Anthropology 124P -- The Evolution of Human Sexual Behavior
Spring 2007
Monday & Wednesday 8:00-9:15 a.m. Dodd Hall 121

Professor Daniel M.T. Fessler
Office: 390 Haines Hall
Office Hours: Monday 9:30-11:30, Wednesday 10:50-11:50, or by appointment
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Teaching Assistants:
Sections A, B, & C: Jeff Snyder, jksnyder@ucla.edu OH: T 12:00-1:00; W 10:00-11:00 360 Haines Hall
Sections D, E, & F: Kevin Haley, khaley@ucla.edu OH: MW 9:30-10:30 360 Haines Hall
Sections G, H, & I: Serena Eng, sjeng@ucla.edu OH: M 10:15-11:15; T 10:30-11:30 360 Haines Hall

The key to understanding human sexuality is to recognize that it is a problem in evolutionary biology -- Jared Diamond

Introduction
Sexuality is a ubiquitous theme across time and across cultures. Although there is considerable variation in sexual behavior around the world, such variation is built upon a panhuman sexual nature. Our sexual nature might be said to be one of the most important factors determining our experience of ourselves, and the structures of our societies. Darwinian theory provides a powerful means of understanding the origins and nature of human sexuality. In this course we will explore some of the many ways in which evolution has shaped our sexual bodies and our sexual minds.

A word of warning
This is a demanding course, intended for dedicated students who want to get the most out of a university education. We will be grappling with complex theory and state-of-the-art research. Much of the reading consists of journal articles and book chapters written for a professional scientific audience. This is not a titillating, casual survey of sex. If that is what you are looking for, you are strongly advised to drop the course.

General Principles
I encourage questions and comments, and will attempt to make time for them during lecture. However, extensive discussion may sometimes not be possible in lecture due to the size of the class. You are welcome to visit me during office hours if you wish to discuss an issue in greater depth. Please note that many of the subjects covered in this course are of a sensitive nature. I make every effort to explore material in a manner that will not give offense, and I expect students to do likewise in their questions and comments. Please note that disclosing material of an intimate or personal nature is generally not appropriate. Feedback concerning these and other aspects of the course is always welcome, but is best conveyed outside of class.

Grading
Evaluation will be based on the following: a midterm exam, worth 30% of your grade; a final exam, worth 45% of your grade; section attendance, participation, and homework, worth 15% of your grade; and an unspecified number of pop quizzes, which together will be worth 10% of your grade (the latter
are intended to assist you in keeping up with the reading on a regular basis, as this will help you to get
the most out of the course – trust me, it works). The final exam will be cumulative. Students who
either are one of the top 5 performers in the class on the final exam or earn 100% of the points on the
final exam will receive a course grade of ‘A’ regardless of previous test scores, as, in my opinion, such
performance on a cumulative exam indicates that you have mastered the material in the given course.
Note that this policy is enacted independently of the course curve, and does not affect the course curve.

Policies

Lectures
Attendance at all lectures is mandatory. In order to maximize your own learning and avoid interrupting
that of your peers, please (I’m asking nicely here) arrive promptly, and do not depart before the end of
lecture. **Pop quizzes will be given in the first few minutes of class -- late arrivals will be unable to
participate.** It is a good idea to establish a note-taking partnership with someone in the class so that you
can assist one another in the event of an unavoidable absence (the professor’s ‘notes’ consist principally
of obscure and illegible ramblings, doodles, and bizarre scribbles, and will not be made available to
students). You are responsible for all material presented in the readings, and all material presented in
the lectures and sections. Lastly, if you are a cell phone user, please turn your device off before the
lecture begins (‘off’, not ‘vibrate’ – everyone will crane their necks and stare at you if your phone goes
BZZZZZZ during lecture, and then you and I will both be sad).

Sections
Attendance at sections is mandatory; you must attend the section in which you are enrolled (switching
sections is not allowed). For each meeting, you are required to prepare four thoughtful, substantive
questions concerning the material to be discussed that week. The questions are to be sent via email to
your TA by noon the day before your section. The TA will use students’ questions in guiding the
discussion. Each week, the TA will randomly select several students to present their questions to the
section; so as to be prepared, be sure to bring a copy of your own questions to each meeting. Especially
insightful and clever questions will no doubt earn you the admiration of your peers.

Quizzes
Quizzes will cover the readings assigned for the given lecture. **No make-up quizzes will be given.**
**Quizzes will not be regraded.** In calculating your course grade, one quiz grade (the lowest, or the one
you missed because of that ugly little traffic mishap, etc.) will be dropped.

