

# The Psychology of Sex and Gender

## Basic Course Information

Course: 830:362 The Psychology of Sex and Gender  
Instructor: Gwyne White  
Location: Livingston: LCB-109  
Time: Monday & Wednesday; 6:00- 10:00PM

## My Contact Information

Email: [gwyne.white@rutgers.edu](mailto:gwyne.white@rutgers.edu)  
Office: Tillett Hall 411  
Office hours: 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 encourage critical thinking 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.

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 participation in discussions are essential in this course.

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend **every** class and arrive **on time**. Missing 3 classes will result in an automatic Fail (F) for the course.

If you are more than 10 minutes late, you will not be allowed to join class, and will receive a 0 for both attendance and the in-class work. You will lose points for sleeping, texting, obviously not paying attention or being rude to fellow classmates.

**In-class exercises:** 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 which will be graded towards your participation grade. There are no make-up assignments for missed in-class work.

**Quizzes:** Each class there will be a quiz on the assigned readings due for that day. These quizzes are graded for the day pass/fail (e.g. 60% or greater equals pass) and for the course (e.g. failing 5 out of 10 quizzes results in a 0 for your quiz grade). There are no make-ups for missed in-class quizzes.

**Written assignments:** There are 2 writing assignments due during this class. These writing assignments make up 75% of your grade. See end of syllabus for specific requirements for these assignments.

Assignment 1 is due June 16 (6/16) and Assignment 2 is due July 2 (7/2).

**Make-up Assignments:**

You CANNOT make up any of the assignments.

<b>Grading Policy:</b>	1. Participation	15%
	2. Quizzes	10%
	3. Assignment 1	25%
	4. Assignment 2	50%

There are a total of 100 possible points. There is no extra credit.

Your final grades will be based on the point totals below. This is non-negotiable.

The points needed for your final grade are as follows:

<b>90-100 = A</b>
<b>84-89 = B+</b>
<b>80-83 = B</b>
<b>74-79 = C+</b>
<b>70-73 = C</b>
<b>60-69 = D</b>
<b>59 or Below = F</b>

**Students with disabilities:**

Any student who feels he or she needs accommodation for a physical or learning disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (151 College Ave, Suite 123; phone 732-932-2848) and read more about Rutgers' policy at <http://disability/services.rutgers.edu> . If you request accommodations for this course, you will need a letter from Disability Services. This letter must be provided to me *by our second class*, at which point you may make a request for course-specific accommodations. The Chair of Undergraduate Psychology and I will review your request and may choose to modify it before it is approved.

**Late & make-up policy**

**Late work will not be accepted. I generally do not allow make-ups** unless an extreme circumstance occurs. If an extreme circumstance occurs you must provide a written note from your dean in order to be eligible for a make-up assignment. Make-up assignments are determined on a case by case basis. Homework assignments cannot be made up. If you are absent you should submit the assignment to me via email before the due date.

**Withdrawal policy:**

If you decide not to complete the course it is **your responsibility** to notify the college of your intention to withdraw before the deadline.

**Plagiarism:**

All work that students turn in must be their own work. Students *should not* work collaboratively on assignments without prior approval from the instructor. Any outside sources (including help from other people) must be appropriately referenced in all written work. Turning in someone else's work as your own is completely unacceptable. This includes downloading information from the web and pasting or copying it into your paper. We routinely check Google, Wikipedia and other popular websites to check for plagiarism. Additionally, we require that your paper be turned in as electronic as well as hard copies so that we can check for plagiarism by matching content to information on the web. Any student who plagiarizes will, *at the very least*, receive a failing grade for the course. More severe consequences (e.g., expulsion) are also possible. More about academic integrity can be found at <http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>.

**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 would like to share. Exposure to different and even conflicting ideas is one of the great aspects of a college education!

