Course Description:

Gendered sexuality is consistently discussed in sex research. The intersection of gender and sexuality, however, is a controversial place. Some theorists argue that gendered sexuality is a social construction, that is they reflect our culture more so than constitutional differences; others look to our evolutionary roots and biology as sources of the many divergences observed between women’s and men’s sexuality. In this course, we will explore the foundations of gendered sexuality and examine how these factors manifest in important aspects of women’s and men’s sexual lives. The course will begin with an overview of the major theoretical positions on gendered sexuality and, in the weeks that follow, we will examine the evidence for and against gendered sexuality in several aspects of sexual psychology from these positions.

Course Format:

This course is designed to resemble a master’s level seminar course in that participation in presentations and discussions is mandatory. The balance between lecture/presentations and discussion will be about 30/70. Students are expected to come to every class and to actively participate. This course is also designed so that the concepts introduced earlier in the course will be revisited as new concepts and empirical results are presented in subsequent classes. In this way, we can build an understanding of the complex issues surrounding sexuality and gender.

Course Website:

Course materials, including syllabi, reference list of course readings, assignment information, and grades will be provided via Moodle for Psyc436.

To log in, go to: https://moodle.queensu.ca/
Course Requirements:

1. Readings. All readings for the course will consist of journal articles, review articles or book chapters, with an emphasis on the most comprehensive and up-to-date knowledge available. Please see the course Reference List (below) for a complete list of references for the readings.

Because of changes to Queen’s Access copyright license (regarding distribution of electronic or paper copies of published works in educational settings), students cannot be provided with pdf copies of articles by the professor. Citations of all articles are provided in the Reference List and can be downloaded from the internet via www.scholar.google.ca. A demonstration of this will be provided in the first day of class. Some works not easily available via the internet, such as book chapters, will be placed on reserve in the Library.

All students are required to read all the research articles/review chapters assigned for each class to facilitate the discussions that follow the presentations.

2. Attendance and participation. The success of this class rests on the active participation of all the students. Attendance will be taken and students are required to notify Dr. Chivers, in advance, if they will be absent. Students who are absent without notification or reason will receive a grade of 0 for discussion that day. Students who provide notification will not be graded for that class. During class, each student is expected to contribute to the discussion and participation will be graded.

3. Discussion questions. For every topic, students will submit a discussion question on the week’s readings to me by no later than 7pm on the day before the class that a discussion question is due. Discussion questions will be compiled and distributed to the class via Moodle. See Grading Details for the discussion questions grading scheme & the course calendar below for deadlines. Dates for which discussion questions are required are indicated with an asterisk in the course schedule (see below). Late submissions will receive a 0. Grade will be an average of the top 10/12 submissions.

4. Oral presentation & discussion. Starting in the third week, a group of two/three students will give a presentation on the week’s theme, covering three research articles and integrating the research with the weekly readings. Presentations will be 35 minutes long (10 minutes for each article, 5 minutes for a common introduction/discussion). After the presentation, the presenters will prepare three discussion questions each and moderate a 15 minute discussion on the topic. The presenters are required to integrate their articles with the week’s readings and stimulate discussion on the topic, so think of ending your presentation with big picture questions. Students will be randomly assigned to a paper and the schedule will be finalized in the second class. Groups are encouraged to submit a presentation outline to Dr. Chivers for feedback at least one week prior to the date of their presentation. See Oral Presentation Grading Key below for grading scheme.
5. **Final Project.** You will submit an original proposal for research on any aspect of gendered sexuality (see Research Proposal Guidelines and Grading Key below). Students must submit a proposal outline by Feb 15th. This will not be graded, but feedback will be provided to students to guide them in developing their research question and focusing on methods to test their hypotheses. The page limit for this project is 10-12 without references or appendices.

**Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation &amp; discussion</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion questions</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Deadlines:**

- **Discussion questions:** By 7pm the evening before class. Dates marked with an asterisk on the course schedule indicate days where you are required to submit a question.
- **Presentation outline:** One week before presentation (optional but recommended).
- **Final project outline:** Feb 14th, 2014, 4pm.
- **Final Project due:** April 4th, 2014, 4pm.

