

UGS 302, Love, Mating & The Brain, Fall 2020
(Unique number: 60280)

Juan M. Dominguez, PhD

Office hours: (via Zoom) Tues. & Thurs. 2:00 - 3:30 PM, or by appt.

Office: SEA 5.252 (office hours will be held in Zoom- link will be provided first week of class)

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Text/ Readings:

- The Chemistry Between Us: Love, Sex, and the Science of Attraction

By Larry Young

- Additional readings (e.g. assigned articles, online assignments, etc). These will be assigned throughout the semester.

NOTE: You will have access to grades, assigned articles, and additional information via the Canvas website. Please make sure that your Canvas account is active and that you are familiar with navigating in it.

Class meetings: *Tues & Thu, 12:30 – 2:00 PM, room GDC 4.302*

Topics (We may or may not cover all topics).

1. The brain and brain function
2. Genes and sex
3. The evolution of sex
4. Sexual development
5. Brain circuitry of sexual orientation
6. Courtship behaviors
7. Gender differences
8. Brain circuitry of parental love
9. Brain circuitry of partner love
10. Brain circuitry of desire

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The topic of love and mating has been of great interest to many throughout human history. Yet, only recently have the brain sciences provided significant insight into the biology of this most important behavior. This course will help students explore the neuroscience of love and mating.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: When finished with this course you will have a greater understanding of how the brain regulates love and mating behaviors. Additionally, you will be familiar with recent advancements in the field of social/behavioral neuroendocrinology.

FORMAT: A lecture, presentation, and discussion format will be employed to explore these topics.

REQUIREMENTS:

Your performance in the following factors will comprise your final grade:

- Writing component 30%

Students will be required to write a topic paper in which they integrate recently learned mechanisms to explore some aspect of love and/or mating.

Topics will be chosen by students from the 6 following options; details of its content, approach, and due dates will be discussed in class.

1. On evidence that hormones affect behavior.
2. On evidence that love is affected by our biology.
3. On evidence that our emotions are influenced by the brain.
4. On evidence that sexual preference is dependent on our biology.
5. On evidence that sexual behaviors are influenced by brain activity.
6. On evidence that parental behaviors are influenced by the brain.

- In-class discussion (5%)

- Exam 40% (4 exams, 10% each)
Exam 1 on Sep 17th, Exam 2 on Oct 8th, Exam 3 on Nov 5th, and Exam 4 on Nov 24th. We will announce any date changes during class.
- Information literacy 5%
The information literature review will be due before the paper.
Students will be required to submit an analysis of currently-published research papers, using current scientific literature, in which they explore some topic of love or mating (effectively a literature review for your writing component).
- Quizzes 10%
- Gems of the University 5%
Blanton Museum project
- University Lecture Series 5%
Designed to create a campus-wide conversation, the University Lecture Series gives first-year students an opportunity to interact with leading members of our faculty—scholars, scientists, and civic leaders who are nationally and internationally renowned.

No make up work will be allowed, unless there is a documented emergency.

Total percentage points earned will determine your final grade, using the following distribution:

93-100	=	A
90-92	=	A-
87-89	=	B+
83-86	=	B
80-82	=	B-
77-79	=	C+
73-76	=	C
70-72	=	C-
67-69	=	D+
63-66	=	D
60-62	=	D-
< 60	=	F

Note: Though not foreseeable, any changes or deviations from this syllabus (e.g. order in which topics are covered, assignment dates, etc.) will be announced in class.

The use of laptop computers or any other electronic device (e.g. iPad) is permitted in class but only for class-related purposes (primarily taking notes), unless otherwise stated in class. Effectively this means that students are not allowed to browse the web, use Facebook, any other social network, or chat online, while in class. Should this rule be violated, I reserve the right to prohibit the use of any electronic device in the classroom by all students. Thank you for respecting your classmates while following this rule.

Academic integrity: Students are expected to uphold the Student Standard of Conduct published in the University of Texas website (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php), section 11-801. Generally, do not plagiarize, do not collaborate with colleagues when doing work that should be your own, do not cheat on exams, and do not submit work as your own that was obtained or purchased from someone else.

Disability services: If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. In addition to the resources of the department, a wide range of services are available to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements. The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please notify me in a timely manner so that we can make arrangements to address your needs.

Safety and Class Participation/Masks

Safety and Class Participation/Masks: We will all need to make some adjustments in order to benefit from in-person classroom interactions in a safe and healthy manner. Our best protections against spreading COVID-19 on campus are masks (defined as cloth face coverings) and staying home if you are showing symptoms. Therefore, for the benefit of everyone, this means that all students are required to follow these important rules.

1. Every student must wear a cloth face-covering properly in class and in all campus buildings at all times.
2. Students are encouraged to participate in documented daily symptom screening. This means that each class day in which on-campus activities occur, students must upload certification from the symptom tracking app and confirm that they completed their symptom screening for that day to Canvas. Students should not upload the results of that screening, just the certificate that they completed it. If the symptom tracking app recommends that the student isolate rather than coming to class, then students must not return to class until cleared by a medical professional.

Information regarding safety protocols with and without symptoms can be found here:
https://healthyhorns.utexas.edu/coronavirus_exposure_action_chart.html

3. If a student is not wearing a cloth face-covering properly in the classroom (or any UT building), that student must leave the classroom (and building). If the student refuses to wear a cloth face covering, class will be dismissed for the remainder of the period, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action as set forth in the university's Institutional Rules/General Conduct 11-404(a)(3). Students who have a condition that precludes the wearing of a cloth face covering must follow the procedures for obtaining an accommodation working with Services for Students with Disabilities (<https://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>).

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited: No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

FERPA and Class Recordings

Class Recordings: Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

COVID Guidance

COVID Caveats: To help keep everyone at UT and in our community safe, it is critical that students report COVID-19 symptoms and testing, regardless of test results, to University Health Services, and faculty and staff report to the HealthPoint Occupational Health Program (OHP) as soon as possible. Please see the link (1) below to understand what needs to be reported. In addition, to help understand what to do if a fellow student in the class (or the instructor or TA) tests positive for COVID, see this University Health Services link (2).

- (1) <https://hr.utexas.edu/current/services/occupational-health-program>
- (2) https://healthyhorns.utexas.edu/coronavirus_exposure_action_chart.html