

Reaction Papers – Fall 2009

ANT 2301 | Human Sexuality and Culture

All students are required to complete three writing assignments satisfactorily to fulfill the Gordon Rule 6 designation of this class. This requirement applies even to students who have already satisfied the Gordon Rule requirement. The three writing assignments include two 2-page reaction papers and one research paper 8-10 pages in length. This document provides details about the reaction papers.

Requirements and Formatting

The reaction papers have two key purposes:

- to improve your ability to analyze the assumptions and evidence others use in making arguments about sexuality
- to enhance your final research papers by improving your writing skills now

For each paper, select one required article from the course schedule (excluding the Carroll textbook) and provide a thoughtful reaction or evaluation of that reading. Your reaction paper should attempt to incorporate an anthropological (cross-cultural or evolutionary) perspective.

Reaction papers should be 2 pages, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. You must include your name, your TA's name, your section number, and the name of the assignment on the reaction papers.

Suggested Paper Topics

Examples of appropriate topics to cover in your reaction papers include, but are not limited to, the following.

- a critical evaluation of the authors' questions, assumptions, methods, or conclusions
- similarities and differences between the selected reading and other assigned readings
- a discussion of the broader significance of the authors' argument
- your questions about points that are unclear
- your ideas about future studies that would build on the selected reading
- a discussion of different viewpoints expressed elsewhere in the scholarly literature
- a discussion of how the required reading relates to your personal experience or the experience of people you know (perhaps interviewing three people about the topic)

Due Dates

The first reaction paper is due on September 18; the second reaction paper is due on October 9. Reaction papers must be submitted to your TA at the beginning of lecture on the due dates. **No late reaction 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 reaction papers to TAs, you must upload them to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection program, through E-Learning (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>). Your paper will be considered incomplete and will not be graded if it is not submitted to Turnitin.com before the beginning of lecture on the due date. If there is any evidence of plagiarism, you will receive a grade of zero points for the assignment and be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

Grading Scale

Each reaction paper is worth five percent of your final grade in the course (10% total for both reaction papers). Your paper will be graded according to these guidelines:

Content (50%)

- Does the paper have a central idea that can be expressed in one or two simple sentences?
- Did the writer adequately summarize and discuss the assigned reading?
- Did the writer contribute his or her own thoughts and arguments to the paper?
- Does the writer attempt to incorporate an anthropological (cross-cultural or evolutionary) perspective?

Organization (20%)

- Does the paper have a introduction that gives the reader a sense of the paper's focus?
- Does the paper have a conclusion that summarizes the argument or offers some final perspective on the topic?
- Is the paper ordered in a way that is logical, clear, and easy to follow?
- Does each paragraph have a central idea?
- Does the paper flow, with clear and logical transitions between paragraphs?
- Are sources, if any, clearly defined and is information from those sources well integrated into the flow of the paper?

Grammar and style (20%)

- Are there grammatical or spelling problems?
- Is the writing style clear? Is word choice simple and straightforward? Were sentences cohesive?

Required formatting (10%)

- Did the paper use proper formatting, as specified in this document?