**Late submissions lose 10% per day late, with exceptions for compassionate reasons supported by documentation. Presenters MUST be in class on the scheduled date. PLEASE SUBMIT ONLY ELECTRONIC COPIES OF ALL ASSIGNMENTS.** When you email your discussion question or assignment to me, be sure to request a delivery and read receipt. You will receive notification when I open the email.

**Class structure:**

- **Lecture classes:**
  - Orientation to topic: 45 min
  - General discussion or guest speaker: 30 min

- **Presentations:**
  - Student presentation & discussion: 50 min
  - General discussion or guest speaker: 30 min
Copyright information:

All course materials including the material posted to the course website is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in Sexuality & Gender, Psyc436. The material on this website may be downloaded for a registered student’s personal use, but shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in Sexuality & Gender, Psyc436. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate’s Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

Academic integrity:

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 http://www.queensu.ca/artssci/academic-calendars/2011-2012-calendar/academic-regulations/regulation-1), on the Arts and Science website (see see http://www.queensu.ca/artssci/academics/undergraduate/academic-integrity), and from the instructor of this course.

Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Disability Accommodations Statement

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (DSO) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the DSO website at: http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/.
Grading scheme:

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen’s Official Grade Conversion Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Course Average (Range)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>49 and below</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grading Details

**Discussion Questions:** 20% of final grade. Questions must be 100 words or less. Questions over 100 words will not be graded and will receive a grade of 0.

Students will submit 12 questions over course; see Deadlines for details. Questions are marked out of a possible 10 marks. Total marks possible are 100. The highest 10/12 discussion question grades will be averaged.

**Grading key:**

0 = no question submitted

2 = Question demonstrates poor understanding of the article(s).

4 = Question demonstrates limited understanding of the article(s) and reacts to the material; does not attempt critical thinking, integration with course material and/or to examine material from different theoretical viewpoints.
6 = Question demonstrates good grasp of the article(s) and reflects issues/topics limited to the paper in question without an attempt at critical thinking, integration with course material and/or to examine material from different theoretical viewpoints.

8 = Question demonstrates good grasp of the reading and shows a good attempt at a “big picture” perspective, critical thinking, integration with previous course material and/or to examine material from different theoretical viewpoints.

10 = Question demonstrates excellent grasp of the reading and excellent evidence of critical thinking, attempts to link current to past readings, constructive criticism of research design with evidence of considering how different theoretical perspectives would inform a different/better research design, etc.

**Participation in Discussion:** 20% of final grade

Students are expected to come to class prepared to engage in discussion. During discussions, I will make note of who is speaking and the quality of their contributions. Students who find it difficult to engage with class discussion are welcome to prepare comments in advance, or to make a point of raising and elaborating upon their submitted discussion question.

Students are strongly discouraged from drawing from personal experience or providing anecdotal evidence when discussing research topics. Grades for participation are arrived at through relative scores.

**Oral Presentation Grading Key:** 30% of final grade

**A. Clarity/organization of power point presentation: (/4)**
1. Not clear at all; very poor organization
2. Inadequate clarity (dense slides, bad links, missing or too much info, distracting graphics/animation)
3. Clear enough; reflected the organization of the original article
4. Excellent use of power point; professional quality of presentation

**B. Clarity of oral presentation: (/4)**
1. Not clear at all; very poor oration
2. Inadequate clarity (speaking too fast, lack of balance with slides)
3. Clear enough; audience understood
4. Excellent oration (dynamic, well timed, engaging)

**C. Presentation of data and results: (/4)**
1. Data and results not comprehensible as presented
2. Poor presentation (not explaining axes, rushed, unclear, overly complicated)
3. Adequate presentation: results clear to audience.
4. Excellent depiction/presentation of data and results, improvement over article format.
D. Accuracy: (/4)
1. Misrepresentation of an important point; several inaccuracies
2. A few (minor) content inaccuracies; sloppiness (undefined terms)
3. Accurate and clean, up to 2 minor presentation inaccuracies (typos).
4. Accurate, clean and no typos.

E. Comprehension of material: (/4)
1. Did not seem to understand the material.
2. Clearly understood article.
3. Clearly understood article and integrated content with weekly readings.
4. Clearly understood article, integrated content with weekly readings and other course material.

