Assessment FormatIndividual	10%	Start DateNot Applicable

## Assessment Details

### Quizzes

#### Assessment Overview

The quizzes will cover all course content that is identified as being assessable content from each week, including lectures and assessable readings/other activities. Each quiz will consist of 12 multiple-choice questions, covering material from three weeks of the course. Quiz 1 will cover material from Weeks 1-3. Quiz 2 will cover material from Weeks 4-7. Quiz 3 covers material from Weeks 8-10. The quizzes are worth a cumulative 12% of the total course mark. The quizzes will be made available to you by 9 AM on the Monday of Week 3, Week 7, and Week 10, and will need to be completed by 11:59 PM on Friday in those weeks.

### Final exam

#### Assessment Overview

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.

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

### Essay

#### Assessment Overview

A written assignment (750-1000 words) in essay format will be required for submission in Week 9. You are required to produce a written piece of work, with appropriate supporting references, that will be submitted online via Turnitin. The full instructions for this assignment will not be released until Week 4, but you will be required to identify and analyse physiological, behavioural, evolutionary, cognitive, and/or social factors relating to a topic/issue/question relevant to the course material. From this, you will then need to draw on relevant evolutionary/psychological concepts and principles to discuss the significance of the topic/issue and its influences on our lives. The essay will be worth 28% of the total course mark. Brief researching and writing skills resources will be made available to provide further help to you on how to approach this essay.

#### Assessment Length

750-1000 words

#### Submission notes

One submission per student. Submissions final.

### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

## Group discussion questions

### Assessment Overview

The group discussion questions will involve a question/topic that you will need to comment on in the group discussion forum. Each student will be allocated to a group of ~10 students for this activity. The question/topic will be released by 9 AM on Monday of Weeks 2, 4, 5, and 8. The comment must be submitted in the forum by 11:59 PM on Friday in Weeks 2, 4, 5 and 8 to avoid late penalties. Each comment will be marked out of 20 possible points and will be worth 2.5% of the total course mark. Full credit will be awarded providing the comment demonstrates that the student has engaged with the material in a thoughtful, meaningful, and original way

### Assessment Length

recommended 180-400 words per post

### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

## General Assessment Information

**Special Consideration:** Students who experience circumstances outside of their control that prevent them from completing an assessment task by the assigned due date due can apply for Special Consideration. Special Consideration applications should include a medical certificate or other documentation and be submitted via myUNSW within 3 days of the sitting/due date.

**Important note:** UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address and advised of the official outcome. If the special consideration application is approved, you may be given an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information about special consideration, please visit: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

**Alternative assessments:** will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure and Psychology Student Guide.

**Supplementary examinations:** will be made available for students with approved special

consideration application and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy and Psychology Student Guide.

All course assessments have been designed and implemented in accordance with [UNSW Assessment Policy](#).

The APA (7<sup>th</sup> edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately.

### Grading Basis

Standard

## Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 0 : 4 September - 8 September	Other	<i>Explore Moodle page, course outline, welcome information, and Week 1 material</i>
Week 1 : 11 September - 15 September	Lecture	<p><b>In the Beginning</b></p> <p>Lecture 1: Introduction to Course and Evolutionary Psychology</p> <p>Lecture 2: Weird Sex</p> <p>Lecture 3 Different Strokes for Different Folks: Mating Strategies</p>
	Online Activity	<p><i>Complete Course Information Quiz</i></p> <p><i>Watch Videos on mating strategies of kangaroos and praying mantis</i></p>
	Other	<i>Meet the instructor in an online Zoom session for an intro to the course and a discussion of Week 1 material (time TBA)</i>
Week 2 : 18 September - 22 September	Lecture	<p><b>It's a Man's World</b></p> <p>Lecture 1: Is Bigger Better?</p> <p>Lecture 2: Sperm Wars</p>

