Instructor: Dr. Paul L. Vasey  
E-mail: paul.vasey@uleth.ca  
Office: D852  
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00-4:00 pm

Teaching Assistant: Ryan Mallard  
E-mail: ryan.mallard@uleth.ca  
Office: B834  
Office Hours: Thursday 3:00-5:00 pm

Class Time: Tuesday 6:00-8:50 pm  
Classroom: AH116

Prerequisite: Psyc 2850

Course Description:  
In this class, we will explore the question: “What is sexual orientation?” As such, what concerns us here is *not* why one sexual orientation or another exists. Rather, we will be concerned with how to more accurately identify what the term “sexual orientation” encompasses, so that we can then characterize the component parts of this phenomenon in as accurate a manner as possible. Some of the questions we will be addressing include: How can we measure sexual orientation? What is sexual arousal, sexual attraction, sexual behavior and sexual orientation identity and how are they related? Does male bisexuality
exist? Are women more sexually fluid than men? Is sexual orientation about lust or love? What is love? Does everyone have a sexual orientation? Can sexual orientation change on its own, or can it be changed via some sort of intervention? Does attraction and arousal to particular sexed bodies encompass the totality of one’s sexual orientation? How do we characterize the sexual orientation of individuals whose peak sexual arousal results from unusual objects or activities? Can sexual orientation be directed toward oneself? How do sexual orientation identities vary historically and cross-culturally? Where do sexual orientation identities come from and why do they even exist?

**Required Readings:**
You will be required to read peer-reviewed academic articles, as well as, scholarly book chapters. These have been carefully chosen to maximize your engagement and learning and minimize your workload. Most are conceptual in scope. They must be read before each class in order for lectures and discussions to function properly. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) in the reading schedule below can be found on reserve in the library. Some of the readings are linked to websites. All other readings can be obtained from the University of Lethbridge library system.

**Course Assessment:**

**Tests:** There will be two tests on the course material that will be comprised of short-answer and/or essay-style questions.

- **Test 1:** (February 26) 40%
- **Test 2:** (April 2) 40%

**Final Written Assignment:** (April 16) 20%
You will be provided with details pertaining to the final written assignment on March 27, after you finish Test 2.

The written assignment must be typed and double-spaced, and must not exceed 5 pages of text (not including references). In addition, all assignments should have a cover page with your name, ID#, and the title of the reading. References should be listed using APA style. Completed assignments can be placed in the Psychology Dropbox, which is located in the hallway by Psychology Department Office (C866). Assignments will be penalized by one letter grade for every day they are late.

With respect to the Tests in this course, as per the University calendar section 9.b.3 (p. 86), “Students may be expected to apply what has been taught in the course to new situations, to analyze different examples, or to synthesize original responses to questions that remain within the realm of fairness, even though the particular applications, examples or circumstances may not have been explicitly addressed in course lectures and readings.”
Course Policies:

(1) The following ranges will be employed in assigning grades in this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>≥ 89.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>84.5-89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>79.5-84.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>76.5-79.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73.5-76.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>66.5-69.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63.5-66.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>59.5-63.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>56.5-59.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-56.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>69.5-73.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 49.9</td>
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</tbody>
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In accordance with the University of Lethbridge Calendar,

A = Excellent  
B = Good  
C = Satisfactory  
D = Poor  
F = Fail

(2) This seminar course will deal frankly with controversial issues pertaining to sexuality. Much of the course content is sexually explicit. This content may shock some people and make them uncomfortable. Consequently, such people may be unable to follow lectures, complete assignments or even attend classes. Such individuals should seriously reflect upon this possibility before they commit to taking this optional course.

(3) Given the controversial nature of the course material, a diversity of viewpoints will inevitably exist in the classroom. Voicing well-reasoned disagreement with others’ viewpoints is perfectly fine (even encouraged!); being disrespectful towards others is not tolerated (see Section 6.b.1 of the University Calendar).

(4) Students in the seminar are subject to the student discipline policy for academic and non-academic offenses in accordance with the University Calendar. As per the University Calendar, Section 6.h.1.: “When a student disrupts instructional activities, the instructor may exclude the student immediately from instructional space and/or from future scheduled instructional meetings of that course pending further actions by the Dean.” When students talk among themselves during classes it disrupts instructional activities and, consequently, I will respond accordingly by asking the student(s) to be quiet. If the student(s) continue to talk I will ask them to leave the class. If the disruption continues in a second class, I will notify the Dean, who will then take the appropriate action.

