

PSYC 4000B – INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Spring 2012

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 13:40-14:55, Room D632

Instructor: Martin Lalumière (D854)

Office hours: Wednesdays 13:00-16:00

Teaching Assistant: Samantha Dawson (C480)

By appointment (sam.dawson@uleth.ca)

Class email: psyc4000b@uleth.ca

Prerequisites: Any two 3000 level courses in Psychology

Recommended background: Psychology 2030 and 3815

Course Description

In this seminar we will explore the causes of conflicts between the sexes, in our own species and in other species as well. We will examine ultimate causes, that is, those that deal with evolutionary forces, and proximate causes, those that deal with developmental, social, and situational factors. We will focus on the causes of sexual coercion and spousal violence, and we will also examine, if time permits, less violent forms of conflict, such as jealousy, separation, and child custody disputes.

The topic of this course, although interesting on its own, is also an occasion to develop a habit of thought regarding explanations for human behaviour. By this I mean learning how to think about human behaviour scientifically and consistently: The scientific method provides a powerful and objective way to test different explanations of why humans and other species behave the way they do, and explanations in a field of inquiry should be compatible with knowledge in other fields.

This course is also an occasion to develop new learning, writing, and oral presentation skills. Students will learn new material by preparing class presentations and leading class discussions. In many ways, this seminar will resemble graduate psychology seminars. Student attendance and participation in class discussions is required. Students will prepare for class discussion by reading relevant material and preparing questions and comments for discussion.

Each class will consist of a discussion of a book chapter or journal article. A team of two students will prepare a 20 min presentation of a chosen topic, and will lead a discussion. The student team will be responsible for finding one or two published empirical studies that speak to the topic and that are brief and interesting. Except for the textbook, the readings should be distributed to class members by email (preferably in PDF format), on the Friday preceding the discussion, at noon at the latest.

There will also be discussions led by the instructor and teaching assistant, including a discussion of the documentary 'The Greatest Silence: The Rape of Congo'.

Textbook

Lalumière, M. L., Harris, G. T., Quinsey, V. L., & Rice, M. E. (2005). *The causes of rape: Understanding individual differences in the male propensity for sexual aggression*. Washington: American Psychological Association.

Other Readings

Anonymous (2006). *A woman in Berlin*. Henry Holt.

Eggert, A.-K., & Sakaluk, S. K. (1995). Female-forced monogamy in burying beetles. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, 37, 147-153.

Marks, K. (2009). *Lost paradise*. Free Press.

Smuts, B. (1995). The evolutionary origins of patriarchy. *Human Nature*, 6, 1-32.

Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on a class presentation and leadership of class discussion (15-40%), a term-paper (0-40%), a book report (0-30%), and participation (20%). Details will be provided in class. Students determine for themselves the percentage of each evaluation component, within the range provided. Obviously, the total must be 100%. The determination of percentages is revealed to the professor at the time of submission of the evaluation. The term paper and book report are optional. The instructor and teaching assistant will provide feedback on drafts of the term paper and book report (except for two weeks prior to submission).

The following ranges will be used to convert percentage marks to a letter grade:

A+	90-100	A	85-89	A-	80-84
B+	75-79	B	70-74	B-	65-69
C+	60-64	C	55-59	C-	52-54
D+	51	D	50	F	0-49

If you cannot be present for an evaluation you must contact the instructor as soon as possible before the date in question. Medical reasons must be supported by a statement that performance would be affected, with the physician's name, address, and phone number included in the statement. Non-medical reasons must also be supported by appropriate documentation. Failure to notify the instructor prior to the date of evaluation will result in a mark of zero.

Tentative Schedule

January 10-12	Introduction; selection of topics and presentation dates; presentation tips
January 17-19	Instructor/TA: Introduction to sexual conflict (Eggert & Sakaluk, 1995; Smuts, 1995)
January 24-26	Rape across culture and time (Chapter 2)
January 31-February 2	Your choice
February 7-9	Forced copulation in the animal kingdom (Chapter 3)
February 14-16	Your choice; <i>interim report on participation</i>
February 21-23	Reading Week
February 28-March 1	Rape and general criminality (Chapter 4)
March 6-8	Your choice
March 13-15	Are rapists sexually “interested” in rape (Chapter 5); <i>book report must be submitted</i>
March 20-22	Your choice
March 27-29	Psychopathology and rape (Chapters 6)
April 3-5	Instructor/TA: Documentary on Congo
April 10-12	Situational factors for rape (Chapter 7)
April 17	Instructor/TA: Assessment and treatment for rapists (Chapters 8 & 9); <i>Term Paper must be submitted</i>

Other Possible Topics

Conjugal violence
Romantic jealousy
Child custody disputes
Motives for divorce
Dating violence
Paternity uncertainty and domestic violence
When do domestic assaulters repeat?
Hypersexuality and violence in marriages
Determinants of successful marriages
The pacifying effects of marriage on men
Extra-marital affairs: causes and consequences
Stalking
Historical and recent declines in rates of sexual violence

Postscript

The instructor does not like email (except for distributing files and to make general announcements) and does not look at his inbox on a regular basis. If you have questions for him, please ask them before, during, or after class, or during the office hours. Thank you for understanding.