

ANTH-104
SEX AND HUMAN NATURE
 Fall 2007

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 AM to 3:00 PM

CO-INSTRUCTORS

Dr. Eduardo Fernandez-Duque
 Department of Anthropology
 Room: 431 University Museum
 Phone: 215-898-1072
 E-mail: eduardof@sas.upenn.edu
 Office Hours: Monday 11-12 and by
 appointment

Dr. Claudia Valeggia
 Department of Anthropology
 Room: 432 University Museum
 Phone: 215-746-5162
 E-mail: valeggia@sas.upenn.edu
 Office Hours: Tues 3:00 to 4:30 PM and by
 appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANT

José María López Bejarano
 Department of Anthropology
 Room: 429 University Museum
 Phone: 215-898-9029
 E-mail: jbejaran@sas.upenn.edu
 Office hours: Wednesday 12:30 to 14:00
 PM and by appointment



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introduction to the scientific study of sex in humans. Within an evolutionary framework, the course examines genetic, physiological, ecological, social and behavioral aspects of sex in humans. After providing the basic principles of evolutionary biology, the course will examine the development of sexual anatomy and physiology. How is sex determined? What is the physiology of the sexual response? Are men and women biologically different? What determines sexual orientation? The role of ecology and social life in shaping human mating patterns will be evaluated through the use of ethnographies and cross-cultural materials on a variety of human cultures. Do men and women differ in their sexual strategies? Why marry? Are there biological bases for love? Why do we experience jealousy? Finally, topics relevant to human sexuality today will be discussed, such as rape, contraception, and sexually transmitted diseases. Examples are drawn primarily from traditional and modern human societies; data from studies of nonhuman primates are also considered.

RECITATIONS

There will be no recitations, but every three or four lectures, we will allocate part, or all, of the lecture to a different activity. These “discussion meetings” will be used, for example, for watching a video followed by a debate, listening to a guest speaker, playing an illustrative game, observing human behavior on campus or having a discussion on a topic being addressed in the media at the time.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attendance is essential for doing well in the course. All information discussed in class (e.g. questions from students, debate following a lecture) CAN BE included in the exams. Note also that attendance to the discussion meetings is worth 10% of the final grade (attendance will be recorded at the beginning AND end of class).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The work you submit in this class is expected to be your own. If you submit work that has been copied without attribution from some published or unpublished source, or that has been prepared by someone other than you, or that in any way misrepresents somebody else's work as your own, it will represent a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity. Please consult the Student Handbook or the appropriate web-page:

<http://www.college.upenn.edu/responsibilities/integrity.html>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance to discussion meetings (10 %)

Prospectus of Research Paper (15%)

Research Paper (25%)

First mid-term Exam (25 %)

Second mid-term Exam (25%)

Research Paper

You will have a choice of a number of possible topics that will give you a more in depth understanding of the human sexuality issues covered in the course. A list of possible topics and specific guidelines for the paper will be posted on the course's Blackboard site. Choosing a different topic is possible, but you need to consult with us first.

The paper is to be written as a review of the chosen topic and must contain the following sections: *Introduction, Current ideas on the topic, Recommendations for future research, Conclusions, and Literature reviewed*. Length of the paper: max. 8 pages (plus references), double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pts., 1 inch margins all around (points will be discounted if these directions are not followed). If possible, and to save precious paper resources, the paper must be double-sided or printed on used paper.

There will be three partial deadlines, which are designed to help you organize your work and produce a better final product:

On **October 18**, you will have to turn in the topic you selected as well as a good argument (one paragraph) for choosing that particular topic. You need to turn in a hard copy at the beginning of class that date.

On **November 20** you must turn in an advanced draft of your paper, with a complete list of references you are planning to review. Drafts will be returned with comments and suggestions for the final paper.

On **December 12, 4 PM** you must turn in the final paper. Please leave a hard copy with one of us in one of our three offices. We encourage you to turn in the paper to us **IN HAND**. 10% deduction of final grade of the paper per day late.

Exams

There will be 2 non-cumulative midterms based on the lecture material and assigned readings. They will consist of a combination of definition/description questions, short answer questions, and one essay question. Makeup examinations will only be given with a documented medical excuse.

Midterm I is to be given on October 25.

Midterm II is to be given on December 6.

FINAL GRADE

The final grade in this course will be based on the sum of the scores on all assignments. We will calculate grades on a straight percentage basis. Grading will be based on the following cut-offs:

100% = A+,	87 – 89% = B+	77 – 79% = C+	67 – 69% = D+	
95 - 99% = A,	83 – 86% = B	73 – 76% = C	63 – 66% = D	
90 – 94% = A-,	80 – 82% = B-	70 – 72% = C-	60 – 62% = D-	<60% = F

REQUIRED READINGS

The textbook will be on reserve at Van Pelt and will also be available for purchasing at Penn Bookstore.

- Shibley Hyde, Janet and DeLamater, John (2006) *Understanding Human Sexuality*. Boston, McGraw Hill. *Earlier editions (e.g., 2002) are also acceptable.* Call # at Van Pelt HQ12 .H82 2006.

There will be some additional readings of scientific articles spread through the semester.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Low, Bobbi S. (2000) *Why sex matters: A Darwinian Look at Human Behavior*.

Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Call # at Van Pelt GN281.4 .L68 1999.

Judson, Olivia (2002) *Dr. Tatiana's Sex Advice to All Creation: The definitive guide to the evolutionary biology of Sex*. Henry Holt & CO, New York.

Buss, David M. (2003) *The Evolution of Desire: Strategies of Human Mating*. New York: BasicBooks.

Small, Meredith (1995) *What's love got to do with it?* Anchor Books, New York.

Diamond, Jared (1997) *Why is sex fun? Evolution of Human Sexuality*. New York: BasicBooks.

CONTENTS

(The schedule with dates will be posted on the BlackBoard site)

PART I: Principles of Evolutionary Biology

Introduction and Mechanics of the course

Levels of explanations: mechanisms, development, function, evolution

Different approaches to the scientific study of human sexuality and sexual behavior

Fundamentals of evolutionary theory. Darwin and Natural Selection.

Why sex? Asexual vs sexual reproduction. The evolution of sex.

PART II: How we get there

Prenatal Sex determination: Genetic sex determination, chromosomal sex determination, sexing the brain. Sex hormones and sexual differentiation.

Sex differences: a biocultural approach

Reproductive organs, reproductive cycles: Male reproductive anatomy and physiology.

Female reproductive anatomy and physiology. Female ovarian cycle. Function and evolution of sexual organs. Cross-cultural examples of sexual organs modifications.

The final act: the physiology of sexual intercourse; male and female orgasm.

Sexual Orientation: Biological basis and cross-cultural overview.

PART III: The mating game

Sex Differences. The evolution of sex differences. Biological basis of sex differences.

What men want. What women want. Mate choice: what's attractive? Biocultural perspectives on sexual attraction. Sperm competition.

The sexual contract: why marry? How many partners? Cross-cultural perspectives on the various mating systems (monogamy, polygyny, polyandry, promiscuity).

Mate guarding: Jealousy, Control of Sexuality (Biocultural perspectives)

Love and attachment.

PART IV: Sex in our lives

Contraception: history, methods, pros and cons.

Sexually transmitted diseases: physiology, epidemiology, evolution, and prevention

College and acquaintance rape: biocultural approaches to sexual coercion.