

PSYCHOLOGY OF GENDER – PSY 380
WINTER TERM, 2011
MW 4:00 – 5:20 p.m., 142 STB

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“The aim of life is to live, and to live means to be aware, joyously, drunkenly, serenely, divinely aware.”
~ Henry Miller, *Tropic of Capricorn* (1939) ~

Overview

What are the differences between men and women? Why do we always think of differences? In this course, we will review empirical findings regarding common beliefs about gender, the relationship of gender to traditional issues in psychology (e.g., moral development, personality, interpersonal relationships), and special issues pertinent to gender, (e.g., violence, and sexual orientation). 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, assignments, and exams, we will explore together multiple meanings and constructions of gender.

Course Expectations and Classroom Behavior

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. This is not a course to take if you think you will miss more than one class meeting. On-time completion of all assignments is expected.

This class is based on the philosophy that learning is an **active** process. This emphasizes the importance of understanding and experiencing ideas as they relate to our own lives, rather than just remembering a list of facts. 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. No single experience or viewpoint is more important or more valuable than the others. You may not agree with the views expressed by others, but we must all agree to respect each individual's right to share their experiences. You are encouraged to go beyond personal opinion and experience, and take available evidence into account. **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.**

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

Contact Hours and Class Attendance

We will meet each Monday and Wednesday in 142 Straub Hall, and your attendance is expected. This is not a course to take if you think you will miss more than one class meeting, as class discussion, exams, and exercises are crucial to your success in the course. Your participation is part of the course requirements. Exams will be over the reading material, lectures, guest speakers, and videos. You will be responsible for *all* material covered in lecture. I also recommend that you check the course website at Blackboard at least twice a week, as I may post important course information.

Required Readings

Readings are assigned on a weekly basis. Readings are to be completed BEFORE the Monday class meeting for which they are assigned. There is one required text book, available at the bookstore, along with on line readings available on the Blackboard website. This course has a serious amount of reading and you will not be able to do well on your assignments if you do not do the reading.

Required Text

Hegelson, V. S. (2009). *Psychology of gender*. Pearson.

NOTE: There are additional weekly on-line readings posted on the Blackboard website.

Grading

Your grade will be computed by combining your scores in the following overall categories:

Points	Course Work
100	2 Exams, 50 points each
100	Final Exam
100	Applied Experience Papers (5 papers; each worth 20 points)
50	Participation (in-class, small group, and discussion board)
350	Total

Course Grade

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

A+	<i>Reserved for exceptional performance, usually above 98%, maximum of 3 A+ grades</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		<i>*If taking Pass/Fail</i>
C-	70-72.9		

Policy on Late Work / Missing Exams

No late work will be accepted FOR ANY REASON. All work must be printed single-sided, double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12-point font (according to APA style). All papers should be turned in during the first five minutes of class. Do NOT e-mail me your papers. If you do not bring your paper to class, it is considered missing. You cannot turn in your project plan or final project late FOR ANY REASON. You also cannot make up exams FOR ANY REASON.

Please be sure now that you have properly noted the exam schedule.

Exams: 100 points

Two exams will be given, each worth 50 points. The exams will be structured to assess your knowledge of the readings, in-class films and lectures, and class discussions. These may be matching, short answer and/or essay questions that will primarily pertain to the readings assigned for the weeks in which the exam is given. Sometimes a question will refer to material covered earlier in the course, or issues discussed on the discussion board. Class attendance *and* participation and completion of the readings will prepare you well for the exams.

Applied Experience Papers: 100 points

There will be 6 Applied Experience Papers which will involve some outside work and a short write up. These papers are intended to help you expand your knowledge of the psychology of gender both academically and experientially. You will receive up to 20 points for each paper. See Blackboard under Assignments tab for details on these assignments. I will drop your lowest paper grade, for a total of 100 possible points. Because of this opportunity, I will NOT accept late work for any reason.

Participation: 50 points

Participation is crucial in this course. Participation includes attendance, in-class discussion, and on-line discussion on Blackboard. You should make at least one substantive contribution (either an initial post, or a reply to someone else's post) to the Discussion board each week, beginning in Week 2. You are required to read the Discussion boards at least twice a week. In-class participation will largely be in the form of small groups, or short written answers to in-class questions. If you miss class *for any reason*, you can not make up those particular points. *It is important to note that coming to class is NOT enough to earn all the points here. Participation on-line and in your small groups is also necessary.*

Extra Credit: Up to 15 points

Typically, there are several opportunities each term for you to attend films or lectures. After you attend an event, you are expected to write a short paper (1-2 pages) that details what you learned, and how that *applies to the psychology of gender*. For example, you might attend a lecture on hypermasculinity, and in your paper, note how different theories of gender development might explain this phenomenon. Details of any opportunities will be posted on Blackboard.

