

**Rutgers University
Department of Psychology
Summer 2015**

Course Syllabus: PSY 362:H3, Psychology of Sex & Gender

Instructor Contact:

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Office	Tillett 409
Class Location	Tillett 252 12:10pm - 2:00pm

Office Hours: By appointment

Number of Credits: 3

Required Texts and Supplementary Material (see note below):

Rudman, L. A. & Glick, P. G. (2008) *The Social Psychology of Gender*. New York: Guilford Press.

Additional readings will be provided via the course website.

COURSE OVERVIEW: This course examines biopsychosocial theories of sex differences and conceptions of gender. Topics include history & theoretical perspectives on gender, differentiation of sex versus gender, gender similarities, conformity, stereotypes, social roles, masculinity, sexism, feminism, media influence, body image, gender violence, beauty standards, sex, cognition, emotion and communication.

COURSE WEBSITE Available on Sakai. If you are properly registered you should have access.

GRADING POLICY

1. Participation / Attendance	11%
2. Online Quizzes (5), drop lowest	24%
3. Assignments (10), drop lowest	45%
4. Papers (2)	20%

A = 90-100%	C = 70-76%
B+ = 87-89%	D+ = 67-69%
B = 80-86%	D = 60-66%
C+ = 77-79%	F = Below 60

ATTENDANCE 11% of your final grade

You are expected to be in class; missing classes will negatively affect this portion of your grade. You will also lose points for sleeping, texting, obviously not paying attention or being rude to fellow classmates. This portion of your grade is calculated by dividing your classes attended against the total number of classes (e.g., you miss three classes: $20/23 =$ grade of 87 or 9.6 points of 11 possible)

QUIZZES 24% of your final grade (6 points each, best 4 of 5)

I will give five online quizzes based on your reading and material covered in class. These will be given online and are open notes/ book. Each quiz is worth 6 points. Your lowest grade will be dropped

ASSIGNMENTS 45% of your final grade (5 points each, best 9 of 10)

There will be 10 assignments (usually completed in class) which you may complete on your own or in groups. Your lowest score will be dropped. The dates of the assignments may be found on the last page

PAPERS 20% of your final grade

You will write two, 2-3 page papers on topics of your choice (see list of topics). Each will count for 10% of your grade. Print a paper copy and bring it to class on the appropriate day for discussion (see list of topics). **Early papers are welcome! Late papers will get a zero.** The policy is rigid and there are no exceptions. 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).

LATE POLICY & MAKE UP POLICY

Late work will not be accepted. I do not allow make-up exams unless an extreme circumstance occurs **and** the student is able to get an excused absence from the Dean of Students office. No exceptions.

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM:

I will not tolerate plagiarism or cheating without exception. **A first offense will be reported on your college record and will result in the failure of the class. Consider this your warning.**

I cannot help you if you make the conscious decision to cheat or plagiarize.

Actual student excuse for plagiarism:

“But the question asked for a definition and an example. I just used the definition or example given in the slideset or textbook. I don’t understand how this is considered plagiarism.”

It is plagiarism when you copy something word for word or if you copy something and only change a few words or take someone else’s idea and act as though it is your own. When I ask you for examples or definitions, they should always be **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**. I’m looking to see if you understand a concept, so I want you to explain it to me. When you simply regurgitate what is written in the text or the slideset or on a website, I have no way to gauge whether or not you understand what we just covered. I periodically check answers of ALL students for plagiarism.

Example:

1. What is the definition of toplofty?

Plagiarized answer from online dictionary: very superior in air or attitude

Answer in your own words for full credit: Someone who is toplofty acts as though they are better than everyone else.

Papers

Choose two of the following prompts below. Write a brief summary of what you found (2-3 pages) Bring your report to class on the specified day and be ready to discuss your findings.

Gender & Emotion: Due July 20, 2015

Do men and women experience and display emotion different? Are there specific emotions that are more common to men or women? Under what conditions are these emotions displayed? Are there differences? What are those differences and why do they exist?

Interview at least 2 men and 2 women about their conceptions of gender and emotion. You must ask the following, but these should not be the only questions you ask: (1) Do they consider themselves an emotional person? (2) are some emotions more common and acceptable in men or women, why? (3) Are there gender differences in emotional experience (i.e., do men and women feel differently in terms of intensity or number of emotions) and which emotions are more common for which gender?

Write a summary of your responses including your own thoughts about these issues.

Define Feminism: Due July 27, 2015

How to people define feminism? Does it match with how you define feminism? Is it different for men and women? Interview at least 2 men and 2 women about their definition of and views about feminism. You must ask the following, but these should not be the only questions you ask: (1) Do they identify as a feminist (2) do they view feminism positively or negatively (3) do they view feminists positively or negatively (4) how would they describe a typical feminist in terms of traits (5) do they belief feminism is good for relationships and the economy (i.e., work context).

Write a summary of your responses including your own thoughts about these issues.

