

human sexuality & culture

ant 2301 section 4106

summer b: mon-fri, 9:30-10:45

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Turlington B328

Office Hours: Thur, Fri 1:30-3:00 pm

wordpress blog: www.anthropologyandsex.wordpress.com

e-learning: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu>

SEX FACT:

11% of men and 17% of women reported trying bondage in 1983 ([Lowe, 1983](#)).

course objective

Did you know that Americans spend twice as much money on pornography than on cookies? (MrSmartypants.com) This course employs an anthropological approach to human sexuality by exploring the variety of ways sexuality intersects with biology and culture across societies. Readings and lecture materials address both human sexual physiology and how the “biology of sexuality” has been diversely interpreted by political systems, religions, and social movements across time and space. Furthermore, we address how sexuality has been expressed, affirmed, and challenged by individuals and groups in light of medical, technological, and conceptual innovations. This course places a strong emphasis on diversity by illuminating how cultural variation results a wide range of sexual experiences, norms, and interpretations.

goals:

By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Distinguish between the biological aspects of sex and the socio-cultural constructions of sexuality, and identify how the two phenomena interact
- Learn to critically examine social and cultural influences on sexual knowledge, beliefs, and behaviors
- Develop a broader understanding of diversity in human sexuality by analyzing phenomenon within specific socio-historical contexts,
- Contemplate the political elements of human sexuality, and how legal rights and responsibilities inform (and are likewise informed by) individual sexual practices and expectations
- Appreciate the role anthropological research in the study of sex and sexuality

student learning outcomes:

SEX FACT:

Infidelity has been found to be the single most cited cause of divorce in over 150 cultures. ([Betzig, 1989](#))

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Distinguish between the terms sex, sexuality and gender
- Describe various cultural traditions of sexuality
- Apply anthropological theories and concepts to the study of human sexuality
- Identify the contributions of leading scholars and researchers to the understanding of human sexuality;
- Identify key resources in Gainesville for sexual health, sexual violence support, and reproductive healthcare
- Evaluate the arguments offered by cultural and biological determinists relevant to human sexuality;
- Explain the biological/evolutionary basis of sex and sexuality;
- Discuss the real world consequences of assigning cultural meanings to phenomena
- Analyze ways in which cultural meanings of human sexuality may conflict and/or change over time
- Analyze information and data and demonstrate competence in the attendant skills.

class design:

This is an intensive six-week course. Success in this class demands attendance as well as completion of all assignments by the due date. In-class course content will include lectures, films, digital media and guest speakers. Students are expected to complete four quizzes and two non-cumulative exams that will cover the material in the readings as well as all material covered during class. Tests and quizzes will be administered via e-Learning. Students may submit up to five optional extra-credit assignments in class. Students are expected to access the Wordpress website on a regular basis and stay apprised of updates, announcements, posted material and grades.

attendance:

Attendance is crucial to success in Human Sexuality. It is unlikely you will make a passing grade without regular attendance, even if all the readings are completed. Much of what is discussed in class is NOT covered in course readings. Attendance will be assessed through three randomly given in-class group assignments. They are not able to be made up, but can be excused with proper documentation. These in-class assignments will be graded for **completion, not content** (i.e., if you do it you get full points!).

excused absences:

Per University of Florida policy, excused absences include medical appointments and illness (with doctor's note), deaths in the family (with documentation) and school events (with documentation on school letterhead). Additional absences require documentation of medical excuses or extenuating family circumstances and must be discussed, in person, within 1 week of the absence. **Makeup Policy:** There will be no makeup quizzes or makeup assignments. Instead,

the average of the quiz plus the writing assignment scores will be given as point value for the missing quiz IF PROPER DOCUMENTATION IS PROVIDED. For makeup tests, a written version will be used instead of the online system.

required materials:

Bolin, Anne, and Patricia Whelehan. *Human Sexuality: Biological, Psychological, and Cultural Perspectives*. Taylor & Francis, 2009.

Additional readings and digital media available on Wordpress site.

*In order to participate fully, it is important to complete each day's assignment prior to class.

grading and assessment:

Notes: All grades will be posted on the elearning site (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>) when they become available. Contact Mr. Jiao about grading questions or concerns: (philjiao@ufl.edu) or during his office hours (Thurs & Fri 1:30-3:00 pm in B328).

Points Possible: **310**

Assignment type as percentage of grade:

Quizzes: ~20% (40 points)

Written Assessments: ~20% (40 points)

Exams: ~45% (90 points)

Attendance: ~15% (30 points)

SEX FACT

It is possible to experience both genital and non-genital orgasm, even for some individuals with spinal cord injuries. ([Komisaruk, 2005](#)).

course requirements by weight

COURSE CONTENT	POINTS PER EACH	FREQUENCY	TOTAL
Quizzes	20 points	2 quizzes	40
Written Assignments	20 points	2 written works	40
Attendance	15 points	3 attendance scores	30
Exams	40 points	2 exams	90
Extra Credit	2 points	5 extra credit	10

LETTER	POINT RANGE	PERCENTAGE
A+	194- 200	97%- 100%
A	186- 193	93%- 96%
A-	180- 185	90%- 92%
B+	174- 179	87%- 89%
B	166- 173	83%- 86%
B-	160- 165	80%- 82%
C+	154- 159	77%- 79%
C	146- 153	73%- 76%
C-	140- 145	70%- 72%
D+	134- 139	67%- 69%
D	126 133	63%- 66%
D-	120- 125	60%- 62%
E	0- 119	0%- 60%

SEX FACT

There is wide variability in what people consider included in “having sex”. In a recent study at The Kinsey Institute, nearly 45% of participants considered performing manual-genital stimulation to be “having sex,” 71% considered performing oral sex to be “sex,” 80.8% for anal-genital intercourse. Considerations of “sex” also varied depending on whether or not a condom was used, female or male orgasm, and if the respondent was performing or receiving the stimulation.

