

# **ANTH 471/671: Evolution of Human Sexuality**

Class Time: Tuesdays/Thursdays 8:30-9:45  
Bldg/Rm: BEH 217

Instructor: Peter B. Gray, Ph.D.

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## **Catalog Description:**

This course examines human sexuality from an evolutionary perspective. Major themes of the class include basics of evolutionary theory, comparisons with non-human primates, cross-cultural and historical variation in human sexuality and consideration of the neuroendocrine bases of sexual behavior. Topics addressed include sexual selection, mate preferences, mating systems, and sexual orientation, among other things.

## **Course Objectives:**

Upon the successful completion of this course you will have:

- (1) gained an understanding of the theoretical foundations informing an evolutionary understanding of human reproductive anatomy, physiology, and behavior;
- (2) gained a strong grounding in contemporary data and debates concerning evolution and human sexuality;
- (3) developed your own topical interests under the umbrella of evolution and human sexuality, as reflected in regular discussions and in a term paper; and
- (4) enhanced critical thinking skills by evaluating aspects of human sexuality with respect to multiple lines of evidence.

## **Reading:**

Assigned readings draw upon two assigned texts and three PDFs available in e-reserve through the UNLV library. The assigned texts are:

Gray PB & Garcia JR. 2013. *Evolution and Human Sexual Behavior*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Levay S & Baldwin J. 2012. *Human Sexuality, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.* Sunderland, MA: Sinauer.

You can find copies of these texts in the UNLV bookstore or perhaps cheaper used versions online.

The three PDFs available on e-reserve are noted in the class schedule below.

**Grading:**

Grades will be based on a midterm exam (25%), a non-cumulative final exam (25%), a research paper due at the end of the course (30%), performance on either a worksheet completed during a visit to the Las Vegas Erotic Heritage Museum or a behavioral observation exercise (10%), and scores from four pop quizzes (10%). Makeup exams are not permitted without medical documentation. No late term papers will be accepted. Graduate student grades are determined by these assignments and additional criteria: participation in additional discussions of research papers; writing a professional quality and slightly longer (approximately 20 pages) term paper; and guiding in-class discussions of papers assigned from e-reserves.

The research paper involves addressing a topic that falls under the broad scope of this course. The paper may be structured either as a review paper or as a paper based on the formulation and testing of a research hypothesis. For example, one might postulate based on life history theory and endocrine research that breastfeeding will have dampening effects on female sexuality (investing in current child rather than preparing for the next), then test the hypothesis that breastfeeding women will report lower proceptive sexual behavior and perhaps additionally lower receptive sexual behavior than control women.

Your paper should be approximately 15 pages of text, double-spaced, using 12-point font. Your paper should include a clear title, employ sub-headings to help structure components of it, and cite at least 15 scholarly references. References may be cited using APA format or some other professional anthropology or biology standard. Further support concerning writing mechanics is available through the UNLV writing center at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

**Course Outline:**

*Week 1 (August 27/29):* Introduction. Course mechanics. Evolutionary, comparative, cross-cultural and neuroendocrine approaches to human sexuality.

Gray and Garcia (GG): Preface

Levay and Baldwin (LB): Chapter 1

*Week 2 (September 3/5):* Evolution of human sexuality

GG: Chapter 1

LB: Chapter 2

Watch “Evolution: Why Sex?” documentary in class

*Week 3 (September 10/12): Human sex differentiation*

GG: Chapter 4

LB: Chapter 6

*Week 4 (September 17/19): Male and female reproductive anatomy and physiology*

GG: Chapter 7

LB: Chapters 3,4

*Week 5 (September 24/26): Love and maybe marriage*

GG: Chapter 3

LB: Chapter10, Chapter 13 (pp. 417-433)

Worksheet due Tuesday based on visit to either the Erotic Heritage Museum or behavioral observations

*Week 6: Sexual behavior (October 1/3)*

GG: Chapter 2

LB: Chapter 9

Wellings K et al. 2006. Sexual behaviour in context: a global perspective. *The Lancet* 368: 1706-1728.

*Week 7 (October 8/10): Early childhood sexuality*

GG: Chapter 5

LB: Chapter 6, Chapter 13 (pp. 399-408)

*Week 8 (October 15/17): Mid-semester week*

Watch "Kinsey" documentary in class Tuesday

Midterm (Thursday)

*Week 9 (October 22/24): Puberty and adolescence*

GG: Chapter 6

LB: Chapter 13 (pp. 408-417)

Gueguen N. 2011. Effects of solicitor sex and attractiveness on receptivity to sexual offers: a field study. *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 40: 915-919.

*Week 10 (October 29/31): Human sexual response*

GG: Chapter 8

LB: Chapter 8

Watch a 45 minute video in class entitled "Libido"

*Week 11 (November 5/7): Pregnancy and birth*

GG: Chapter 10

LB: Chapter 11 (pp. 331-355)

*Week 12 (November 12/14): Fertility and its control*  
GG: Chapter 9  
LB: Chapter 11 (pp. 319-331), 12

*Week 13 (November 19/21): Gender identity and gender roles*  
LB: Chapter 7,14,15  
Bailey NW and Zuk M. 2009. Same-sex sexual behavior and evolution. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 24: 439-446.

*Week 14 (November 26): STIs, sexual coercion and the globalization of sex*  
LB: Chapters 17,18,19

*Week 15: Aging and Sexuality & Course wrap-up (December 3,5)*  
GG: Chapter 11,12  
LB: Chapter 13 (pp. 433-444)  
Term paper due Tuesday

Final Exam (Thursday, Dec 12, 8:00 -10:00 AM)

**Academic Misconduct** – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

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**Disability Resource Center (DRC)** – It is important to know that over two-thirds of the students in the DRC reported that this syllabus statement, often read aloud by the faculty during class, directed them to the DRC office.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC-A), Room 143, and the contact numbers are: Voice (702) 895-0866, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://drc.unlv.edu/>.

**Religious Holidays Policy** -- Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the last day at late registration of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could not be avoided. For additional information, please visit:

<http://catalog.unlv.acalog.com/content.php?catoid=1&navoid=44&bc=1>.

**Tutoring** -- The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex, #22 on the current UNLV map. Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling (702) 895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>.

**UNLV Writing Center – The following statement is recommended for inclusion in course syllabi:**

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance.

Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

**Rebelmail** – By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's Official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:@unlv.nevada.edu).