

# The Psychology of Sex and Gender

## Basic Course Information

Course: 830:362:H3, The Psychology of Sex and Gender  
Instructor: Janell C. Fetterolf  
Location: Beck Hall, room 250  
Time: Monday through Thursday, 12:10 – 2:00 pm. We will start promptly at 12:10, so please arrive on time.

## My Contact Information

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Office: Tillett Hall 629  
Office hours: Tuesday 2:00 – 3:30 or by appointment

## Course Overview

This course examines biological, psychological, and cultural determinants of sex differences in human behavior, with an emphasis on social psychological theories and research. Topics covered include: evolutionary theory and cultural accounts for observed, or perceived, gender differences; ambivalent attitudes toward women and men; how stereotypes and gender roles are disseminated and enforced through social interactions and popular culture; gender differences (and similarities) in sexual behavior, aggression, communication, and social roles; and the future of gender equality.

**Goals:** (1) To provide a broad, engaging overview of gender-related psychological theory and research and (2) to think critically about the gender beliefs and attitudes we encounter on a daily basis.

**Readings:** The readings include book chapters, empirical journal articles, review articles, and newspaper articles provided on the Sakai site. I have also posted a list of *optional* readings and materials on the Sakai site. You are welcome to read these if you would like to know more about the topic.

Chapters from *Half the Human Experience* (Hyde & Else-Quest, 2012) will not be provided on the Sakai site, but can be purchased for \$8.00 each from the following website:

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/search/9781111833824>

## Course Evaluation

**Sex and gender survey:** At the beginning of the course, you will complete several questionnaires about your attitudes and beliefs about men and women. Your responses will be anonymous but we will use the whole class's data to facilitate discussions throughout the course.

**Attendance and in-class exercises:** Attendance and participation in discussions are essential in this course. There is a great deal of material that will be covered in class that is not covered in your readings. In addition, there will be *in-class exercises and group work* in every class, some of which will be graded. There are no make-up assignments for missed in-class work. However, I will drop your lowest score, so you do not have to worry if you miss one.

**Written assignments:** There are two short writing assignments at the beginning of the course. They should be *no more than 3 pages long*. Bring your written assignments to class on the day they are due and be prepared to discuss. Late assignments will not be accepted or credited. If you have to miss class, use the drop box on Sakai to submit your paper by class time. For all written assignments, please double space and use only the APA-approved font (12-point Times New Roman).

**Online quizzes:** Starting in the second week of class, there will be weekly online quizzes, which will be made available to you after class on Thursday. Once you open the quiz you will have an hour to complete it. The latest you can start the quiz is 11:00 pm on Sunday night. If you have technical difficulties that prohibit you from completing the quiz, you must email me immediately. There will be 4 weekly quizzes, but only the three highest scores will be included in your grade.

**In-class presentations:** You will work with a small group to put together a 20-30 minute presentation for the class on an assigned topic. The format for the presentation may be a lecture, debate, or other creative form of presentation and must be approved by me. The purpose of the presentation is for the presenters to think critically about a topic, ideally one of interest to them, and to facilitate class discussion. You will be able to rank your interest in possible topics and I will assign the groups based on similar interests. Part of your grade on your presentations will be based on your specific contribution to the project.

**Grading policies:** There are a total of *160 possible points*. Grades will be based on in-class assignments (40 points total), two written assignments (20 points total), a survey at the beginning and end of the class (10 points total), three online quizzes (30 points total) and a group presentation (60 points).

Your final grades will be based on the point totals below (out of a total of 160 points). This is non-negotiable and there will be no extra credit. The points needed for your final grade are as follows: **144 = A, 136 = B+, 128 = B, 120 = C+, 112 = C, 96 = D.**

**Note about class discussions:** This course deals with topics related to gender, sexism, and sexuality. These topics often lead to discussion, and you will have many opportunities to ask questions and/or share your thoughts. You are never required to share any personal experiences. Most importantly, please be respectful of other students' opinions and the information they share in class.

Additionally, please note that the perspective I am sharing in this course is my own. It is not the only way to look at or think about the psychology of gender, and your views may be different from mine. That is completely ok, and I encourage you to speak up in class when you have a different perspective that you'd like to share. Exposure to different and even conflicting ideas is one of the great aspects of a college education!

## Schedule of Readings and Assignments

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings and Assignments</b>
Mon 7/8	Introduction to course	
Tue 7/9	Sex vs. Gender	
Wed 7/10	Gender Stereotypes	Prentice & Carranza, 2002
Thu 7/11	Theoretical Perspectives	Hyde & Else-Quest, 2012 (Ch. 2)
Mon 7/15	Gender Differences	Hyde, 2005 Brescoll & LaFrance, 2004
Tue 7/16	Cognition	Fine, 2010
Wed 7/17	Emotion/Communication	Hyde & Else-Quest, 2012 (Ch. 6) <b>Communication Exercise Due</b>
Thu 7/18	Gender Conformity	Rudman & Glick, 2008 (Ch. 7)
Mon 7/22	Careers & Leadership	
Tue 7/23	Sexism	Rudman & Fairchild, 2007
Wed 7/24	Feminism	West, 2013 <b>Defining Feminism Exercise Due</b>
Thu 7/25	Sexual Harassment	Dill, Brown, & Collins, 2008
Mon 7/29	Aggression	Bosson & Vandello, 2011
Tue 7/30	Aggression, continued	<b>Film:</b> Tough Guise
Wed 7/31	Love and Romance	Finkel & Eastwick, 2009
Thu 8/1	Love and Romance, continued	
Mon 8/5	Housework and Childcare	Miller, 2013
Tue 8/6	Sex	Conley et al., 2011
Wed 8/7	Sex, continued	Ryan & Jetha, 2011 (Ch. 3, 6-7)
Thu 8/8	Beauty	Judd, 2012 Stanley, 2013

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings and Assignments</b>
Mon 8/12	Body image	Wiederman, 2000
Tue 8/13	Gender in the Media	<b>Film:</b> MissRepresentation
Wed 8/14	Gender in the Media, continued	

**Things to consider while reading:** This course will emphasize psychological research on sex and gender, and many of your readings will be empirical articles or reviews of experimental research. As consumers of research (and potentially, future researchers yourselves), it is important to make your own judgments about the research we cover. Think critically about the arguments the authors are trying to make. Are they biased at all? Does the author provide good evidence for their assertions? How does the information in the article relate to other material you've read? How does it challenge or support your own beliefs? What questions remain unanswered? If you have any questions or comments about the articles, write them down and bring them to class!