## Schedule of Topics & Readings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Wed 5.28	Introduction: Syllabus Expectations	
Mon 6.02	Issues of Gender: Sex v. Gender Gender Stereotypes Gender Differences	Brescoll & LaFrance, 2004 Prentice & Carranza, 2002 Hyde, 2005
Wed 6.04	Structuring the Discussion: Theoretical Perspectives Cognition Emotion and Communication	Hyde & Else-Quest, 2012 (Ch. 2) Fine, 2010 Hyde & Else-Quest, 2012 (Ch. 6)
Mon 6.09	Impacts: Gender Conformity Sexism	Rudman & Glick, 2008 (Ch. 7) Rudman & Fairchild, 2007
Wed 6.11	Impacts: Careers and Leadership Sexual Harassment	Sherman & Zurbriggen, 2014 Dill, Brown, & Collins, 2008
Mon 6.16	Impacts: Aggression	<b>Film:</b> Tough Guise Bosson & Vandello, 2011
Wed 6.18	Gender & Sex: Sex	Conley et al., 2011 Ryan & Jetha, 2011 (Ch. 3, 6-7)
Mon 6.23	Gender & the Family: Love & Romance Housework & Childcare	Finkel & Eastwick, 2009 Miller, 2013
Wed 6.25	Gender & the Media:	<b>Film:</b> MissRepresentation Judd, 2012 Stanley, 2013 Seal, Bradford, & Meston, 2009
Mon 6.30	Gender & the Media Beauty Body Image	
Wed 7.02	Gender & Outcomes Feminism	

**Format for Papers  
Assignment 1 & Assignment 2**

**Final Paper Due dates:**

Assignment 1 – June 16

Assignment 2 – July 2

**Overview of the assignment:** You will use the readings assigned as part of this course to critically evaluate a current (last 10 years) event, film or book. You must use at least 60% of the readings in your analysis (e.g. Assignment 1 requires 6 citations and Assignment 2 requires 15).

**Page limits:** Assignment 1 is a minimum of 5 pages. Assignment 2 is a minimum of 10 pages.

**Failure to meet these page limits will result in an automatic failure of the assignment.**

**Instructions for the assignment:** You will submit your topic (the event, film or book you plan to analyze) of choice to the instructor and receive approval prior to proceeding with the paper. You must receive approval via e-mail prior to proceeding with the paper.

Your topic **cannot** be: a song, prior to 2004, or the recent University of California–Santa Barbara shootings by Elliot Rodger.

You have the opportunity to turn in a draft of the assignment but must do so by the deadline (June 11<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>) in order for the instructor to review it.

**Structure of the assignment:**

1. Review your topic event, film or book – NO MORE THAN 1 PAGE.
2. Provide thesis that frames your critical analysis.
3. Present perspective of reading (briefly) and then use this perspective to evaluate your topic.
4. Conclude with review of how readings support your thesis.

**Overall Structure:**

1. Do not say ‘I’
2. Do not quote anything – paraphrase
3. Do not have spelling errors & do use correct grammar
4. Times New Roman 12-point font
5. Double spaced with no space before or after each paragraph

**Citations:**

All articles that you are citing need to be in APA format. Please see

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/07/> for formatting guidelines.

## Due Dates

<b>Date</b>	<b>Due</b>	<b>Form</b>
Mon 6.02	Assignment 1 Topic	Via Dropbox - Hand in proposed event, film or book to be analyzed in for Assignment 1
Wed 6.04	Assignment 1 Topic Approved	Discuss Topic with instructor and receive approval via e-mail
Wed 6.11	Assignment 1 Draft	Via E-mail – <i>if</i> you want instructor to review a draft of your Assignment 1 paper you must submit it via e-mail before class
Mon 6.16	Assignment 1 Final Paper	Via Dropbox – 9AM deadline
Wed 6.18	Assignment 2 Topic	Via Dropbox - Hand in proposed event, film or book to be analyzed in for Assignment 2
Mon 6.23	Assignment 2 Topic Approved	Discuss Topic with instructor and receive approval via e-mail
Wed 6.25	Assignment 2 Draft	Via E-mail – <i>if</i> you want instructor to review a draft of your Assignment 2 paper you must submit it via e-mail before class
Wed 7.02	Assignment 2 Final Paper	Via Dropbox – 9AM deadline Students who attend final class will have extended deadline of 12AM by which to submit this paper