

**PSY 455 Human Sexual Behavior: Relationships
Spring 2010 (Sections 01 and 02)**

GENERAL:

Instructor: Brian R. Johnson, Ph.D.

Classroom: (Section 01 MW 4:00-5:50) 66-202; (Section 02 M 6:00-9:50) 6-113

Course website: <http://www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/psy455/psy455.htm>.

Office Hours: MWF: 9:20 - 10:20 TT: 2:20 - 2:50

Office: 24E-1211A 24E-1211A (In a modular, south of the school Recital Hall) Office Phone 909-869-2281 (If you are calling during my office hours and I do not answer, I have probably left the office for a moment. Try again in a few minutes. ***Do not leave a message on campus voice mail.*** If you need to leave a message, call the off campus number listed below and leave the message with my assistant or on the answering machine. The greeting message for my off campus office also gives information for contacting me through my answering service if you have an *real urgent* need to speak to me.)

Off Campus Phone: 909-399-0556

E-Mail Address: brjohnson@csupomona.edu

FAX: 909-860-6908

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Investigation of human sexual relationships. Survey of scientific literature on human sexual behavior and close interpersonal relationships. Examination of historical, cultural, and socioeconomic differences. Students have the opportunity to compare experiences, beliefs and knowledge with other class members. 4 lecture-discussion. Fulfills Area D Social Sciences synthesis requirement. Prerequisites: Completion of GE Areas A and D (sub-areas 1, 2, & 3).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- A. To increase your understanding of the role that emotions, cognitions, gender, biology, culture, and social relationships play in human sexual behavior and close interpersonal relationships
- B. To increase your knowledge and understanding of the scientific literature on the psychological aspects of sexuality and close interpersonal relationships
- C. Allow each student to (1) evaluate their own interpersonal sexual attitudes, values and behaviors and (2) compare and contrast these with other class members.
- D. Allow each student to apply the course concepts to their own life and their relationships

TEXT: Regan, Pamela (2008) *The mating game: A primer on love, sex, and marriage.* (2nd Edition)

EXAMS: Two **Mid-Terms** and a **Final Exam** will be given (**Apr 26; May 17; and June 7**) that will consist of multiple choice, matching, sentence completions, and brief essay questions. Each exam will be worth **100 points**. The exams will cover the assigned reading, lecture materials,

and class activities. *Unless you and the instructor, prior to the exam, have made arrangements to take a test on a different date or you can document reasonable cause for failing to sit for a test, there will be no make up opportunities!*

QUIZZES: During the quarter there will be ten, open note quizzes. You will receive 5 points for each quiz you take for a potential total of 50 points. Quizzes will normally be given at the end of class. You will be asked to briefly answer a question addressing a topic lectured on that day. Since quizzes will be scheduled randomly it is important that you attend all classes. If you miss a class at which a quiz was given, you will only be allowed to do a make up if you document reasonable cause for not being in class on the day of the quiz.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: The lectures will expand upon the reading material and provide other important information not covered in the reading. **Participation will have an impact on your final grade.** In this class there is no such thing as a dumb question. The Roman statesman Cicero wrote that “I am not afraid to admit that I am ignorant of what I do not know.” And he was a philosopher and Senator! **30 participation points are possible.** If you attend all class meeting but do not participate (i.e., do not raise questions about or make comments concerning the materials presented in class, or offer a point of view concerning human sexuality/relationships), the maximum number of points you will receive is 10. This is a senior course, and it would be appropriate to have each student assigned to do a formal presentation. This will not be required, so I will be attentive to and making notes students’ participation during the lectures and when students are sharing with the class what they discussed in group discussions. It is not the quantity but the quality of the participation that will be considered. This is an academic class, not group therapy. While sharing on how a subject presented applies to you can enrich the class process, you need not share any more than you feel comfortable disclosing in class. **PRIVACY** is to be respected by both the instructor and fellow students.

NAME PLATE: I want to know you by name. Since there may be up to fifty people in the class, I need you to create a personal name plate to put on your desk so I will get to know who you are. I have had students use head bands in the past but that didn’t go over too well. So, please write your name on a piece of paper and put it on the front of your desk until I get to know you by name. Be creative but also legible with lettering big enough that I can see it across the room (if you sit in the back). And if I mispronounce your name, correct me.

COURSE WEBSITE (www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/psy455/psy455.htm): The website contains a number of resources and messages from the instructor to the class concerning announcements, corrections, and any changes in the schedule, reading assignments, etc. From the website you can also download Adobe Acrobat PDF copies of the overheads that are used in the lectures. (You will need to have Adobe Acrobat 4.0 to download these and other documents available on the website. Information is provided for downloading Acrobat if the program is not already on your computer.) I attempt to put the overheads up no later than the night before class, but sometimes that proves impossible. I recommend that you download these so you can have these in class on the days of the lectures.

FURLOUGH DAYS: Apr 6 (Tues), Apr 30 (Fri), May 28 (Fri), June 10 (Thurs), June (Fri), and June 14 (Mon). I will not be on campus nor respond to e-mails on these days.

EXTRA CREDIT: If you participate in a Psychology and Sociology Department sponsored experiment, you can earn 5 extra credit point. This extra credit will only be given if you sign up for an experiment using the Sona system. You must do this by going on line (<http://csupomona.sona-systems.com>) to sign up for an experiment. You must be registered in the program to participate. If you are not already, go to the web site and click the “New Participant Request an Account” link to register. To sign up for a study or experiment, click on the “Sign up for experiments” link. When you sign up for an experiment, you must identify that you want the credit applied to this course. **After the experiment, you must also assign the credit to this course on the Sona web site. If you fail to assign a credit to the class, extra credit points will not be given. The department’s report of student participation in experiments (and that report’s summary of students’ assignment of credits to classes) will be the sole basis for determining earned extra credit.**

GRADING: To receive a passing grade for the course you must complete all requirements for this class (three (3) exams). If you fail to do so and have not received approval for an incomplete grade contract, you will receive a grade of “F.” Assuming that you do complete all requirements, grades will be based on the following scale:

380-353	A	314-304	B-	265-255	D+
352-342	A-	303-293	C+	254-239	D
341-331	B+	292-277	C	238-228	D-
330-315	B	276-266	C-	=or<227	F

Grades will be posted on the class web site after the final exam.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The school’s policy will be enforced in this class. The policy reads in part, “All forms of academic dishonesty at Cal Poly are a violation of University policy and will be considered a serious offense. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: [Plagiarism, Cheating During Exams, Use of Unauthorized Study Aids, and Falsifying any University Documents].” See the University Catalog for more details. Remember, plagiarism is passing off another’s work as your own. **Students often don’t realize that they have committed plagiarism when they fail to (1) denote with quotation marks or some other notation the cited material or (2) do not identify the source of an idea they are summarizing in their own words.**