F. Integration across papers: (/4) all group members receive this grade
1. No common introduction/discussion across papers.
2. Minimal common introduction/discussion; no integration with weekly readings
3. Intro/Discussion demonstrates integration with weekly readings.
4. Intro/discussion integrated with weekly readings & other course material.

G. Minus 1 point for every minute over 30 minutes:

H. Discussion: (/6) grades will be assigned to individuals – prepare 3 questions

  4 marks: Discussion questions are “eight to ten point questions” as outlined above and integrate the presented paper with the weekly reading in a thought-provoking manner.
  2 marks: Clearly demonstrates mastery of article content.
  3 marks: Leads and guides discussion effectively.

Final Project: 30% of final grade

Research Proposal Guidelines:

Many scientific papers, and most in the discipline of psychology, have a highly specific and stylized structure. This structure is so common and “routine” that it might seem boring and restrictive. The stricture of the form provides easy access for your audience. They know what to expect: they understand the vehicle in which you present your ideas. For the scientific article or thesis, the form has 4 major sections that proceed from a broad focus, to a narrow set of details specific to the study, back out to the broad implications of the results: an hourglass format.

The form:

Introduction
Method

Results

Discussion

In a thesis, each of these sections may be treated as a chapter. In an article, each is a “section” of several pages. In a conference presentation, each section requires several minutes and several slides.

A proposal usually consists of the first 2-3 sections – Introduction and Method and Analyses (how results will be assessed). Of course, you have no results to report yet, because the research is not yet done. Theses and articles are always written in past tense. Proposals are written in future tense.

Each section can contain subsections, and these are also quite routine, though there are also several common variants.

Here are some models (suggestions) for formatting the first two major sections (or chapters) of a thesis, as in a research proposal. This information is presented as an aid for writing a proposal.

Introduction

Overview or Objectives (sometimes called “Introduction”):

One or two paragraphs that introduce the problem in very abstract terms, conceptualizing it within the subfield. This is often done by outlining a question that has not been asked or has not been properly resolved. The last several sentences must point in the direction that the rest of the section or chapter will take, though you need not outline the specific steps.

Background or literature review:

This section takes up the bulk of your proposal. It should consist of several subsections, each one focusing on a different topical area or research tradition. Here are several possible designs.

Design A: Some problems are best dealt with by a nested review. So the first subsection provides a general overview of the area, or the general consensus in the field, or a summary of the accumulation of knowledge in an area. Following this subsection, there will be several additional subsections that focus on more specific issues. These will be the issues that you will draw from to formulate the approach to your question. Or, you might want to do further nesting, such that subsection 2 outlines a specific approach or area of knowledge and subsection 3 (or 3-5, or whatever) focuses on very specific research paradigms within this approach.
Design B: It is also possible for each subsection to review topics or areas that are not nested but parallel. For example, the first section could be on evolutionary theory approaches to x, the second on social-learning theory approaches to x, and the third on feminist theory approaches to x, where each is an approach of equal weight or relevance to your question. You should then end your review with an integrative section in which you describe the relative benefits and/or disadvantages of these approaches, or select some features from each, or state why you are basing your thesis on the last approach, not the others.

Design C: This third possibility is a variant of the last approach under B, and it can be particularly powerful. Here you present a series of approaches, as in B, but you criticize each approach as you go along, rather than at the end. That is, you end your discussion of each approach by saying what it is missing (at least in relation to the problem you are pursuing). That identified gap then sets up your introduction of the next approach, in the next subsection, which you treat similarly. By this sequence of introducing and critiquing several approaches, you end up with the approach that is most suitable for your own study.

These three designs are not carved in stone. Rather, they are models, and many hybrid approaches are also possible.

The most important thing about the background/literature review section is this: Each subsection (each segment of review) must be framed in relation to your question. There should be no ambiguity about how each reviewed approach would, or might, or could be applied to your question, or at least to a research paradigm that can address your question. In other words, each subsection is not just a review of studies; it is an argument in which you make claims about a figure-ground relation – a general approach in relation to a specific issue. There are many ways to do this and there is no specific recipe. One way is to make sure that each section ends with reference to the question you are pursuing (if this is not evident throughout). It is also helpful to make explicit bridges between sections (e.g., “Before describing these methodological issues in more detail, I will first review recent research on X.”).

