

Research Paper – Fall 2009
ANT 2301 | Human Sexuality and Culture

You are required to write a research paper. The paper should be 8-10 pages of text, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. References must be consistently formatted in MLA style. Includes a list of references cited on a separate page at the end of the text. Your paper must cite and incorporate at least six sources from the scholarly literature. Scholarly literature includes peer-reviewed academic journals, monographs, and edited volumes. Encyclopedias, textbooks, and most websites are not appropriate sources. Your paper will be evaluated based on the quality of the literature review, the quality of analytic effort, and the organization and writing style (see below for details). You are encouraged to take advantage of the services offered by the Reading & Writing Center, Broward Hall, 392-0791, <http://www.at.ufl.edu/rwcenter/>.

Requirements and Due Dates

Good writing requires revision and rewriting. To improve your skills in this regard, the research paper involves three assignments:

- a. *First submission of paper* (5%). You will be required to submit a complete draft of your research paper through the E-Learning peer review system by Monday, **October 19**. Your TA will explain how to access the peer review system in discussion section. This first submission is not merely a rough draft: It should meet all the major requirements of the final paper and reflect your best effort to develop a well-organized argument that is supported by your literature review. The first submission will be graded based on: (i) proper formatting and adherence to instructions, (ii) correct length (8-10 pages), (iii) use of appropriate type and number of scholarly sources, and (iv) clarity of organization. You will receive written and verbal feedback from your peers (see below) using the guidelines that TAs will use to grade your final submission (see below). You will receive written feedback from other students, but not from your TAs on the *content* of your first submission. TAs will be available to answer questions and discuss specific aspects of your writing during office hours.
- b. *Peer review* (5%). During **Week 10**, you will work in peer-response groups to provide feedback on one another's developing research papers. Using the peer review system on E-Learning, you will provide written feedback on one another's papers, according to the same criteria that TAs will use to grade your final paper. You will be required to submit your written feedback via E-Learning **before** your discussion section meets, so that you can discuss it in class. You will be expected to read the papers carefully and to provide comments that are thoughtful, respectful, and constructive. Peer review—both receiving and giving editorial comments—is important to the development of your final research paper. In addition to the direct benefit of receiving feedback on your paper, you will find that the process of reading and thinking critically about others' work will help you analyze and refine your own writing. Your grade for the peer review requirement will be based on (i) your participation in peer-response group activities and (ii) the quality of written feedback you provide according to the rubric (see below).

- c. *Final, revised paper* (10%). You will be graded on how well you incorporate peer feedback into the revised version of your paper for final submission. Along with the final version of your paper, you must submit a one-page memo that summarizes the feedback you received from your peer-response group and indicates the changes you made since the first submission. The final version of your paper is due at the beginning of lecture on **November 20. No late term papers will be accepted**, unless documentation of a university-approved excuse is provided to Dr. Gravlee at least 24 hours before the due date. Before submitting your final paper to your TA, you must upload it to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection program, through E-Learning (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>). If there is any evidence of [plagiarism](#), you will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and be reported to Student Judicial Affairs. Complete details and grading criteria for the final research paper will be posted on the course web site and discussed in discussion section.

Paper Format

Your research papers must follow these specific guidelines:

- 8-10 pages – The text of the last page must be at 1.25” from the bottom of the page. If it is not, the paper is short
- 1” margins
- Double-spaced
- 12-point font
- Times New Roman font
- Black ink
- Title page (Title, your name, discussion section number and meeting time, TA’s name, date of submission)
- Reference page (References follow the MLA format. We will explain MLA format in discussion section and provide appropriate links to web-based resources on the course web site). The title page and reference page are in addition to the 8-10 pages of written text.
- Pages numbered
- Stapled
- Double-sided printing encouraged but not mandatory

Paper Content

Research on various aspects of human sexuality receives considerable attention in the popular press. Unfortunately, popular accounts sometimes do not effectively summarize information from the scientific literature and thereby create misconceptions among the general public. For your term paper, you will be responsible for summarizing and critically evaluating a recent popular article on human sexuality. This assignment will involve independently researching the topic discussed in the popular article.

Potential popular articles will be posted on the course website or e-Reserves at the library. See the course website for details (<http://gravlee.org/sexuality>). The list of acceptable articles is also provided below. You are to choose ONE of these articles and use this article as a starting point to frame your research. If the papers we have provided do not address an aspect of human sexuality that you would like to research for your paper, you may search for another popular article that deals with your preferred topic. Please consult with your TA to determine if the topic and article

you have chosen is appropriate for the assignment. If your TA grants permission in writing ahead of time, you will be allowed to use a popular article not on our list as the basis for your paper.

