
ANTHRO 2580

Evolution of Human Sexuality



About this course

Sexual reproduction has been shaped by two billion years of evolution. In the human lineage, we carry biological and behavioral remnants of this evolution, but our own reproductive behaviors and decisions are also influenced by the cultural context. Ecology and social life shape variation in mating patterns cross-culturally, including sexual behavior, marriage, attraction, mate choice, jealousy, paternity, disease transmission, contraception, and interpretations of gender. By drawing from evolutionary history, non-human primates, small-scale societies, and industrialized nations, this course will critically evaluate understandings of human sexual behavior and reproduction from an evolutionary perspective.

As part of this course, students will be expected to read academic journal articles, book chapters, and some popular science treatments related to human sexuality written for a professional audience. However, some course material, images, and topics may be disturbing to students, including but not limited to, issues of sexual violence. Additionally, students should not disclose any intimate or personal information during class discussions.

Course Objectives

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

- Describe the evolution of sexual reproduction
- Situate human mating patterns within human evolutionary history
- Understand social and ecological drivers of variation in reproductive behavior
- Critically appraise research related to mate choice and human sexual behavior

**Class will meet Tue & Thu 11:00AM - 12:15 PM
in Memorial Student Union - Jesse Auditorium**

**Instructor is Dr. Sean Prall. My office is in
Swallow Hall 224, and my office hours are Wed
from 1-3 PM or by appointment. You may
contact me via email at sprall@missouri.edu**

Readings

There are no textbooks required for this course. All readings will be uploaded online in PDF format. However, interested students may consider the following books for more information.

- Buss D. 2003. *The Evolution of Desire: Strategies for Human mating*. Basic Books.
- Hrdy S. 1981. *The woman that never evolved*. Harvard University Press.
- Low B. 2000. *Why sex matters: a Darwinian look at human behavior*. Princeton University Press.
- Ridley M. 1993. *The Red Queen: sex and the evolution of human nature*. Harper Perennial.
- Roughgarden J. 2009. *Evolution's rainbow: Diversity, gender, and sexuality in nature and people*. University of California Press

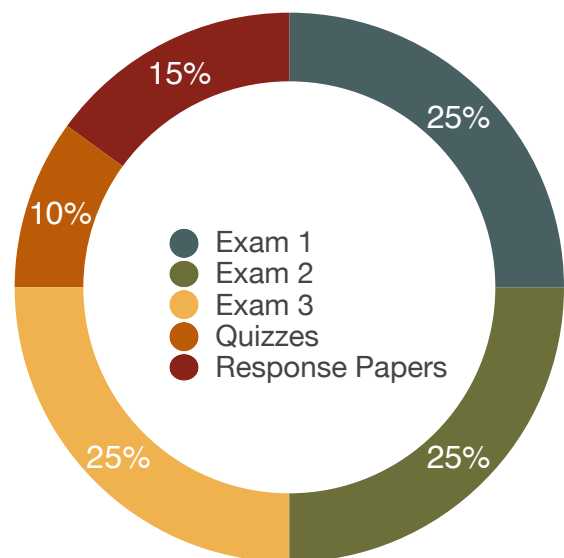
Assignments and grading

Grading for this class will be broken down into the following requirements and assignments as represented in the graph.

Quizzes - At the discretion of the instructor, students will complete a series of short and unannounced quizzes at the beginning of class sessions. Quizzes may be in any format, but will concentrate on assigned reading materials, and subject matter covered since the previous quiz.

Response papers - Students will be required to submit multiple response papers during the course of the semester. Topic and requirements will be announced on Canvas.

Exams - Students will complete three exams during the semester. Exams will be composed of a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The last exam will be during finals week, but will not be cumulative. Students should refer to questions from the quizzes for style and content.



Arts and Sciences Diversity Requirement

This course satisfies the DI requirement for students in the College of Arts and Sciences by focusing on diverse perspectives in sex, gender, and reproduction. Using biology and evolutionary theory, as well as anthropological and cross-cultural perspectives from a variety of small-scale populations, this class explores (1) how sex and gender are perceived cross-culturally and the diversity of ways in which gender is enacted, (2) variation in sexual behavior, including issues of sexual identity, and mate concurrency, (3) female choice and autonomy in marital practices including polygyny and polyandry, (4) the evolution of gender inequality and the sexual double standard, and (5) how evolutionary and developmental processes challenge binary views of sex and gender. As part of these goals, students will explore cultural diversity, from traditional foragers and pastoralists to industrialized populations. Students will learn about these diverse groups with vastly different norms and patterns of behavior, and expected to think critically about these groups within changing environmental and social contexts. In addition to in-class activities, students will explore these topics through in-class discussion, and in the form of short essays (response papers) on socio-cultural and socio-ecological interpretations of sex, marriage, gender, and reproduction.

