

# Anthropology of Sex

ANT 208 Section 001

Spring 2015, Lecture

Dr. Christopher Lynn

## Office Hours and Contact Information

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## Prerequisites

### UA Course Catalog Prerequisites

No prerequisites or none listed.

## Course Description

### UA Course Catalog Information

This course is an introduction to human sexuality from a biocultural perspective with emphases on sexual diversity and pluralism and psychosexual evolution. It traces the evolution of human sociosexual behavior, including human sexual physiology, preproductive strategies; contemporary courtship, mating and marital patterns; gender differences in the brain and behavior; and sexual and social emotions. It compares the sexuality of humans to non-humans, especially to that of other primates. It also discusses human sexuality from the perspective of different cultures throughout the world. Among other topics, the course will address the psychobiocultural

dimensions and implications of attraction, fidelity sex techniques, gender, incest, homosexuality and transexuality and sexually transmitted diseases.

## Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness of cultural sexual mores on language and folklore
- Describe some of the psychological, biological, and cultural components of human sexuality and the interactions between them
- Examine your own beliefs and assumptions about a variety of topics related to human sexuality
- Identify the biological, behavioral, and sociocultural factors that influence sexual health
- Explain human sociosexual behavior from an evolutionary perspective
- Appreciate the relativity of sexual behavior from an anthropological perspective.

## Required Texts

### UA Supply Store Textbook Information

- BOLIN / HUMAN SEXUALITY **(Required)**
- BOLIN (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) HUMAN SEXUALITY **(RENTAL)**
- CROCKER, WILLIAM H (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) THE CANELA:KINSHIP, RITUAL AND SEX IN AN AMAZONIAN TRIBE **(RENTAL)**
- CROCKER, WILLIAM H / THE CANELA:KINSHIP, RITUAL AND SEX IN AN AMAZONIAN TRIBE **(Required)**
- JOYCE / ANCIENT BODIES, ANCIENT LIVES **(Required)**
- JOYCE (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) ANCIENT BODIES, ANCIENT LIVES **(RENTAL)**

## Other Course Materials

**Blackboard:** This course will use Blackboard, which can be accessed via myBama. There is a box called Blackboard on the Academics tab that should list your courses that are currently set up with Blackboard. Blackboard is the way I will communicate to you about important changes in the syllabus or course activities. The syllabus is likely to change in minor ways. I will send out announcements if it changes in major ways (e.g., readings altered), so you can download a revised copy. I will NOT reprint the syllabus. This is the only printed version you will receive from me. All future correspondence will be electronic, and Blackboard will be the primary vehicle of that correspondence.

**Facebook:** Interesting but less required information will often be communicated via Facebook. The course has a closed Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ant208/>. This is where we will often ask you to post the data you generate from our course activities, as it is a good forum for online discussions. Please request to join to participate in ongoing discussions, post extra credit summaries, and read relevant news items.

Also, please "like" the UA Department of Anthropology on Facebook so we can keep in touch with you and you can stay informed about the department: <http://www.facebook.com/UAAnthroDept>

## Outline of Topics

DATES	TOPIC	READING	ACTIVITY
Wed, Jan 7	Introduction & syllabus	Bolin & Whelehan 1	
Fri, Jan 9		Joyce intro	pre-test, cultural consensus activity
Mon, Jan 12	Anthropological Perspective	Donnan & Magowan 1 (Blackboard)	
Wed, Jan 14			
Fri, Jan 16		Joyce 1	folklore activity
Mon, Jan 19	Linguistics & Folklore	Allan & Burridge (Blackboard)	
Wed, Jan 21		Gregersen 1 (Blackboard)	
Fri, Jan 23		Joyce 2	BIS activity
Mon, Jan 26	Cultural History of Sexology	Gregersen 2 (Blackboard)	
Wed, Jan 28			

Fri, Jan 30	EXAM 1		
Mon, Feb 2	Evolutionary Perspective	B&W 2	
Wed, Feb 4		B&W 3	
Fri, Feb 6		Joyce 3	smelly t-shirt activity
Mon, Feb 9		Lynn, Pipitone, & Keenan 2014	
Wed, Feb 11	Deceit, Self-Deception, & Sex		
Fri, Feb 13		Joyce 4	Science of Sex Appeal
Mon, Feb 16		Fisher ch 1 (Blackboard)	
Wed, Feb 18	Courtship		
Fri, Feb 20		Fisher ch 2 (Blackboard)	ethology activity
Mon, Feb 23	Non-Human Primate Reproductive Behavior	Fisher chap 6 (Blackboard)	
Wed, Feb 25			
Fri, Feb 27	MIDTERM EXAM		
Mon, Mar 2		B&W 5	

Wed, Mar 4	Comparative Sexual Anatomy	B&W 6	
Fri, Mar 6		Joyce 5	Funkhouser guest lecture
Mon, Mar 9		B&W 7	
Wed, Mar 11	Sexual Differentiation		
Fri, Mar 13		Crocker 1	The Perfect Vagina
Mon, Mar 16			
Wed, Mar 18	SPRING BREAK		
Fri, Mar 20			
Mon, Mar 23		B&W 9	
Wed, Mar 25	Developmental Sexuality	B&W 10	orgasm activity
Fri, Mar 27	EXAM 3		
Mon, Mar 30		B&W 11	
Wed, Apr 1	Human Sexual Response		
Fri, Apr 3		Crocker 2	birth control activity

Mon, Apr 6		B&W 14	
Wed, Apr 8	Sexual Identity		
Fri, Apr 10		Crocker 3	queer activity
Mon, Apr 13		B&W 13	
Wed, Apr 15	Aging		
Fri, Apr 17		Crocker 4	Paradise Bent
Mon, Apr 20		B&W 15	
Wed, Apr 22	STDs & Sex Work	B&W 16	
Fri, Apr 24		Crocker 5	Purvis guest lecture
FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM			

## Exams and Assignments

**Activities (30 points):** There will be several activities that we will require or encourage you to experience this semester, which will take place during Friday meetings. These activities will not be evaluated, but your participation in them will be monitored. They are designed to enhance your learning experience, and we will draw upon your experiences in these activities to facilitate in-class discussions. Information about these activities will be provided during Friday classes and made available in more detail via Blackboard.

