

Instructions for Review Essay: Scientific Approaches to Pornography

Sexuality Studies 400/Psychology 450/Sociology 400

I. Due Date and Submission Requirements:

Monday, May 7th. The electronic copy is due to iLearn (Turnitin) by 10am. To submit the electronic copy, go to the course outline for Monday, May 7th. There you will find the link for submitting the paper to Turnitin (i.e., plagiarism detection software). The hard copy is due to your Teaching Assistant at 11:10am in class.

II. Essay Topic/Content Expectations for the 5-page paper (not including references).

A. Carefully follow these steps:

1. Read the book *A Billion Wicked Thoughts*, by Dr. Ogas and Dr. Gaddam. You will need to be familiar with the major theoretical frameworks and the empirical research reviewed in this book.
2. Students will be using Google Scholar for this assignment. Read the entry in Wikipedia about "Google Scholar". This entry will help one understand how Google Scholar works: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Scholar. Read this entry *before* conducting a search in Google Scholar.
3. Students will locate a journal article published in one of the two leading journals in the field of human sexuality: the *Archives of Sexual Behavior* and/or the *Journal of Sex Research*. These journals are the official publications of the two leading professional societies engaged in studying human sexuality: The International Academy of Sex Research and the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, respectively.
4. Go to the SFSU Library homepage: <http://library.sfsu.edu>
5. On the left menu, click on "Sign In To Library Account".
6. Return to the main Library page by clicking on the upper left "J. Paul Leonard Library" after signing logging in to the library.
7. On the left menu: click on "Find Articles Books"
8. Under "Articles, Magazines and Journals" click on "Find Articles and More in Databases".
9. On the right-hand column, click on "Google Scholar". By accessing Google Scholar in this indirect way, you are able to link Google Scholar searches to all of the journals that are available to you via the SFSU Library (In other words, students can access articles to which the university subscribes).
10. Once on the Google Scholar page, click on the drop-down menu on the upper-left corner of the page and choose "Advanced Search".
11. In the "Advanced Search" box, enter the name of one of the two journals students can use for this Review Essay. Type in the key search terms and then add one of the two journals: *Archives of Sexual Behavior* or *Journal of Sex Research*
12. Students will now see a page of results and on the right side of the page, if you see the phrase "SFSU Find Full Text" then students have full and free access to the article. Click on "SFSU Find Full Text" and you will be directed to pages that should allow you to download a PDF file with the whole article.

B. Essay Topic & Thesis Statement

Based on the review of the scientific research covered by Dr. Ogas and Dr. Goddam, as well as the *primary* research article you locate using Google Scholar, develop a plausible scientific explanation of what we can learn about human sexual desire and human sexual variations based on the study of pornography. Your thesis statement should answer the question: What does the scientific analysis of pornography tell us about human sexual desire and human sexual variation? You should explore how different scientific theories (e.g., evolutionary psychology, biological anthropology, sexual script theory, Marxist/conflict theory, feminist theory, sociobiology) explain and account for the character, the content and the extent of pornography.

The essay should consider the following questions: What factors (social, biological, ecological, psychological, evolutionary) seem most important in explaining the character and extent of pornography? Based on the evidence, are there gender differences that are important to the explanation? Based on the evidence, are there sexual orientation differences that are important to understanding pornography? Based on Ogas and Goddam, and/or the article from Google scholar, how would an evolutionary psychologist or a sociobiologist explain the content and character of pornography? Finally, what conclusions can we draw about human sexual desire and human sexual variations based on the scientific study of pornography?

1. Overview

Write the essay as if you were writing to someone who is literate, but who has never heard the essay prompt or read the book or the article, and you want to explain how the concepts/evidence would help them understand sexual orientation:

Make sure to use a clear, focused, and well-developed thesis statement to organize the essay. The thesis statement should directly address the essay prompt above (see II: B). If you need help composing an effective thesis statement, consult the following website:

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/composition/thesis.htm>

III. Essay Format Guidelines:

A. Length: 5 pages give or take ¼ page (no longer, no shorter) not including the references/bibliography page. Use 12 point Times New Roman font. Use double-space type. Use standard margins of 1 inch on top and bottom, 1.25 on each side (In Microsoft Word, Go to File, Page Set Up to set margins).

B. Thesis and Introduction: A clear, focused and well-developed thesis statement must appear in the first paragraph of the paper. Don't forget to underline the thesis statement.

Begin the essay in an inviting, enticing, perhaps provocative way. You could provide an interesting quotation, or begin with a startling statistic, or ask a provocative question, or recount a story about an important historical character or event that relates to the essay topic. Then provide some additional scientific context for your thesis statement. The thesis statement should provide a framework for the entire essay. In addition, the introductory paragraph should briefly state what the essay will cover and suggest a tone for the paper. You can read about thesis statements on-line at *The Guide to Grammar and Writing* website:

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index.htm>

C. Paragraph and Sentence Style

Each paragraph within the essay should possess a topic sentence. The topic sentence links the paragraph to your paper thesis and reinforces the thesis of the essay. One should accompany the topic sentence of each paragraph with at least five sentences illustrating and elaborating upon your topic sentence. Effective paragraphs usually consist of at least five solid sentences. Please make smooth transitions between paragraphs. One can locate information about transitional sentences and phrases at the *The Guide to Grammar and Writing* website:

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/transitions.htm>

IV. Citation Expectations: Five Citations per Page are Required!

Use accurate and extensive citation. Five citations per page, on average, are required. Graders will count up the citations and make sure they are accurate. We do not mean five quotations, but rather five citations (on average) per page. Please seek assistance if you find the distinction between citation and quotation confusing and/or pursue the resources listed below. Citation enables a writer to identify for their readers where they get their facts and from whom they appropriate ideas and evidence. Citation prevents plagiarism.