	Online Activity	<p><i>First Discussion Forum (MARKED)</i></p> <p><i>Reading</i></p> <p><i>Video on flatworm mating</i></p>
	Other	<i>Zoom discussion of Week 2 content</i>
Week 3 : 25 September - 29 September	Lecture	<p><b>It's a Woman's World</b></p> <p>Lecture 1: Anatomy</p> <p>Lecture 2: The Female Orgasm</p> <p>Lecture 3: Are You Experienced?</p>
	Online Activity	<p><i>Online Quiz for Weeks 1-3 material (MARKED)</i></p> <p><i>Readings</i></p> <p><i>Podcast</i></p>
	Other	<i>Zoom discussion of Week 3 content</i>
Week 4 : 2 October - 6 October	Lecture	<p><b>Attraction</b></p> <p>Lecture 1: Simply Irresistible</p> <p>Lecture 2: Chemical Romance</p>
	Online Activity	<p><i>Second Discussion Forum (MARKED)</i></p> <p><i>Readings</i></p> <p><i>View Essay instructions, resources, and marking rubric</i></p>
	Other	<p><i>Zoom discussion of Week 4 content</i></p> <p><i>Essay topic released</i></p>

Week 5 : 9 October - 13 October	Lecture	<b>Desire for Variety</b>  Lecture 1: The Spice of Life  Lecture 2: Consequences of a Desire for Variety
	Online Activity	<i>Third Discussion Forum (MARKED)</i>  <i>Reading</i>
	Other	<i>Zoom discussion of Week 5 content</i>
Week 6 : 16 October - 20 October	Lecture	FREE (Flex Week)
	Online Activity	NOTHING
	Other	SLEEP
Week 7 : 23 October - 27 October	Lecture	<b>Love</b>  Lecture 1: A Crazy Little Thing  Lecture 2: Love, Drugs, and the HPA Axis
	Online Activity	<i>Online Quiz for Weeks 4-7 material (MARKED)</i>  <i>Readings</i>
	Other	<i>Zoom discussion of Week 7 content</i>
Week 8 : 30 October - 3 November	Lecture	<b>The Brain</b>  Lecture 1: Sex on the Brain  Lecture 2: Sexual Dimorphism  Lecture 3: Love on the Brain



	Online Activity	<i>Final Discussion Forum (MARKED)</i>  <i>Readings</i>
	Other	<i>Zoom discussion of Week 8 content</i>
Week 9 : 6 November - 10 November	Lecture	<b>Age and Culture</b>  Lecture 1: Cross-Cultural Impacts  Lecture 2: Menopause
	Online Activity	<i>Submit Essay by Friday 11:59pm (MARKED)</i>  <i>Reading</i>
	Other	<i>Zoom discussion of Week 9 content</i>
Week 10 : 13 November - 17 November	Lecture	<b>Parenting</b>  Lecture 1: Parental Bond  Lecture 2: Motherhood  Lecture 3: Fatherhood
	Online Activity	<i>Online Quiz for Weeks 8-10 material (MARKED)</i>  <i>Readings</i>
	Other	<i>Final Zoom Discussion (including Q&amp;A about final exam)</i>

## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## General Schedule Information

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.

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Kelsey Zimmermann	<a href="mailto:k.zimmermann@unsw.edu.au">k.zimmermann@unsw.edu.au</a>				No	Yes

## Other Useful Information

### Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

### Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

**Referencing** is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>

**Academic integrity** is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage. At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity, plagiarism and the use of AI in assessments can be located at:

- The [Current Students site](#),
- The [ELISE training site](#), and
- The [Use of AI for assessments](#) site.

The Student Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

### Penalty for Late Submissions

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

***Any variations to the above will be explicitly stated in the Course Outline for a given course or assessment task.***

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

### Special Consideration

If circumstances prevent you from attending/completing an assessment task, you must officially apply for special consideration, usually within 3 days of the sitting date/due date. You can apply by logging onto myUNSW and following the link in the My Student Profile Tab. Medical documentation or other documentation explaining your absence must be submitted with your application. Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address to be advised of the official outcome and any actions that need to be taken from there. For more information about special consideration, please visit: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

**Important note:** UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

## Faculty-specific Information

### Additional support for students

- [The Current Students Gateway](#)
- [Student Support](#)
- [Academic Skills and Support](#)
- [Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety](#)
- [Equitable Learning Services](#)
- [UNSW IT Service Centre](#)
- Science EDI Student [Initiatives](#), [Offerings](#) and [Guidelines](#)