Masculine Development versus Feminine Development: Due July 29, 2015

Is there a difference (beyond obvious biological differences) in the coming of age for boys versus girls? What helps a boy become a man? What helps a girl become a woman? How are these developmental trajectories different?

Interview at least 2 men and 2 women about gender differences (beyond biology) in becoming a man or woman. Ask them questions like those listed above.

Write a summary of your responses including your own thoughts about these issues.

Aggression: Due July 29, 2015

Which gender is more aggressive and how does aggressiveness vary by gender. Why?

Interview at least 2 men and 2 women about gender differences in aggression. Ask them questions like those listed above.

Write a summary of your responses including your own thoughts about these issues.

Dating Scripts: Due August 3, 2015

Scripts are guides for men and women that direct and inform their behavior and expectations for dating. What are the prevalent dating scripts in our culture? How do they affect relationships? Are they generally positive or negative for men and women? How do people learn about dating scripts and why do they follow them?

Interview at least 2 men and 2 women about gender scripts asking them questions like those listed above.

Write a summary of your responses including your own thoughts about these issues.

Romance: Due August 3, 2015

How do we think about romance? Are men or women more likely to endorse these romantic ideals? For instance: Who believes in love at first sight? Who falls in love more quickly? Who is less likely to end a relationship? Who likes romantic films more? Why do we find the gender differences that emerge?

Interview at least 2 men and 2 women about gender and romance asking them questions like those listed above.

Write a summary of your responses including your own thoughts about these issues.

Sexual Double standard: Due August 4, 2015

The sexual double standard (SDS) refers to different standards for male versus female sexuality. Specifically, sexual behavior that is acceptable for men may not be acceptable for women. Why might these differing standards exist? Are they useful at all? Does anyone gain something from the SDS being in place? Why, exactly, might people want to perpetuate the SDS?

Interview at least 2 men and 2 women about the sexual double standard asking them questions like those listed above.

Write a summary of your responses including your own thoughts about these issues.

Self-Objectification: Due August 4, 2015

Raunch culture refers to the over-sexualized culture of the United States in which women are not only objectified by others, but even objectify themselves in order to be perceived as sexy and worthwhile. What are some examples of raunch culture in college life? Is self-objectification (i.e., turning oneself into a sexual object) empowering? Is it damaging? If it is positive for the woman who is objectifying herself, is it positive for all women?

Interview at least 2 men and 2 women about self-objectifications asking them questions like those listed above.

Write a summary of your responses including your own thoughts about these issues.

Birth Control: Due August 12, 2015

Do you agree with the SCOTUS regarding birth control? Why or why not?

Interview two people who agree with the decision and two who disagree. Write a summary of their responses and your own thoughts about these issues.

Class Schedule: Subject to change

Date	Topic	Readings on Sakai	Book Chapters
M: July 6, 2015	Intro to Gender Research		
T: July 7, 2015	History	Collins (2009) <i>When Everything Changed</i>	
W: July 8, 2015	Sex vs Gender		1,3
Tr: July 9, 2015	Theories (Assignment 1)	Buss (1995)	1, 3
Online Quiz 1 (Due by 11:59PM on Monday, July 13, 2015)			
M: July 13, 2015	No Class		
T: July 14, 2015	Stereotyping (Assignment 2)	Prentice & Carranza, 2002	4-5
W: July 15, 2015	Differences	Hyde, 2005 Brescoll & LaFrance, 2004	
Tr: July 16, 2015	Cognition	Fine, 2010	
M: July 20, 2015	Emotion (Assignment 3)		
Online Quiz 2 (Due by 11:59PM on Thursday, July 23, 2015)			
T: July 21, 2015	Gender Conformity (Assignment 4)		7
W: July 22, 2015	Leadership + Backlash		7
Tr: July 23, 2015	Sexism	Rudman & Fairchild, 2007 Glick et al 1997 Fischer 2006	2, 8

Date	Topic	Readings on Sakai	Book Chapters
M: July 27, 2015	Feminism (Assignment 5)	West, 2013	
T: July 28, 2015	Harassment	Dill, Brown, & Collins, 2008	
W: July 29, 2015	Aggression (Assignment 6)	Bosson & Vandello, 2011	
Tr: July 30, 2015	Violence		11
Online Quiz 3 (Due by 12:10PM on Monday, August 3, 2015)			
M: August 3, 2015	Relationships	Finkel & Eastwick, 2009	9
T: August 4, 2015	Sexy Time (Assignment 7)	Conley et al., 2011 Ryan & Jetha, 2011 (3, 6, 7)	10
W: August 5, 2015	Work-Family Divide (Assignment 8)	Miller, 2013	8
Online Quiz 4 (Due by 11:59PM on Friday, August 7, 2015)			
Tr: August 6, 2015	Beauty	Judd, 2012 Stanley, 2013	
M: August 10, 2015	Body Image (Assignment 9)	Seal, Bradford, & Meston, 2009	
T: August 11, 2015	Media 1 (Assignment 10)		
W: August 12, 2015	Media 2 & Revolution		12
Online Quiz 5 (Due by noon on Thursday, August 13, 2015)			