**Exams (70 points):** There are 4 exams, including the midterm and final. The midterm and final exams are cumulative. The exams will cover material presented in lecture, in the assigned readings, activities, and in the films. You must take the exam on the scheduled date.

## Grading Policy

Exam 1 = 15%

Midterm exam = 20%

Exam 3 = 15%

Final exam = 20%

Activity participation = 30%

TOTAL = 100%

These represent the course percentages available for each exam or assignment. Assignment and exam points may vary, but scores will be calculated to determine the course percent earned.

## Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

**Attendance:** You must attend class to know what is going on. I do not post Powerpoints to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to come to class and take notes. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to get notes from a particular lecture. However, lectures will be recorded and available in a Tegrity folder on Blackboard, but I cannot guarantee that every lecture will be available. Neither the GTA nor I will meet with you to clarify a whole lecture because of an absence. It behooves you to use Tegrity to clarify material that you may not have understood during class or to help you clarify material you missed in conjunction with classmates' shared notes.

**Activities:** There will be several course activities that will not be evaluated but will be used for discussion purposes and to gauge your engagement in the course. While you will not be given a grade for such items, you will be penalized if you do not attend Friday meetings and complete activities.

**Exams:** If you miss an exam for any reason whatsoever, whether excused or unexcused, valid or not, you can make it up by writing a double-spaced 15-page term paper on a topic of Dr. Lynn's choosing. This will be turned in by the last day of class.

## Attendance Policy

You should show up to class on Mondays and Wednesdays. The course material is challenging, and I do NOT post Powerpoint slides to Blackboard. You must take your own notes. In the past, most students who did not attend class regularly performed poorly. Otherwise, you are adults and subject to monitoring yourselves and living with the consequences of your actions, as with your sexual behavior!

However, we will take attendance on Fridays to ensure you participate in the activities.

## Extra Credit Opportunities

You may earn up to 15 course points via extra credit opportunities. There are several extra credit opportunities in this course as follow:

- You may earn up to 15 course points by **submitting a sexology-related research paper or 10 course points for a book review to a peer-reviewed journal** (e.g., [JOSHUA](#) and [EvoS Journal](#) are two forums for undergraduate research). To pursue research, you must submit a topic to Dr. Lynn and have it approved by January 30. To submit a book review, you must submit a book title to Dr. Lynn and have it approved before Spring Break. Contact Dr. Lynn for additional details.
- You may earn up to 6 course points by **attending sexology-oriented events or activities** (up to 2 points per activity). There are numerous opportunities during the course of the semester to enhance your education through attending or participating in sexology-oriented activities. Examples include attending or participating in a burlesque performance (the Pink Box Burlesque is a Tuscaloosa troupe that performs regularly) or attending a relevant lecture. To receive extra credit, you will need to attend the event and write up your experiences in the form of a document in the course's Facebook group. This will enable other students to read about your experiences and interact. BEFORE ATTENDING SUCH AN EVENT, contact Dr. Lynn to obtain approval and ensure that it is a relevant activity meritorious of extra credit. You will be expected to provide an ~500 word summary reporting the Who, What, When, Where, and Why of the event. You may be called on to give an in-class summary of your experience if it sounds particularly compelling.
- You can also earn extra credit by **attending ALLELE lectures**. There are four public lectures this semester, and there may be additional departmental lectures. "Like" [the ALLELE series on Facebook](#) to stay apprised of dates. You can receive points for yourself AND FRIENDS YOU RECRUIT TO ATTEND by taking selfies with them at the lecture. Dr. Lynn will post more details in the Facebook group.

Other extra credit opportunities may be announced through the course of the semester.

## Research Opportunities

The Anthropology Department offers several avenues for getting involved in undergraduate research. We offer a course in Undergraduate Research that you can take in conjunction with mentoring by a department faculty member. There is a portal on the department website that will help us guide you to appropriate mentor and project: <http://anthropology.ua.edu/ugres.php>. Additionally, I take new students into the Human Behavioral Ecology Research Group (HBERG) every semester who are interested in getting involved in the kind of research I conduct and which is related to this course. Under some circumstances, I may offer extra credit for such participation, but you can also get involved without receiving credit, if you simply desire research experience. You can learn more about HBERG activities here: <http://anthropology.ua.edu/hberg/>. To apply to work with me, fill out the form at this portal: <http://anthropology.ua.edu/hberg/4/>.

## Emergency Contact Information

UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at [www.ua.edu](http://www.ua.edu). In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.



## Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](#) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

**The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:**

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at <http://wvuatv.com/content/weather>. WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone. Check <http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts> for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

## Disability Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

## **Policy on Academic Misconduct**

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: “I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University.”

See the [Code of Student Conduct](#) for more information.