Design:

This section could be called “Design,” or “The present study” or something like that. Here you say what you are planning to do, and why. In other words, here is where you show that a particular research design is/was custom-made for answering the question you have posed, given the research you have now reviewed. It is very important that each of the features of your design – what you are looking for and how you are going to find it – is justified in terms of the literature you have reviewed. The reader should react
to this section by saying: “Of course, this would be the most obvious approach to take. I wish I’d thought of that.” This is the crux of a proposal.

Additional review:

Sometimes, it is necessary to review additional literature at this point with respect to methods and measurement. For example, there may be methodological issues called for in your design that would not have fit nicely into the lit review that unfolded previously. It is very important to justify your choice of methods and instruments, and while this may fit smoothly into your “Design” section, it may be more graceful to use a separate section or two to provide details about your choices.

Hypotheses or research questions:

The introduction should end with clearly stated hypotheses that flow naturally from your design. In other words, such a design is suited to find out several things, and you have several predictions as to what you will find (or what you expected to find) once you analyze your data.

If your study is quite exploratory in nature, you may not have real hypotheses. In these cases, set out a number of “research questions” that could produce various outcomes, and provide details as to the potential outcomes, and what each would mean in the context of your research question.

Overall, I strongly recommend using subheading titles. It helps to guide the reader and keep her informed. It also gives structure to the argument you are making. I also strongly recommend that you make links between paragraphs. Often for a proposal it is also helpful to explicitly state where you are going (e.g., “In section one I will provide the literature background, in section two I will review why traditional perspectives fall short, and I will conclude with the research design that will test my hypotheses.”

Method

Overview:

Some people like to start the method section with an overview, though this isn’t strictly necessary. This should be a one-paragraph description of what you did: primarily your procedure but with brief mention of the measures you used. If you are tight on space, you can easily drop this.

Participants:

For a research proposal, describe the characteristics of your sample population, briefly state how they might be recruited, and provide an estimate of the number of participants you will need to test your hypothesis.
Procedure:

The purpose of the study procedure is to provide all the details necessary for another researcher to replicate your study/experiment. Outline all the proposed procedures in your study. From the first phone call to prospective participants, to their arrival at the lab, to the explanation of what was required, to the experimental manipulations or tests themselves. Make sure you include all relevant details about the set-up of the lab or interview room, the recording equipment used, etc. Go through the steps of the procedure meticulously enough so that people understand exactly what you did. However, it isn’t necessary to use so much detail that someone else could replicate your study precisely without contacting you. That kind of detail is only possible through direct communication between investigators. Here, as in all other parts of the thesis, it is necessary to justify the choices you made, unless these are already obvious from your previous discussion (e.g., from Chapter 1).

Measures or tasks:

List each of your measures or tasks under a separate subheading. Include important data about each measure, such as reliability and validity data available from published articles. If you are not using any standard measures, but rather tasks of your own design, you should describe these here. Include information about why each task was structured as it was, unless this is already obvious from Chapter 1. Also make reference to other studies from which you borrowed ideas to make up your tasks.

Scoring procedures and/or derivation of variables:

Whether you used observational or other methods, you can also use this section to describe how you derived variables for your data analysis. Often investigators will merge raw data codes into more convenient variables. Or, the many available scores from standard measures can often be aggregated in various ways (e.g., subscales). Particularly if you are using observational/laboratory methods, you need to detail the methods by which you scored behaviour. This is where you describe the coding system you used, the training of the coders, the means by which you achieved reliability and the reliability levels you attained, and so forth. This can be a very long section, because coding or scoring is usually an involved process. Here is where you describe what you did to derive your variables and why. Note that some of these procedures involve statistical analysis (e.g., factor analysis). It is OK to describe these analyses here, along with tables and so forth. But it is sometimes hard to figure out where the Method chapter ends and the Results chapter begins. As a rule of thumb, put the boring stuff in this section of the Method chapter and the interesting stuff – what you found out in relation to the questions you asked – in the Results chapter.

Analysis Plan
In this section you describe the statistical methods that you will use to analyze the variables in your study. You must relate these analyses to your hypotheses directly (e.g., “Differences between the X and Y groups will be tested using an independent samples t-test on the ABCD test scores.”). The purpose of this section is to explain how you will evaluate the hypotheses you proposed.

