

830:422 Advanced Topics in Social Psychology
The Psychology of Gender
Professor Laurie Rudman
Tillett 252, MW5 (3:20-4:40pm)

***Pre-Requisite*:** Psychology 321 (Social Psychology)
(Jr/Sr 830 Major or permission of instructor)

Course description: This course examines social psychological theories and research on how gender shapes self-conceptions and social interactions across many domains. Topics include evolutionary versus cultural accounts of gender phenomena, how and why attitudes toward the other gender are ambivalent, and the ways in which even positive female stereotypes tend to uphold the gender status quo. We consider how prescriptive stereotypes (“gender rules”) result in social disapproval for gender deviance (e.g., backlash toward powerful women), and examine how gendered attitudes play out in the workplace and in romantic relationships. Finally, what are the prospects for continued change in gender roles, stereotypes, hierarchy, and sex differences in social behavior? Has the gender revolution stalled, ended, reversed? Or is it continuing on a slow or fast trajectory? How optimistic or pessimistic should we be and why?

Goals: To provide an engaging, integrative, and broad overview of gender-related theory and research that can help students to understand the complex cross-currents underlying modern day gender relations and incorporate gender into their own areas of research interest.