Please use the Chicago Manual of Style or the American Psychological Association (APA) citation formats. These two citation forms are commonly used in the social sciences including human sexuality studies. You can choose either style, but not others. I recommend the Chicago style given its simplicity, ease of use, and widespread use in sexuality research. One can locate the rules for and examples of each style at the following website: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

If one follows the Chicago style, one simply includes the following information at end of the sentence in which the citation appears: (author's last name, year of publication, colon, two spaces, and the page number).

For example, here is a sentence using the Chicago Manual of Style format:

Laws intended to strip women of autonomy and control over their own bodies proliferated with the rise of the patriarchal states (Carson 1991: 136).

Notice, the sentence above is not a direct quotation, but rather a paraphrase of Carson's point. This citation prevents plagiarism as well as gives credit to Carson for the ideas and evidence.

Please do not use extensive quotation. Paraphrase quotations. If you must use a quotation because you cannot accurately rephrase the quote without plagiarizing, follow the quote with the author's name, a comma, the year of publication, a colon, two spaces, and the page number, all in parenthesis, same as above. However, one also provides quotation marks around the quoted materials. If you are still confused about how to use citation and how it differs from quotation, consult the *Harvard Guide to Summarizing, Paraphrasing and Quoting*. This resource provides a clear and thorough explanation of when to summarize, paraphrase and/or quote materials:
<https://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu>

The essay must provide a references page that includes all sources including any assigned articles, assigned books and all research article you have located on your own. No other references are needed for this paper. The reference page does not count as part of the minimum number of pages for the essay.

V. Major Check List: Major Compositional And Organizational Concerns.
Students will lose at least 10pts for each one of these six criteria if missing or undeveloped:

1. ___ Does the introductory paragraph use an easily identifiable and well-developed thesis statement? Please refresh your knowledge about using a thesis statement at: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/composition/thesis.htm>
2. ___ Does the essay contain the required number of citations (25 total or 5 per page on average)? Providing this citation prevents plagiarism and keeps the essay closely knit to course readings. Do not use footnotes, use in text citations.
3. ___ Do most paragraphs use clear *topic sentences* linking the paragraph to the thesis statement?
4. ___ Does the essay make extensive use of empirical evidence (quantitative or qualitative) from multiple research sources?
5. ___ Does the essay use a *transitional sentence* or *transitional phrase* between every paragraph? Such transitions enable smooth and logical flow across paragraphs. See <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/transitions.htm> for assistance with transitional words, phrases and sentences.
6. ___ Does the essay contains the required number of pages within ¼ page?

VII. Minor Check List: Students will lose 2pts each for failing to abide by each of these twelve criteria:

1. ___ Remember to underline the thesis statement!
2. ___ Does the essay open with an enticing and inviting quotation, question, observation, or fact?
3. ___ Does the paper use a 1.25 inch margin (standard) on all sides of every page?
4. ___ Does a page number appear on every page of the essay?
5. ___ Do most paragraphs consist of at least five sentences, and rarely more than eight sentences?
6. ___ Does the essay *italicize* (not underline or quote) book/journal/website titles?
7. ___ Does the essay include a well-developed conclusion paragraph?
8. ___ Does the essay indent each new paragraph (3 or 5 spaces)?
9. ___ Does the essay avoid skipping lines between paragraphs?
10. ___ Does the essay use 12 point font type, Times New Roman style, and double spacing?
11. ___ Does the essay use block quote (indent all text 5 spaces on both right and left margins and single space the type) for quotations extending three or more lines?
12. ___ Do not use report covers or title pages. Simple print your full name and student ID on the top right of page 1 of the essay.

VIII. Final Submission Issues

Before submission, ask someone reasonably literate to read the essay. Turn in a hard copy to one's assigned Teaching Assistant on the due date and an electronic copy to Ilearn. Instructions for electronic submission are on the next page.

IX. Electronic Submission Procedures for Plagiarism Detection at iLearn:

1. Any paper that exceeds 20% similarity to another paper or other sources will simply be ignored and will earn 0 points. This paper must be your own original work and put in your own words (i.e., paraphrased with accurate citation).
2. When you're done with your essay, save it in one of the following formats: Microsoft Word (.doc), WordPerfect (.wpd), Rich Text Format (.rtf), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf), PostScript, Hypertext Mark-up Language (.htm), or plain text (.txt)
3. Log onto iLearn (iLearn.sfsu.edu) using your SFSU ID and PAC.
4. Click on the class (SXS400).
5. Click the assignment in the course outline on the due date: "Review Essay Plagiarism Detection".
6. Read the instructions and click: "My Submissions".
7. Key your name in as the file name, click "Browse" to select the file with your essay, click "Add Submission".
8. If you have loaded the wrong paper, click "no, go back" and return to step 6.
9. If this is the correct paper, click "yes, submit".
10. Do other work while Turnitin searches through its databases, which include billions of web pages, essays and articles, paper mills and the papers of other students in this course and other SFSU courses.

Viewing and Using the Originality Report

1. Log onto iLearn (iLearn.sfsu.edu) using your SFSU ID and PAC.
2. Click on SXS400.
3. Click the link on the due date: "Review Essay Plagiarism Detection".
4. Click "My Submissions".
5. If the report box under contents is still grey, Turnitin is not finished analyzing your work. Try again later.
6. When the report box turns to green/red, click the report box (the colored square).
7. Turnitin displays your essay, color-coding those parts that exactly match any of its sources. You may explore this online if you wish. Note the percentage of your essay that matches other sources. Academic essays, even research papers, should be mostly your own writing. I would expect no more than 20% of any assignment to be direct quotations and, for some essays, even less. That said, 0% is not necessarily better than 20% — it's how you use other people's work to support your own ideas.