

**PSY 362, Psychology of Sex & Gender (3 credits)**  
Summer 2020

Rutgers University  
Department of Psychology

Instructor: Rebecca Cipollina

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Office Hours: by appointment via Zoom meeting

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** This course examines biopsychosocial theories of sex differences and conceptions of gender. We will discuss theoretical perspectives on gender, the differentiation of sex versus gender, gender similarities, conformity, stereotypes, social roles, masculinity, sexism, feminism, media influence, sexual satisfaction, emotion, communication, and health. By the end of this course I hope that my students think differently about gender related issues in society and learn how to critically examine research related to sex and gender.

**COURSE FORMAT:** This class traditionally met two times a week from 1-4:40pm. In moving to an online format, you can still expect to spend at least that much time (about 7 hours) a week engaging with course content. My plan is to record class presentations and post them a week early which will give students ample time to watch the lectures when they have time for them. There will be assignments and class discussions on course content which will count towards participation grades alongside lecture quizzes (detailed below). Your grade in the class will consist of 3 tests, participation/virtual attendance, and weekly assignments.

Exams will be made primarily from the lecture material. Additional assignments/required readings will also be included as questions in your exams. Because you will be responsible for knowing theory and research not covered in the reading material, it is very important to attend every virtual class to do well in the course. Luckily, you will not have to get notes from a classmate if you miss class as all course content will be recorded and available to you at any time. I expect students to complete all assignments when (or before) they are due. Given the current circumstances, I provide a lot of time for assignments to be completed before their due date. Due dates will still be enforced.

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

**LECTURES** All lectures are posted on the "media gallery" on Sakai.

**GRADING POLICY**

1. Online Exams (3)

65%

A = 90-100%  
B+ = 84.5-89.9%  
B = 79.5-84.49%  
C+ = 74.5-79.49%  
C = 69.5-74.49%  
D = 59.5-69.49%  
F = 59.49% or below

2. Assignments (6)	20%
3. Participation & Attendance	15%

**TESTS:** 65% of your final grade

I will give three tests based on your reading and material covered in virtual classes. Tests will be completed online. While you may use your notes to complete tests, the questions will often require you to apply the course content as opposed to reiterate definitions from course content. I will provide jeopardy style review PowerPoints which you can complete to study for each exam. Tests will consist mostly of multiple-choice questions.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** 20% of your final grade

Assignments will be assigned weekly and will be used to foster virtual discussion and engagement in course material. Assignments may be opinion based or summary based. If you are reading this, I encourage you to send me a meme or video (via email) that you think is about the psychology of gender which could add to the planned class material. I will likely incorporate it into the class and boost your participation grade by a margin. Assignments will have grading criteria which will be discussed before assignments are due.

**PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE:** 15% of your final grade

Attendance and class participation are important for a class of this nature. Attendance in will be taken via quizzes which should be completed after watching each lecture. The quizzes are within the tests and quizzes tool on Sakai. They consist of a few short questions about the lecture. Grades on the lecture content quizzes will not influence your grade but will help comprehension of the course content and will count as attendance. Lecture quizzes must be completed by day of last exam. Participation grade will be calculated via discussion forum posts (see forum tool on Sakai) where you will post something and comment on another student's post 3 times throughout the semester (due dates for participation are listed on syllabus schedule). Your participation and attendance grade will be computed by combining your participation on discussion boards and attendance completing lecture quizzes.

**READINGS:** There is NO textbook for this course, instead readings will be assigned. Readings will be posted on Sakai. Required readings are included in the exam content and often will be discussed on the class date that they are due. I will provide a list of extra readings are for those who are interested in that course topic who want a deeper dive into the material. These extra readings may help with your final assignment topic. You are always welcome to ask questions about the extra readings via email.

**LATE POLICY & MAKEUP 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.

**MY AIMS AND CLASS CONDUCT:** As your professor in this course I have three goals: 1) I aim to expose you to psychological literature and methods to develop your understanding of current theories on the psychology of gender, 2) I hope to foster a climate within the (virtual) classroom where students of diverse backgrounds and identities feel comfortable sharing their opinion on and experience with varied topics throughout the class, and lastly, 3) I seek to develop my course, myself, and the progress of research in this area by taking into account the opinions and perspective of students within my classes. I humbly acknowledge that we all come from different backgrounds and that we all can learn to be more understanding and well-versed on issues that do not directly affect us. With that being said, I intend for all class materials and activities to be respectful to all in the class. If any students think that course content may be exclusionary or offensive to themselves or others, I encourage them to let me know. Student's suggestions and feedback are always appreciated.

**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.** 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. I routinely check Google, Wikipedia, and other popular websites to check for plagiarism. 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>.