The paper should be structured as follows:

1) **Introduction & summary of the popular account.** Begin your paper by briefly discussing the relevance or importance of the topic, and then summarizing the major issues presented in the popular article. The introduction should provide a clear thesis statement that summarizes the argument you will develop in the paper.

2) **Background Research.** In this section you should synthesize and present the research information that you compiled from the scholarly literature. What do scholars have to say about the topic? What stances have others taken? Be certain to incorporate a cross-cultural and evolutionary perspective: What can we learn about this topic by examining how people in other times and places have approached or reacted to this topic? You should cite and incorporate a minimum of three but no more than six examples from other cultures. Remember that there are varying cultures even within the United States.

3) **Assessment of the popular account.** Based on your background readings, how well or how poorly did the popular account do in presenting the scientific information? Your assessment should strive to identify both the strengths and weaknesses of the popular account. Specific questions that you may want to consider include:

(a) What are the correct, incorrect, and potentially misleading pieces of information in this article? How well does the article reflect available evidence?

(b) Is the tone of the article appropriate? Does it accurately reflect the manner in which researchers have argued their points?

(c) If you were responsible for writing a similar popular press account of the same topic, how would yours differ? What would you choose to emphasize & omit? Why?

This section of the paper should conclude with a summary of the background research and your conclusions about the popular account.

4) **Implications & future directions.** Discuss the broad scientific or societal implications. For scientific research, it would be useful to discuss potential future studies for resolving unanswered questions. You may also suggest possible solutions or interventions for the topic you selected.

References

You are required to have at least six scholarly, published references from the scholarly literature. Scholarly literature includes peer-reviewed professional journals, books, or chapters in edited volumes. Take advantage of the library databases that were discussed in discussion section and posted on the blog. Encyclopedias, textbooks, and most websites are NOT appropriate sources. Also, the course textbook and packet readings are NOT acceptable sources, because you are expected to do original, independent literature research. For more on identifying scholarly versus popular sources, see the UF Libraries' handout: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/instruct/scholarly.pdf>.

General tips

- Choose words with precise and formal meanings. Avoid the use of colloquialisms, contractions, slang, jargon, clichés, and abbreviations.
- Strive for clarity of style; do not use more (or more complicated) words than are necessary to express a point.
- Have a point of view with supporting statements and evidence.
- Have a clear, concise thesis statement that summarizes your argument.
- Remember to include global, cultural, political, economic, and evolutionary perspectives that may relate to your paper topic.
- Begin with an introduction on the importance of the questions.
- Have a conclusion that includes implications and future directions, and possibly solutions or interventions relating to your chosen topic.
- Review the University's Academic Honesty Guidelines to ensure that you maintain academic integrity (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/honestybrochure.php>).

Grading Scale

The final submission of your research paper is worth 10 percent of your grade. The first submission and peer-review process are worth another 10 percent (five percent each). The final submission will be graded according to these criteria:

Content (50%)

- Clear summary and analysis of popular account
- Use of an anthropological (cross-cultural, evolutionary) perspective
- Use of appropriate scholarly sources
- Adequate discussion of scholarly sources

Organization (20%)

- Introduction attracts the reader's attention and identifies focus of paper
- Conclusion discusses implications and future directions
- Each paragraph has a central idea
- Paper flows with clear, logical transitions between paragraphs
- Appropriate use of subheadings
- Sources are well integrated into the structure of the argument

Grammar and style (20%)

- Correct grammar and spelling
- Simple and straightforward word choice

- Cohesive sentences and paragraphs

Required formatting (10%)

- Proper formatting
- Correct referencing and quotations according to MLA style

Resources for Improving Your Writing

If you have questions you should direct them to your TA well in advance of the paper due date. Your TAs have the option to check their email whenever they want, but TAs will not respond to any emails regarding the paper after 4:00 p.m. on November 19, the day before the paper is due. Please work ahead of the due date and consult with your TA early. Also, you are encouraged to consult the UF [Reading & Writing Center](#), Broward Hall, 392-0791, for writing assistance.

Popular articles acceptable as topics for paper (choose one)

Associated Press

- 2009 Psychologists Reject Gay ‘Therapy.’ *New York Times*. August 5, 2009.
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/06/health/06gay.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=association%20of%20psychology&st=cse .
- 2009 Waiting for Sex and Marriage? Evangelicals Conflicted. *USA Today*. Aug. 9, 2009.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2009-08-09-marriage-evangelicals_N.htm.
- 2009 Saudis Close TV Station’s Bureaus After Sex Talk. *New York Times*. Aug. 11, 2009.
<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/08/11/world/AP-ML-Saudi-Sex-Talk.html?scp=17&sq=sex&st=cse>.

Bennett, Jessica

- 2009 Only You. And You. And You. Polyamory-Relationships with Multiple, Mutually Consenting Partners-Has a Coming-Out Party. *Newsweek*. July 29, 2009.
<http://www.newsweek.com/id/209164>.

