ANT 208: ANTHROPOLOGY OF SEX

Spring 2018 / Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:45 AM / ten Hoor 30

Dr. Christopher Lynn

Email: [***cdlynn@ua.edu***](mailto:cdlynn@ua.edu)   
Website: [***http://cdlynn.people.ua.edu/***](http://cdlynn.people.ua.edu/)   
Office: 12 ten Hoor  
Office phone: (205) 348-4162  
Office hours: Mon/Wed 3-4PM or by appointment

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to human sexuality from a four-field perspective (cultural, biological, linguistic, and archaeological) with emphases on sexual pluralism and psychosexual evolution.  We will trace the evolution of human sociosexual behavior, including human sexual physiology; reproductive strategies; contemporary courtship, mating, and marital patterns; gender differences in the brain and behavior; and sexual and social emotions.  We compare the sexuality of humans to non-humans, especially to that of other primates.  We also discuss human sexuality from the perspective of different cultures throughout the world based on ethnographic and archaeological accounts.  Among the topics we may discuss are the psychobiocultural dimensions and implications of attraction, fidelity, sex techniques, circumcision, gender, incest, auto-eroticism, homosexuality and transsexuality, 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.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### Required Texts

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

Jeffrey, Eugenides. "Middlesex." *New York: Picador* (2002).

Mead, Margaret. *Coming of Age in Samoa* Penguin Books Limited, 1954.

### ****Blackboard****

This course will use Blackboard to distribute additional readings, including readings by our scheduled ALLELE speakers. Those should be posted at least a week in advance of when they are assigned. Access Blackboard via myBama. There is a box called Blackboard on the Academics tab that should list your courses that are currently let up with Blackboard.

We will also use Blackboard to turn in all assignments. I STRONGLY recommend you set up Blackboard to send you email notifications when things are posted, updated, due, or have been graded. To do this, follow these instructions:

1. Log in to Blackboard.
2. Toggle the arrow next to your name at the upper right hand corner of your screen.
3. Select "Settings" at the bottom of the screen that appears.
4. Select "Edit Notification Settings."
5. Select this course from the list.
6. Under "2. Settings," check the box above Email so it notifies you when any actions are taken.
7. Be sure to click the "Submit" button to save these settings.

### ****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 I 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>.

### Attendance

You are required to come to class and participate. Attendance and participation will be monitored. You can miss 3 classes for any reason whatsoever with no penalty. However, if you miss more than 3 classes, whether excused or unexcused, 5 course points will be deducted from your course grade for each additional absence. Excessive absence will result in a failing grade in the course.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

### PARTICIPATION

Class participation will be evaluated in several ways:

* Class attendance.
* Pop reading quizzes. These are short quizzes to motivate you to keep up with the reading.
* Viewing guides. You are assigned to watch several online documentaries over the course of the semester via links provided. You are required to fill out submit viewing guides for each selection and submit them via Blackboard by the due date. Viewing guides are due by midnight on the dates assigned.
* Activities.There will be several activities that we will require or encourage you to experience this semester. Some of these will take place in class and others will require your participation on your own time. 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 often draw upon your experiences of these activities to facilitate in-class discussions. Information about these activities will be mentioned in class and made available in more detail via Blackboard.

### TESTS AND EXAMS

There are 4 tests/exams, including the midterm and final. The midterm and final exams are cumulative. The exams will cover material presented in lectures, assigned readings, activities, and in the films.