Additional Notes**Using Blackboard**

The web site for this course was constructed using "Blackboard" software. This allows the web site to be extensive and interactive. On the web site, you will find general announcements for the class, all documents for the course (including this syllabus), lecture notes, on-line discussions, links to relevant web sites, and more. We hope that this web site will be a useful tool for you in learning the material for this class, and in further exploring topics you find interesting. You can get to the course web site by going to <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>. If you need help logging in or using Blackboard, see <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/local/usingbb/>. Also you can get help starting by going to the library [Information Technology Center](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/kic/faq/blackboard.html#help) (ITC) and/or see <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/kic/faq/blackboard.html#help>.

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements of the course. (Text adopted from the UO web site: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct/>).

Plagiarism Policy: Copying or paraphrasing information or ideas from any source, interview, print or electronic, without citation, is plagiarism. I take this very seriously; it merits a zero on the particular assignment in which it appears, and usually results in a grade penalty for the course. Always note the source of anyone else's ideas that you use, in this, and every, class. The Polk Library website includes clear guidelines for using several different citation formats properly, as well as very clear explanations of how to paraphrase correctly and avoid plagiarism. <http://www.uwosh.edu/departments/lr/citing.html>

Students with Directory Restricted Access

This course includes required on-line participation (electronic mail and World Wide Web). If you have restricted access to your directory information and wish to have special arrangements made for this course, please notify the instructor immediately.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and may need accommodations, please contact me in the first week of class, 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). Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability. Contact Disabilities Services for more information (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.

Diversity and Respect for Others

It is the policy of the University to support and value diversity. To do so requires that we respect the dignity and essential worth of all individuals and promote a culture of respect throughout the University community. Course content, including class discussions, projects and activities, and assignments, rests on the assumption that human diversity is normative and is an appropriate focus of attention. The course requires and expects critical thinking about, and sensitivity to, the impact of diversity (culture, religion/faith, gender, ethnicity, race, socioeconomics, physical and cognitive ability, sexual orientation, and other considerations) both in relation to gender in society, and in the classroom. Students are encouraged to develop and expand their respect for and understanding of diverse identities and experiences. If you believe you have been the target of or a witness to harassment, bias, or a hate crime, you may report this (anonymously, if desired) to the **Bias Response Team** at 346-2037 or <http://bias.uoregon.edu>.

Weekly Schedule: Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines

- Readings are to be completed *before* the Monday class that week.
- Readings on Blackboard are NOT included in the syllabus. Check Blackboard often!

Week 1: Introduction		
day	Readings	Assignments
01/03	<i>Ch. 1: Introduction</i>	
01/05	<i>Ch. 2: Methods & History</i>	
Week 2: Sex-Related Comparisons		
day	Readings	Assignments
01/10	<i>Ch. 3: Attitudes</i>	Applied Experience Paper (AEP) 1
01/12	<i>Ch. 4: Observations</i>	
Week 3: Theories of Development		
day	Readings	Assignments
01/17	<i>No class – MLK Day</i>	
01/19	<i>Ch. 5: Theory</i>	
Week 4: Development, Continued		
day	Readings	Assignments
01/24	<i>Ch. 5: Theory; clips from Ma Vie en Rose</i>	AEP 2 due
01/26	EXAM 1	
Week 5: Communication		
day	Readings	Assignments
01/31	<i>Ch. 7: Communication</i>	
02/02	<i>Tough Guise</i>	AEP 3 due
Week 6: Communication & Relationships		
day	Readings	Assignments
02/07	<i>Tough Guise; Ch. 8: Friendship</i>	
02/09	<i>Ch. 9: Romantic Relationships</i>	
Week 7: Sex & Health		
day	Readings	Assignments
02/14	<i>Ch. 9; Sexual Orientation</i>	AEP 4 due
02/16	<i>Ch. 10: Sex Differences in Health</i>	
Week 8: Health & Well-Being		
day	Readings	Assignments
02/21	<i>Ch. 11: Relationships & Health; Sara Kruzan case</i>	
02/23	EXAM 2	

Week 9: Mental Health & Stress		
day	Readings	Assignments
02/28	<i>Ch. 11; Ch. 13: Mental Health</i>	AEP 5 due
03/02	<i>Stress & Conflict Resolution</i>	
Week 10: Gender & Organizations		
day	Readings	Assignments
03/07	<i>Ch. 6: Achievement</i>	
03/09	<i>Ch. 12: Work Roles & Health</i>	AEP 6 due
Final Exam: Monday, March 14, 3:15 p.m.		