(6) All questions pertaining to the course material must be asked during class or on the Moodle discussion board for the course. Do not email the instructor or the teaching assistant with such questions. Posting questions on Moodle or asking them in class ensures that we do not answer the same question multiple times and, in addition, everyone in the class benefits from the information. Questions asked on the Moodle discussion board will be answered by the teaching assistant in consultation with the instructor. Students are allowed to post questions on the discussion board once per day. Posts should be written using correct grammar and spelling. The teaching assistant will respond to posted questions once per day. Responses to posted questions will cease at
4pm on the day before a test is scheduled. *We will not respond to any questions about the test material during the period in which the test is open.*

(7) Following tests, the teaching assistant will be available to meet with you, discuss your exam results, and show you the correct answers. The teaching assistant is not available to meet with students about their test results outside of these scheduled times. Therefore, students who wish to meet with the teaching assistant about their test results should plan their schedules accordingly. Students who wish to meet with the teaching assistant to discuss their results should come prepared with specific questions and explain why they think there might be a problem with a particular question (i.e., I think I should have gotten a mark for this because on page XX of the assigned reading, it says “XXXX”). If students meet with the teaching assistant as part of a fishing expedition for marks (i.e., “I think I should have gotten a mark for this! Tell me why I didn’t!”), then the TA will simply ask them why they think they should have gotten a mark.

(8) Students can write missed tests if they provide documentation from a doctor stating that they were ill on the day the test was scheduled and that their test performance would have been seriously affected by this illness. The documentation must have the doctor’s name, address and phone number. Non-medical reasons for missed exams (i.e., a death in the family) must also be supported with appropriate documentation. With respect to these personal issues, students can email the teaching assistant directly <ryan.mallard@uleth.ca> who will then communicate this information to the instructor and the appropriate accommodations will be made. If you email the TA be sure to include your course number in the subject line. Missed tests for which students are unable to provide appropriate documentation will be assigned a zero.

(9) My course notes/powerpoint presentations will not be provided to students.

(10) I do not provide study guides for tests.

(11) Additional work will not be assigned for those who wish to improve their grades.

(12) I will not change the weighting of the tests if you do better on one of them compared to the other(s).

(13) If you miss any of the films shown in class, they cannot be borrowed from the instructor and there will not be a second screening.

(14) As per the University calendar section 9.b.4 (p. 87), you are expected to monitor your university email for messages pertaining to this course.

(15) Please do not use the internet during lectures and please turn your cell phones off prior to the beginning of the lecture.

(16) If students need to talk about some sexual or gender related issues that are troubling them, I strongly recommend they make an appointment with the counselors at the student-
counseling center. The Student Counseling Office can be found in TH218. The number at the counseling center is 317-2845. The website is: <http://www.uleth.ca/counselling/>.

**Reading & Assignment Schedule**

**WEEK 1:** Introduction to the course  
(Jan. 15)

**WEEK 2:** What is sexual orientation?  
(Jan. 22)

**Read:**  

**Read:**  

**Read:**  

**WEEK 3:** Sexual Orientation Identity  
(Jan. 29)

**Read:**  

**Read:**  

**Read:**  

**Film clip:** Boston Marriages from Out of the Past
WEEK 4:  
Sex differences in sexual orientation and bisexuality  
( Feb. 5)

Read:  

Read:  

WEEK 5:  
What does sexual orientation orient? Lust and Love  
( Feb. 12)

Read:  

Read:  

Read:  

WEEK 6:  
Reading Week (no class)  
( Feb. 19)

WEEK 7:  
Test 1 (40%)  
( Feb. 26)

WEEK 8:  
Are erotic target location errors sexual orientations?  
( March 5)

Read:  

Read:  

WEEK 9: Can sexual orientations be directed toward unusual activities? (March 12)


Film: Born in a Barn

WEEK 10: Can sexual orientation be directed toward unusual objects? (March 19)


WEEK 11: Asexuality (March 26)


**Gynandromorphophilia**


**WEEK 12**

**(April 2)**

**Test 2 (40%)**

***Instructions for the final written assignment will be given to you after you finish Test 2***

**WEEK 13**

**(April 9)**

**Michael Jackson**


**WEEK 14:**

**(April 16)**

**Final paper due (20%)**