Exams
Exams will principally have a short-answer / short-essay format. Make-up exams will be given only in
the event of documented catastrophic hardship, and only at the professor’s discretion. **Requests for
regrading must be submitted in writing within one week of the date on which the graded exams
were returned to your section.** Any such requests must specify the exact issues that are contested, and
must provide tangible reasons for a regrade. A separate request must be submitted for each contested
question. Regrade requests are to be submitted directly to your TA, who will pass the request on to the
respective grader(s), and then inform you of the result of the regrade. If you are unsatisfied with the
result of the regrade, you may discuss the matter with me during office hours.

Transportation Policy: It is impossible for me to monitor the current level of craziness on the
405, discover whether your car really did catch fire in front of Starbucks, or find out how long the bus
was delayed by the guy with the shopping cart and the invisible friend. Accordingly, the only way for
me to be truly fair is to adopt the following policy: Transportation problems of any sort (including
traffic, weather, accidents, etc.) do not excuse lateness or absence on exam days – neither extra time nor
make-ups will be given for such problems. Plan accordingly.
Materials

There are two required sets of reading materials for this course:
-- Sex, evolution, and behavior textbook (abbreviated as S.E.B.) by Martin Daly and Margo Wilson, (1983, 2nd ed.). Although this book is out of print, bound photocopies are available for purchase at the UCLA Bookstore.
-- Course readings – In order to both save you money and reduce the impact of this course on the environment, in lieu of a photocopied course reader, electronic PDF files will be posted online. A link from the course web site will allow you to access these materials (please ask your TA for assistance if you encounter difficulty accessing the materials). If you would like to print out the readings, free printing is available to students enrolled in social science classes at the Social Sciences Computing Lab in the Public Policy building. The PDF files will also be available on a compact disc placed on reserve at Powell Library. Finally, paper copies of these materials will be available for check-out in the Anthropology Reading Room (352 Haines Hall); a for-fee photocopy machine is available in the Anthropology Reading Room.

You must bring a #2 pencil and a Scan-tron sheet #882-ES, available for purchase at the Bookstore, to every class meeting. These will be used to record answers on quizzes. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A #2 PENCIL AND A SCAN-TRON SHEET AT THE TIME OF A QUIZ, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO -- NO EXCEPTIONS.

F.G. Bailey, an eminent and prolific social anthropologist, recommends reading from a novel every night so as to sharpen your analytic and writing skills in a relaxing fashion. Glory season by David Brin (Bantam paperback 1994, ISBN: 0-553-56767-5, available through Amazon.com, the University Bookstore, and many other retailers), is a science fiction novel that cleverly addresses a number of the themes covered in this course. It is recommended, but not required. An extra-credit question concerning this book may appear on the final exam.

Schedule

Daily topics are underlined -- readings follow. Note that some days have multiple topics. Read all of the readings assigned for a given day. Also, note that some assignments are lengthier than others -- plan your time accordingly.

Sections will be held Week 1, but no homework will be collected during Week 1
4/2 Introduction to Evolutionary Anthropology & Evolutionary Psychology
4/4 Evolutionary principles -- S.E.B. Ch. 1-3
4/9 Evolution of sex; Sexual selection I -- S.E.B. Ch. 4-5
4/11 Male aggression and violence -- Daly & Wilson ‘88
4/16 Sexual selection II -- S.E.B. Ch. 6
Female mate selection -- Ellis ‘92
Sperm competition – Gallup ‘03
4/18 Facial attractiveness – Jones ’95  
Breast morphology – Marlow ’98

4/23 Reproductive strategies – S.E.B. Ch. 7  
Jealousy – Buss et al. ’92

4/25 Infidelity & mate retention – Gangestad et al. ‘02

4/30 **Midterm Exam** – covers up to and including material from 4/25

5/2 Male proprietary attitudes – Wilson & Daly ‘92

5/7 Life history theory – S.E.B. Ch. 8  
Female life history – Belsky et al. ‘91

5/9 Rape – Thornhill & Thornhill ‘92

5/14 Ontogeny & differentiation – S.E.B. Ch. 10  
Olfaction I – Herz & Cahill ‘97

5/16 Olfaction II – Gangestad & Thornhill ‘98; Wedekind et al. ‘95

5/21 Homosexuality – Bailey et al. ‘94  
Emotions – Fisher ‘98

5/23 Inbreeding & incest – Wolf ‘93

*NOTE: No discussions section will be held the week of 5/28. Instead, the Teaching Assistants will hold extended office hours (details to be announced on 5/23).*

5/28 **Memorial Day holiday**

5/30 Menstrual synchrony/pheromones – Weller ‘98; Stern & McClintock ‘98  
Reproductive investment – S.E.B. Ch. 12

6/4 Disgust sensitivity – Fessler & Navarrete ‘03  
Female rape avoidance – Bröder & Hohmann ‘03

6/6 Waist-to-hip ratio – Singh ‘93

**Final Exam Friday, June 15th, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in Dodd Hall 121**