*Points will not be curved / rounded up

*Assignments, readings, grades, and announcements will be posted on the e-Learning website.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the e-Learning system.

quizzes:

2 non-cumulative open-book, open-note quizzes, comprised of 10 true/false and multiple choice questions, will cover the readings and material presented in class during the week. Each quiz will be administered via the e-Learning website and will last 15 minutes after log-in. Students are responsible for saving their responses before the allotted time expires. Students who chose to take a quiz on an off-campus computer must do so at their own risk.

No Make-up quizzes will be allowed. See makeup policy.

written assessments:

Written Assessments will be available on the wordpress site, at <http://www.anthropologyandsex.wordpress.com>. These are to be completed out of class and TURNED IN, in paper form, the day they are due. **No makeup assessments will be allowed.**

exams:

A midterm exam and a final exam, comprised of 50 true/false and multiple choice questions, will cover the readings and the material (including films and speakers) presented in class. The final exam will not be cumulative. Each exam will be administered through the e-Learning and will website last 45 minutes after log-in.

Students are responsible for saving their responses before the allotted time expires. Students who chose to take an exam on an off-campus computer must do so at their own risk. Make-up exams will not be allowed.

extra credit assignments:

Students may submit up to five of the two-point extra credit assignments due each week. Extra-credit assignments are optional. However, since grades will not be curved or rounded to the nearest decimal, extra credit points will allow students the ability to bump a borderline grade to the next letter.

Extra Credit Assignments are located under the “Extra Credit Assignments” tab on the wordpress site.

classroom etiquette:

The use of cell phones and laptops is prohibited in class due to the potential for misuse and distraction with this exception for laptops: Anyone with special note taking needs can speak to me and argue their case. Please show respect and tolerance for your fellow classmates. All points of view are welcome, yet they must be expressed in an intelligent and non-offensive manner and framed within an academic context. Students who revert to slurs and/or insults will be asked to leave. Please refer to the University of Florida’s Student Conduct Code: <http://regulations.ufl.edu/chapter4/4016.pdf> Accommodations for Students with

disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodations. This documentation must be provided no later than the end of the second week of class.

academic honesty:

All students are expected to abide by the rules and principles of the University of Floridas Honor Code (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>). Authenticity of student work may be verified by the Turn It In program. Evidence of plagiarism or multiple submissions will lead to the Departments and the University’s procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty.

class schedule

week 1: introduction and where we’ve come from

M: Human Sexuality: Beginnings.

T: So Many Perspectives on Sex. READ: pp. 35-45

W: HOLIDAY

R: The Mystery of Enormous Breasts and Penises. READ: pp. 54-65

F: What do hormones have to do with it? & Intersexuality READ: 99-105, 138-141, 80-86. (Extra Credit #1 due, Writing Assignment # 1 Due)

week 2: the biology of sexual belonging

M: Modern human female sexual anatomy. READ: 105-129

T: Modern human male sexual anatomy. READ: 86-98

W: The Pleasure of Sexuality and Human Sexual Response. READ: Chapter 11

R: Sexual Values and Variance. READ: 347-384

F: Safe Sex, STD's, and Myths about Sexuality. READ: 443-449 (Quiz #1 10:30 am to 10:30 pm)(Extra Credit #2 Due)

week 3: sexual life histories

M: Fertility, conception, and sexual differentiation READ: 130-138, 145-157

T: Pregnancy and childbirth as a bio-cultural experience. Read: 159-171

W: coming of age. read: chapter ten.

R: Birth Control READ: 313-345 Table 12.2

F: Review and Midterm (Midterm Open 10:30 am to 10:30 pm)(Extra Credit #3 Due)

SEX FACT

week 4: sexuality, economy, and sacred things

M: Sex Trafficking & The Global Sex Market. READ: 483-505

T: Spiritual Sexual Exchanges in the Ancient Near East. READ: Supplementary texts

W: Shamanism and Cosmo-sexual Practice in the Amazon. READ: Supplementary texts by Robin Wright et al.

R: The Politics of Sexual Positions in India. READ: Kama Sutra + Supplementary Texts.

F: A virtual visit to the Kinsey Institute Archives. Is it Art or Pornography? Either way, it was for sale. Supplementary Texts (Extra Credit #4 due and Writing Assignment #2 due)

week 5: sex, power, and control

M: Power & Sexual Coercion READ: Resource on Wordpress

T: Rape Cross-Culturally. READ: Resource on Wordpress

W: Defining "Consent". READ: Resource on Wordpress

R: Analytical In-Class Activity "Interpreting a Sexual Encounter"

F: You are what you ___? The power of sexual insults and imagination of depravity.

READ: Supplementary work. (Extra credit #5 due, Quiz # 2 via E-Learning 10:30 am to 10:30 pm)

week 6: resistance and revolutionaries

M: The Marquis de Sade and Transgression. READ: Resource on Wordpress

T: Omar Khayyam and Hedonism. READ: Resource on Wordpress

W: The VCR and the Internet as Sexual Revolutions. READ: Resource on Wordpress

T: Homosexuality, The Gods, and Haiti.

F: August 7: Final Examination via e-Learning: open 8am-8pm

Receptive oral sex is reported by more than half of women who are in a co-habiting relationship between the ages of 18 and 69. It was also reported by more than half of women cohabitation between ages 18 and 49, and more than half of married women ages 30-39. [NSSHB, 2010](#)