Course Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Topic
Week 1	Tuesday	25-Aug	A guided tour of sex
	Thursday	27-Aug	Introduction to evolutionary theory
Week 2	Tuesday	1-Sep	Evolution of sexual reproduction
	Thursday	3-Sep	The Red Queen Game
Week 3	Tuesday	8-Sep	Sexual development and variation
	Thursday	10-Sep	Introduction to sexual selection
Week 4	Tuesday	15-Sep	Sexual selection continued
	Thursday	17-Sep	The Mating Game
Week 5	Tuesday	22-Sep	The comparative perspective
	Thursday	24-Sep	Exam 1
Week 6	Tuesday	29-Sep	The comparative perspective continued
	Thursday	1-Oct	Evolution of the Pair Bond
Week 7	Tuesday	6-Oct	Mating and marriage in the cross cultural perspective, !Kung marriage practices
	Thursday	8-Oct	Mating and marriage in the cross cultural perspective, Nyimba marriage practices
Week 8	Tuesday	13-Oct	Paternity, fidelity, and jealousy
	Thursday	15-Oct	Paternity, fidelity, and jealousy, Nuer Sex and Marriage
Week 9	Tuesday	20-Oct	Guardians of the Flutes - exploring Sambia sex, gender, and identity
	Thursday	22-Oct	Case studies in sex and marriage: Himba sex, gender, and reproductive diversity
Week 10	Tuesday	27-Oct	Gender from the cross cultural perspective
	Thursday	29-Oct	Exam 2
Week 11	Tuesday	3-Nov	Sex and fertility in transition
	Thursday	5-Nov	Mate Choice - physical cues of fitness, status, wealth
Week 12	Tuesday	10-Nov	Sexual Strategies Theory
	Thursday	12-Nov	Sex ratios and mating markets
Week 13	Tuesday	17-Nov	Male aggression and violence, Netsilik marriage, male competition, and infanticide
	Thursday	19-Nov	Cycle Wars
Week 14	Tuesday	1-Dec	The biology of love and attachment
	Thursday	3-Dec	Evolutionary perspectives on homosexuality
Week 15	Tuesday	8-Dec	Informal partnerships and transactional sex
	Thursday	10-Dec	The future of sex
Finals		17-Dec	Exam 3

Course Policies and Expectations

Attendance

Students are expected to be present for class (until otherwise notified). Attendance will not be taken, but students who fail to attend may miss pop quizzes and valuable in-class learning opportunities. Students who have a *legitimate* reason to miss class must alert the instructor BEFORE class (and ideally at least 24 hours in advance). Students who miss class without legitimate reasons and advance warning may not make up missed quizzes, exams, or hand in materials late.

Students who have legitimate reasons not to attend class in person may attend digitally. It is the student's responsibility to be contact with the instructor regarding access to these materials. Every effort will be made to give students unable to attend in-person fair and equitable access to lectures and other course materials.

Decreasing the Risk of COVID-19 in Classrooms and Labs

MU cares about the health and safety of its students, faculty, and staff. To provide safe, high-quality education amid COVID-19, we will follow several specific campus policies in accordance with the advice of the Center for Disease Control and Boone County health authorities. This statement will be updated as information changes.

- If you are experiencing any COVID-related symptoms, or are otherwise feeling unwell, do not attend in-person classes and contact your health care provider and/or student health immediately. COVID symptoms include: fever greater than 100.4 or chills; cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; fatigue; unexplained muscle or body aches; headache; new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea.
- We will all wear face coverings while in the classroom, unless you have a documented exemption due to a disability or medical condition.
- We will maintain a 6-foot distance from each other at all times (except in specific lab/studio courses with other specific guidelines for social distancing).
- We will enter the classroom and fill the room starting at the front, filing all the way across a row. When class ends, we will exit the row nearest to the door first; the instructor or TA will give the signal for the next row to exit, in the same manner.
- In any small section or lab class that requires them, additional measures will be listed in the syllabus and be mandatory for class participation.
- Online office hours will be available for all students.
- This course may be recorded for the sole purpose of sharing the recording with students who can't attend class. The instructor will take care not to disclose personally identifiable information from the student education records during the recorded lesson.

Compliance with these guidelines is required for all; anyone who fails to comply will be subject to the accountability process, as stated in the University's Collected Rules and Regulations, Chapter 200 Student Code of Conduct.

If an instructor has concerns about how a student is following COVID-19 policies and protocols, please report those concerns to the Office of the Dean of Students. You can fill out a COVID Safety Measures Reporting Form here: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofMissouriSystem&layout_id=38

By taking the above measures, we are supporting your health and that of the whole Mizzou community. Thank you in advance for joining me and your peers in adhering to these safety measures.

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If **disability related accommodations** are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the MU Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

The University community welcomes **intellectual diversity and respects student rights**. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or equity@missouri.edu.

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may not make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation under section 240.040



Grading scale

97 - 100%	= A+
93 - 96%	= A
90 - 92%	= A-
87 - 89%	= B+
83 - 86%	= B
80 - 82%	= B-
77 - 79%	= C+
73 - 76%	= C
70 - 72%	= C-
67 - 69%	= D+
63 - 66%	= D
60 - 62%	= D-
Under 60%	= F

of the Collected Rules. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Those students who are permitted to record are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Please note that course schedule and any deadlines listed are subject to change. Instructor may change course content, assignments, grading, and reading at his discretion. Students will be notified of updates to this syllabus as they occur.