ANTH 471/671: Evolution of Human Sexuality

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

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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:


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/](http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/).

**Course Outline:**


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: Chapter 10, 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  

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)  

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  

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)

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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](http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html).

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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.

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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.

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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/
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