SEXUALITY

Pre-Marital Sex Exercise

Adapted from Teaching eHRAF Exercise 1.21, Exercise VI. Sexuality by Carol Ember
In this activity, you will conduct basic research on the diversity of social attitudes towards premarital sexual relations across the globe.

CROSS-CULTURAL SEXUALITY: PREMARITAL
EXERCISE DETAILS

TIME: 35 minutes

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

➤ HRAF Access

➤ Worksheet and pen or other materials for recording answers

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this assignment, you will be able to:

➤ describe five distinct social perspectives on premarital sexual relations

➤ Critique notions that certain human sexual behaviors or attitudes are universal, and/or natural/unnatural

➤ construct effective and efficient search strategies in eHRAF in order to retrieve data relevant to a specific topic/assignment.
Societies vary markedly in their attitudes towards sexuality. There are innumerable social answers that human societies proffer for such questions as...
What is **sex**?

NO SEX. By Hiroo Yamagata CC by SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Say **NO to SEX**

Virgin POWER, Virgin PRIDE!

AVOID HIV/AIDS

DATOYILI WOMEN'S COALITION  GHANA AIDS COMMISSION PROJECT
Villagers from Kontali, Djibouti perform a traditional wedding dance during a cultural festival at the Kontali schoolhouse. The wedding dance was the final element of a three-part presentation, which included dances about a marriage proposal and a battle over a beloved woman. Photo by Sr Airman Jared Denton. Public Domain Image via Wikimedia Commons

Who should engage in it, and under what circumstances?
When, where, and between whom is sexual behavior permissible?

18th Century Japanese print of a man with his young male lover sneaking a kiss with a female prostitute. Nishikawa Sukenobu, Druck, Kyoho-Ara (1716-1735). Public Domain Image
What authorities manage sex and sexuality and how?
In this assignment, you will compare attitudes towards premarital sexual relations across several societies, observing and analyzing differences in general social permissiveness and restriction towards sexual behavior.
ASSIGNMENT PART 1

Compare the following societies on their attitudes toward premarital sex. Use subject “Premarital Sex Restrictions” and the culture names listed below in an eHRAF World Cultures Advanced Search. (15 minutes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Society</th>
<th>Pre-Marital Sex Restrictions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trobriands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copper Inuit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kanuri</td>
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<td>Libyan</td>
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<td>Bedouin</td>
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<td>Pawnee</td>
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ASSIGNMENT PART 2

1. Which societies hold similar attitudes towards premarital sex? (3 minutes)

2. Which societies are the most different in their attitudes towards premarital sex? (3 minutes)

A couple dancing closely at a wedding. By Kevypizza CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons
1. Which society is the most restrictive of premarital sexual behavior?
   ➤ What sorts of social reasons do they have for being restrictive? (e.g. moral reasons, familial reasons, pragmatic reasons?) (5 minutes)

2. Which is the most permissive?
   ➤ What sorts of social reasons do they have for being permissive (e.g. moral reasons, familial reasons, pragmatic reasons?) (5 minutes)

ASSIGNMENT PART 2

Lovers pose for a classic photograph on an old bicycle in Zimbabwe. Photo by Malante September 2015. CC by SA 4.0
RESOURCES

Assignment Rubric, Tips, References
The following rubric is suggested for evaluating responses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Part 1: Data Table</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unsatisfactory</strong> (0%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Table for premarital sex restrictions is absent.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment Part 2: Questions 1-2</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unsatisfactory</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Answers are absent or mostly incomplete</td>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment Part 3: Questions 3-4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unsatisfactory</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Major points are not clear. Specific examples are not used.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FURTHER READING

➤ For more exercises and teaching resources related to human societies past and present, explore *Teaching eHRAF*.

➤ For a more detailed version of this particular exercise with additional questions and activities check out *Exercise 1.21, Exercise VI. Sexuality* by Carol Ember

➤ Check out the *Advanced Search Tutorial* for detailed instructions on conducting searches in eHRAF World Cultures.