**DISABILITY SERVICES:** In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with me and discuss the accommodations you need as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>

**\*Syllabus Subject to Change with the Notice of the Instructor**

**Week 1 (6/1 - 6/6): Sex vs Gender (lecture 1); Gender Theories (lecture 2)**

Assigned Reading(s): 1) Hegelson (2005) Chapter 5

Optional: 1) Complete Pre-Class  
Survey EarlyDue: 6/6 1) Complete Pre-Class Survey  
(Assignment #1)**Week 2 (6/7 - 6/13): Stereotypes, Rules, and Socialization (lectures 3 and 4)**

Assigned Reading(s): 1) Hegelson (2005) Chapter 3; 2) Murphy, Steele, &amp; Gross, 2007

Optional: Complete Exam 1  
Review JeopardyDue: 6/13 1) Publish Gender Deviant  
Activity (Assignment #2)  
2) Post about your Gender  
Deviant Activity  
3) Comment on another student's  
post**Week 3 (6/14 - 6/20): Exam 1, Sexism and Backlash (lecture 5), Work & Family Dynamics (lecture 6)**

Assigned Reading(s): 1) Glick and Fiske, 1997; 2) Rudman &amp; Glick, 2001 3) Moss-Racusin et al., 2010

**EXAM 1: COMPLETE BY END OF DAY****6/14**(Exam on Lectures 1-4 and associated  
readings)Due: 6/20 1) Research Summary  
(Assignment #3, uses Moss-  
Racusin et al., reading)  
2) Publish a media character post  
3) Comment on  
another student's media post**Week 4 (6/21 -6/27): Media (lecture 7), Masculinity (lecture 8),**

Assigned Reading(s) Towards Exam 2: 1) Seabrook et al., 2018

Assigned Reading(s) Towards Exam 3: 1) Hyde (2005); 2) Chapter 4 start to page 120;

Optional: Complete Exam 2  
Review JeopardyDue 6/27 1) Documentary Segment Write  
up (Assignment #4)

<b>Week 5 (6/28 - 7/4): Gender Differences (lecture 9), Aggression, Harassment (lecture 10),</b> Assigned Reading(s): 1) Hyde (2005); 2) Chapter 4 start to page 120; Vandello & Bosson, 2012	
<b>EXAM 2: COMPLETE BY END OF DAY</b> <b>Wednesday, 6/28</b> (Exam on lectures 5-8 and associated readings)	1) Interview Assignment (Assignment #5)  Due: 7/4    2) Post a reflection of something that surprised you about this week's content 3) comment on another student's post
<b>Week 6 (7/5- ): Health (lecture 11), Sex and Romance (lecture 12), Exam 3</b> Assigned Reading(s): 1) Helgeson Health pages 527-; 2) Chapter 9 Sex and Romance pgs 296-306	
Optional Exam 3 Jeopardy Review <b>EXAM 3: COMPLETE BY END OF DAY</b> <b>7/9</b> (Exam on lectures 9-12 and associated readings)	July 9th <b>Last day to complete attendance quizzes</b>  Due: Final's day TBD <b>Last Assignment (#6)</b>

### Reading List

#### Sex vs Gender; Gender Theories

Helgeson, V. (2015). *Psychology of gender*. Psychology Press. Chapter 5.

#### Gender Stereotypes; Gender Conformity

Helgeson, V. (2015). *Psychology of gender*. Psychology Press. Chapter 3.

Murphy, M., Steele, C. M., & Gross, J. J. (2007). Signaling threat: How situational cues affect women in Math, Science, and Engineering settings. *Psychological Science*, 18(10) 879-885.

#### Sexism and Backlash

Glick, P., & Fiske, S. (1996). The Ambivalent Sexism Inventory: Differentiating hostile and benevolent sexism, 70(3), 491-512.

Rudman, L. A., & Glick, P. (2001). Prescriptive gender stereotypes and backlash toward agentic women. *Journal of Social Issues*, 57(4), 743-762.

### **Work- Family Divide:**

Moss-Racusin, C. A., Phelan, J. E., & Rudman, L. A. (2010). When men break the gender rules: Status incongruity and backlash against modest men. *Psychology of Men & Masculinity*, 11(2), 140-151.

### **Media**

Seabrook, R. C., Ward, L. M., Cortina, L. M., Giaccardi, S., & Lippman, J. R. (2017). Girl power or powerless girl? Television, sexual scripts, and sexual agency in sexually active young women. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 41(2), 240-253.

### **Gender Differences**

Hyde, J. S. (2005). The gender similarities hypothesis. *American Psychologist*, 60(6), 581-592.

Helgeson, V. (2015). *Psychology of gender*. Psychology Press. Chapter 4. **start to pg. 120**

### **Aggression and Masculinity Threats**

Vandello, J. A., & Bosson, J. K. (2013). Hard won and easily lost: A review and synthesis of theory and research on precarious manhood. *Psychology of Men & Masculinity*, 14(2), 101-111. \*Read risk taking and aggression sections

### **Health**

Helgeson, V.S. (2012). Gender and health: A social psychological perspective. In A. Baum, T. A., Revenson, & J.E. Singer (Eds). *Handbook of Health Psychology*, 2nd edition (pp. 519-537). New York: Psychology Press.

*\*Read starting on page 526 (where it says social roles) to end*

### **Sex and Romance**

Helgeson, V. (2015). *Psychology of gender*. Psychology Press. Chapter 9. **\*characteristics in a mate pg. 296- 306,**