Bergner, Daniel

- 2009 What Do Women Want? A New Generation of Postfeminist Sexologists is Trying to Discover What Ignites Female Desire. *New York Times*. January 25:26-33, 46, 51-52.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/25/magazine/25desire-t.html>

Braun, David

- 2009 Sex Evolved as an Escape from Parasites, Study Suggests. *National Geographic*. July 8, 2009. <http://blogs.nationalgeographic.com/blogs/news/chiefeditor/2009/07/sex-evolution.html>.

Celizic, Mike

- 2009 “Her teen committed suicide over ‘sexting:’ Cynthia Logan’s daughter was taunted about photo she sent to boyfriend.” *The Today Show* March 6, 2009.
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29546030/>.

Clinton, Lindsay

- 2008 After Decriminalization, a Gay Pride March in Mumbai. *The New York Times*. Nov 29, 2008. <http://globespotters.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/08/12/after-decriminalization-a-gay-pride-march-in-mumbai/>

Fritz, Ben

- 2009 Tough Times in the Porn Industry. *The Los Angeles Times*. August 10, 2009.
<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-ct-porn10-2009aug10,0,4788614.story>.

Galanos, Mike

- 2009 Commentary: Is 'sexting' child pornography? *CNN.com*. April 8, 2009.
<http://www.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/04/08/galanos.sexting/index.html>.

Gibbs, Nancy

2008 The Pursuit of Teen Girl Purity. *Time.com*. July 17, 2008.
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1823930,00.html>.

Harlem, Georgia

2009 Sex Laws: Unjust and Ineffective. *Economist.com*. Aug 6, 2009.
http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14164614

Healy, Patrick

2009 Beirut, the Provincetown of the Middle East. *New York Times*. Aug. 2, 2009.
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/02/travel/02gaybeirut.html?_r=1&scp=4&sq=sexuality&st=cse

Hewitt, Duncan

2009 They're Not Going to Take It: China's Women, Facing Pervasive Discrimination, Decide To Fight For Their Rights. *Newsweek*. Aug. 1, 2009.
<http://www.newsweek.com/id/209954>

I-Ching, NG

2008 Helping the Hidden Community of HIV. *Time.com*. August 19, 2008.
<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1833962,00.html>.

Lee-St. John, Jeninne

2007 The Backlash Against Circumcision. *Time.com*. Nov. 2, 2007.
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1680141,00.html>.

Lindow, Megan

2009 Closet Case: How Intolerance Fuels Africa's AIDS Crisis. *Time.com*, July 21.
<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1911757,00.html>

McDonald, Mark

2009 Abortions Surge in China; Officials Cite Poor Sex Education. *The New York Times*. July 30, 2009.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/31/world/asia/31abortion.html?scp=3&sq=sex&st=cse>.

Power, Carla

2007 Indecent Exposure. *Time.com*. November 8, 2007.
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1682277,00.html>

Raymond, Joan

2009 Bite Me! Why We Love Vampires. *Newsweek*. July 16, 2009.
<http://www.newsweek.com/id/207128>.

Rizzi, Jennifer

2009 Casual dating in college circles might be leading to decline in commitment. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Aug 19, 2009. <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09231/991670-51.stm>

Simons, Meredith

2009 Fetal Extraction: Could a Private Abortion Fund Save Health Care Reform? *Slate.com*. Aug. 13, 2009. <http://slate.com/id/2225272/>.

Skipp, Catharine and Arian Campo-Flores

2009 A Bridge Too Far: Residency Restrictions Have Forced Child Sex Offenders in Florida to Camp Out Under a Causeway. Now the Man Who Helped Put Them There is Having Second Thoughts. *Newsweek*. August 3, 2009: 46-51.
<http://search.ebscohost.com.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=43430896&site=ehost-live>

Spiller, Penny

2009 “Alarm bells ring over 'sexting.'” *British Broadcasting Corporation*. May 5, 2009..
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8043490.stm>.

Wilkinson, Emma

2009 Daily Sex ‘Best for Good Sperm’. *BBC News*. June 30, 2009.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8125934.stm>.

Winerip, Michael

2009. The Adult Store Goes Mainstream. *New York Times*. June 28: ST2.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/28/fashion/28generationb.html>

Wingert, Pat

2009 Americans Marry Too Much. *Newsweek*. Aug. 15, 2009.
<http://www.newsweek.com/id/212140>.

Wright, David, and Alyssa Litoff

2009 ‘Adults-Only’ Businesses Find Growing Market Among Women: Sex Shops, Orgasmic Meditation Latest in Lineup of Female-Focused Eroticism. *ABC News.com*. Aug. 12, 2009. <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/story?id=8311520&page=1>.