
Course Syllabus: Psychology of Gender

Bridget Klest, MA
353 Straub Hall
346-4966
bklest@uoregon.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays 3-4 or by appt.

Psychology 380
Summer Term, 2007
University of Oregon
MTWR 4:00-5:50
214 MCK

Course Description

Welcome to the Psychology of Gender. This course is designed to open an honest and respectful dialogue about what gender means to all of us, both individually and collectively.

This course is designed to provide students with a critical analysis of evidence for sex differences and similarities, gender roles, and the effect of gender on traditional issues in psychology. We will examine psychological theory and research on issues of sex and gender, and examine the implications of sex and gender for health and relationships. Through readings, lectures, discussions, films, papers, and quizzes, we will explore together multiple meanings and constructions of gender.

Course Expectations and Classroom Behavior

This is a short, intensive, four-week course. If you think you may have trouble attending all classes, you might reconsider taking the course. Due to the short duration of the course, no late work will be accepted and no makeup exams will be given. If you discover that you will need to miss several days of class or will miss an exam (even due to illness) it may be in your best interest to withdraw from the course.

The course includes traditional lectures, video materials and discussion, and assigned readings.

Although lectures will overlap to some degree with the reading material, there will be lecture material that is not covered in the reading and reading material that is not covered in the lectures.

Exams will assess mastery of the content from all sources of material (lectures, videos, readings).

Students are expected to attend and participate in class, complete and critically evaluate the assigned reading, and study in preparation for exams. Completion (on time) of all assignments and exams is expected.

During class, it is expected that students will pay attention, take notes, and participate by listening and discussing course material.

Students behaving in a disruptive manner may be asked to leave the class. Disruptive behaviors include (but are not limited to): talking or otherwise distracting other students while they are trying to listen, failing to turn off your cell phone, packing up your materials before the end of class, arriving late, and leaving early.

The psychology of gender is a topic about which students often have varying (and strong) opinions. Your input is welcome and encouraged, as is active listening. We must be mindful of discussing and listening to ideas in a respectful, thoughtful, and reasoned manner. Keeping in mind that this is an academic course, you will be encouraged to go beyond personal opinion and experience, and take available evidence into account. Hearing and listening to research as well as the perspectives of

others can help us to gain a more complete understanding of a topic. **Thus you are encouraged to carefully consider the information that comes from lectures, films, and class discussions in constructing more informed opinions of the topics we cover.**

This course is designed to comply with the psychology department's guidelines for teaching and learning. Please review these guidelines at <http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/guidelines/index.htm>.

Required Text

Lips, H.M. (2006). *A New Psychology of Women: Gender, Culture, and Ethnicity*, 3rd Ed., McGraw-Hill. A copy of this text is available on reserve in the library.

Learning Accommodations

If you have a documented disability and may need accommodations, please contact me by the first day of class. Please let me know of any possible need for accommodation even if you are not sure that your disability will require accommodation this term (for example, if you have a physical disability that may require emergency attention, but you cannot predict when this might happen). Students without a documented disability who are experiencing learning difficulties are encouraged to consult Disabilities Services (164 Oregon Hall; 346-1155; <http://ds.uoregon.edu/>). Without documentation, accommodations are not guaranteed and are to be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Honesty

Members of the university community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. To falsify the results of one's research, to present the words, ideas, data, or work of another as one's own, to knowingly present false information, or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process by which knowledge is advanced. It is the official policy of the University of Oregon that all acts of alleged academic dishonesty by students be reported to the Director of Student Judicial Affairs in the Office of Student Life.

Grading Criteria

Your course grade will be based on in-class participation, four weekly exams, and one final paper. Each exam will be worth 15% of your grade, participation will be worth 15% of your grade, and the final paper will be worth 25% of your grade.

Participation: During each class I will record whether each person's participation was satisfactory. Each day of satisfactory participation will earn you 1% of your grade. There are 15 days of class, for a total of 15% of your total grade. Satisfactory participation includes showing up and participating in class in some way—this may be by contributing to a small group discussion, asking a question, engaging in respectful listening, or otherwise thinking about and engaging with the material. You cannot receive participation points for days you do not attend class, and disruptive behaviors (e.g., taking a phone call or checking your e-mail during class) will count against earning participation points.