## GRADING POLICY

Exam 1 = 15%

Midterm exam = 20%

Exam 3 = 15%

Final exam = 20%

Participation = 30%

TOTAL = 100%

## OUTLINE OF TOPICS

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Video** | **Activity/Assignment** | **Reading** |
| Thurs 1/11 | Introduction & syllabus |  | Pre-test | B&W ch 1; Mead ch 1 |
| Tues 1/16 | Anthropological perspective |  | Cultural consensus activity | Donnan & Magowan 1; Mead ch 2-3 |
| Thurs 1/18 |
| Tues 1/23 | Linguistics & folklore | [*Alfred Kinsey*](https://www.libdata.lib.ua.edu/login?url=http://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=105189&xtid=29835) | Folklore activity | Allan & Burridge; Gregersen 1; Mead ch 4-5 |
| Thurs 1/25 |  |
| Tues 1/30 | Cultural history of sexology |  | Behavioral immune system activity | Gregersen 2; Mead ch 6-7 |
| Thurs 2/1 | *Masters of Sex* |
| **Test 1: Available 2/2, due 2/5 by midnight** | | | | |
| Tues 2/6 | Evolutionary perspective |  | Behavioral immune system activity | B&W ch 2-3; Mead ch 8-9 |
| Thurs 2/8 |
| Tues 2/13 | Deceit, self-deception, & sex |  | Smelly t-shirt activity | Lynn et al. 2014; Mead ch 10-11 |
| Thurs 2/15 |
| Tues 2/20 | Courtship | [*Science of Sex Appeal*](https://youtu.be/RyzbsYBPy8g) | Ethology activity | Fisher ch 1-2; Mead ch 12-13 |
| Thurs 2/22 |  |
| Tues 2/27 | Comparative psychology |  |  | Fisher ch 6; Mead ch 14 |
| Thurs 3/1 |
| **Midterm exam: Available 3/2, due 3/5 by midnight** | | | | |
| Tues 3/6 | Comparative sexual anatomy |  |  | B&W ch 5-6; Middlesex pp 1-78 |
| Thurs 3/8 |
| Tues 3/13 | SPRING BREAK | | | |
| Thurs 3/15 |
| Tues 3/20 | Sexual differentiation | Female circumcision |  | B&W ch 7; Middlesex pp. 79-165 |
| Thurs 3/22 |  |
| Tues 3/27 | Developmental sexuality |  | Birth control activity | B&W ch 9-10; Middlesex pp. 166-231 |
| Thurs 3/29 | [*The Perfect Vagina*](https://youtu.be/ZUccdP9LTnQ) |
| **Test 3: Available 3/30, due 4/2 by midnight** | | | | |
| Tues 4/3 | Human sexual response |  | Orgasm activity | B&W ch 11; Middlesex pp. 232-306 |
| Thurs 4/5 |
| Tues 4/10 | Sexual identity |  | Queer activity | B&W ch 11; Middlesex pp. 307-400 |
| Thurs 4/12 | *Paradise Bent* |
| Tues 4/17 | Aging |  |  | B&W 13; Middlesex pp. 401-477 |
| Thurs 4/19 |
| Tues 4/24 | STIs & sex work |  |  | B&W ch 15-16; Middlesex pp. 478- |
| Thurs 4/26 |
| Mon 4/1, 8-10:30 AM | **Comprehensive final exam** | | | |

## OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

### Policy On Missed Exams and Coursework

Attendance: If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to get notes. There are no make-ups. Since I allow 3 absences without penalty for whatever reason. Absences over and above that are penalized as outlined above regardless of reason, so it is recommended you save your absences for emergency purposes.

Quizzes and viewing guides: Pop reading quizzes cannot be made up. Viewing guides can be submitted late for half credit.

Tests/Exam: Each test and exam is available to take over a 4-day period and cannot be made up.

### Undergraduate Research

I admit 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. Learn more about HBERG activities here: <http://cdlynn.people.ua.edu/hberg.html>. To apply to work with me, fill out the form at this portal: <http://cdlynn.people.ua.edu/join-us.html>.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### Nondiscrimination Policy

In this class, we discuss many controversial social issues. As an academic community, our educational mission is enhanced by the robust exchange of ideas that occurs among a diverse student body, faculty, and staff within a respectful and inclusive learning environment. In that spirit, any opinion is welcome in class discussion, provided it is presented in a respectful way.

The University of Alabama is committed to providing an inclusive environment that is free from harassment or discrimination based on race, genetic information, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, political beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, age, ability, size, or veteran status. The University of Alabama prohibits any verbal or physical conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any individual or group, including physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, stalking, intimidation, harassment, sexual misconduct, coercion, or other communication or conduct that creates a hostile living or learning environment. Harassment or other illegal discrimination against individuals or groups not only is a violation of University Policy and subject to disciplinary action but also is inconsistent with the values and ideals of the University.

*The UAct website (*[*www.ua.edu/uact*](http://www.ua.edu/uact)*) provides a list of reporting channels that can be used to report incidents of illegal discrimination, harassment, sexual assault, sexual violence, retaliation, threat assessment or fraud.*

### Social Media

I use Twitter as a way to share information during and between classes. We use hashtag #ant208. You can follow me @Chris\_Ly and the department @BamaAnthro. *HOWEVER*, it is extremely rude to be constantly texting or using your smartphone if you are not doing it for class and only with express permission. Therefore, if I see you on your device during class, I will be looking for course-relevant tweets. If you need to use your devices for anything but coursework, take it into the hallway, or I will ask you to do so. I will warn you once if I see you using social media during class except to tweet notes about the class using the #ant208 hashtag. After the first warning, I will ask you to leave class and count you as absent that session.

### Notification of Changes

I endeavor to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, I reserve the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, I will notify you in class or via email and endeavor to provide reasonable time for you to adjust to any changes.

### Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official [Code of Academic Conduct](http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/code-academic-conduct/) provided in the Online Catalog. The [UAct website](https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/) provides an overview of The University's expectations regarding respect and civility.

### Statement on Disability Accommodations

Contact the [Office of Disability Services (ODS)](http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

### Severe Weather Protocol

Please see the latest [Severe Weather Guidelines](http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/severe-weather-guidelines/) in the Online Catalog.