**Expected Results**

In many cases, it will be useful to depict what the results would look like if the null hypothesis was rejected. Graphs are useful. This should not be a long section as the information in the previous sections makes it perfectly clear to the reader what you expect.

**Research Proposal Grading Key**

**Originality, creativity and appropriateness of research question: /20**

1. Proposal addresses some aspect of gendered sexuality. /5
2. Proposal extends previous research, uses novel methods. /5
3. Uniqueness of idea. /5
4. Creativity in methods. /5

**Writing clarity & coherence: /20**

1. APA style & Proper citation & reference style. /5
2. Quality of writing. /10
3. Ability to construct a coherent argument. /5

**Introduction: /30**

1. Overview paragraph stating research objectives. /5
2. Literature review covering major aspects of research question. /10
3. Logic of arguments and rationale. /5
4. Design or Present Study presents research design and rationale. /5
5. Hypotheses. /5

**Methods: /30**

1. Participants. /5
2. Procedure. /5
3. Measures or tasks. /5
4. Scoring/data redux. /5
5. Data analysis plan. /5
6. Expected results. /5

**TOTAL:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Presentations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/01</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Syllabus review/Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>*10/01</td>
<td>Theoretical perspectives</td>
<td>Lippa (2005); Gangestad &amp; Simpson (2000)</td>
<td>Gender: Biology &amp; Evolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>*15/01</td>
<td>How we study gendered sexuality</td>
<td>Vanweesebenbeck (2009); Hyde (2005) and commentaries</td>
<td>Gender: Society &amp; Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>17/01</td>
<td>How we study gendered sexuality</td>
<td>Petersen &amp; Hyde (2011); Conley et al (2011)</td>
<td>Gender difference or similarities?</td>
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<td>*22/01</td>
<td>Sexual desire</td>
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<td>Sociosexuality &amp; mate</td>
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<td>19 &amp; 21/02</td>
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<td>*26/02</td>
<td>Sexual functioning</td>
<td>Barlow (1986); Basson (2008); Brotto &amp; Heiman (2007)</td>
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<td>Sexual Orientation I</td>
<td>Diamond (2003); Diamond (2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/03</td>
<td>Transgender sexuality</td>
<td>Veale et al (2010); Lawrence (2007); Vasey &amp; Bartlett (2007)</td>
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<td>8. Presentation; Chivers &amp; Bailey (2000); Lawrence (2005); Kuper et al (2012)</td>
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<td>28/03</td>
<td>Infidelity &amp; sexual coercion</td>
<td>Harris (2003); Shackelford &amp; Goetz (2007); McKibbin et al (2008); Vandermassen (2011)</td>
<td>Lecture/discussion</td>
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<td>Lawrence (2009); Seto (2012)</td>
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<td>4/04</td>
<td>Final class: Wrap up</td>
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### Reference List for Psyc436 Readings

**Dates:** Jan 10, 15 & 17  
**Topics:** Theories of gender; how we study gender differences/similarities in sexuality  
**Readings:**

**Commentaries:**  

**Dates:** Jan 22 & 24  
**Topic:** Sexual desire  
**Readings:**

Sexual and Relationship Therapy, 19(2), 133-139, doi: 10.1080/14681990410001691343.

Presentation (Jan 24):

Date: Jan 29 & 31
Topic: Sexual arousal
Readings:

Presentation (Jan 31):
Dates: Feb 5 & 7
Topic: Hormones & sexuality

Readings:

Presentation (Feb 7):

Dates: Feb 12 & 14
Topic: Mating strategies I – Sociosexuality & mate preferences

Readings:

Presentation (Feb 14):

Date: Feb 26 & 28
Topic: Sexual functioning

Readings:


**Presentation (Feb 28):**


**Date: March 5 & 7**

**Topic: Sexual Orientation I**

**Readings:**


**Presentation (March 7):**


**Date: March 12 & 14**

**Topic: Sexual Orientation II**

**Reading:**


Presentations (March 14th):


THIRD ARTICLE TBA

Date: March 13 & 15  
Topic: Transgender sexuality  
Readings:  


Presentation (March 21):


Dates: March 26 & 28  
Topic: Mating strategies II: Infidelity & sexual coercion  
Readings:  


Presentation (March 28):


**Date:** April 2  
**Topic:** Sexual variations  
**Readings:**  