Exams: On Thursday of each week, there will be an exam at the beginning of class. Exams will consist of 30 questions. Questions will all be of the type that can be recorded on a scantron form—multiple choice, True/False, matching, etc. Each question will be worth half a point, for a total of 15 points possible for each exam, corresponding to 15% of your grade. The four exams together will be worth a total of 60% of your final grade.

Paper: The final paper will be a 5-7 page paper due on the last day of class. You will be required to watch an approved movie, and take note of gender-related information from the movie. Then, using information from readings and lectures, critically evaluate the gender-related information presented in the movie. You must engage at least three different topics within psychology of gender, and relate each to gender-related information presented in the movie.

Scoring of the paper will include 15 points for critical thinking and 10 points for style, for a total of 25 points corresponding to 25% of the final course grade. The 15 points for critical thinking can be earned by using at least 3 topics in psychology of gender to critically evaluate gender-related information presented in the movie. The 10 style points will include points for clarity of writing, style (including appropriate use of references), and general quality of the paper.

To receive full points, the paper must reference specific information presented in course readings and lectures, and use this information to explain how the movie does or does not accurately represent a particular aspect of the psychology of gender, address controversies surrounding the topics discussed, and include a thoughtful synthesis of course material.

Movies approved for use in the final paper project:

Kids' movies: Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, Aladdin, The Lion King, The Princess Bride, Finding Nemo, Shrek, The Incredibles

Gender-themed movies: Transamerica, Boys Don't Cry, What Women Want, Billy Elliot, The Stepford Wives, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, A League of Their Own, Million Dollar Baby, Children of Men

Other movies with enough gender content: Sleeping With the Enemy, Legally Blonde, Rocky, Pulp Fiction, The Big Lebowski, When Harry Met Sally, Grease, Speed, Fight Club, The Graduate, Little Miss Sunshine, Bridget Jones' Diary

Note: Other movies may be approved if they are movies the instructor has seen and which have enough gender-related content to complete the paper.

Course Grade:

Final grades will be based on percentage of total possible points earned, and distributed as follows:

A+	<i>Reserved for exceptional performance</i>		
A	93-100	D+	67-69.9
A-	90-92.9	D	63-66.9
B+	87-89.9	D-	60-62.9
B	83-86.9		
B-	80-82.9	N*	less than 70
C+	77-79.9	P*	70 or higher
C	73-76.9		
C-	70-72.9		

**If taking Pass/Fail*

Tentative Schedule: Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines

Date	Readings	Activities
6/25		Introduction to the course <i>Video – The Gender Puzzle</i> (45 min)
6/26	Chapter 1: Why a Global, Multicultural Psychology of Women?	Introduction to the study of gender in context <i>Video – Light in the Shadows</i> (43 min)
6/27	Chapter 2: Female-Male Comparisons	Principles of scientific research, Gender and the study of differences
6/28	Chapter 8: Women's Work	Quiz #1 Work, stereotypes, the division of labor and evolutionary theory
7/2	Chapters 3-4: Growing up Female	Gender Development <i>Video – Identity Crisis</i> (60 min)
7/3	Chapter 5-6: Communication	Gendered Communication <i>Video – Gender & Communication</i> (42 min)
7/4	4 th of July – No Class!!	(this is a great chance to catch up on readings!)
7/5	Chapter 12: Sexualities	Quiz #2 Gender and Sexuality <i>Video—Why thee wed?</i> (51 min)
7/9	Chapter 7: Family and Intimate Relationships	Gender in Family and Relationships <i>Video—Daddy & Papa</i> (57 min)
7/10	Chapter 13: Violence Against Women	Intimate Partner Violence <i>Video – Breaking the Silence</i> (9 min)
7/11	Chapter 10: Mental Health, Illness, and Therapy	Gender in Mental Health <i>Audio Presentation—81 Words</i>
7/12	Chapter 9: Physical Health, Illness, and Healing	Quiz #3 Gender and Physical Health
7/16	<i>The Women's War</i> (article available on Blackboard)	Gender, Trauma, and Violence <i>Video - Wrestling with Manhood</i> (60 min)
7/17	Chapter 11: Women Growing Older	Aging and Standards of Beauty <i>Video – Beyond Killing Us Softly</i> (34 min)
7/18	Chapter 14: Leadership, Power and Social Change	
7/19		Quiz #4 Final Paper Due Course Wrap-Up course evaluations

Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class.