

Summer Session 1: May 31 – July 8

The Psychology of Sex & Gender
M/W 6:00 – 10:20 PM
204 Tillett Hall, Livingston Campus
1:830:362

Contact: Kris Mescher
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

Biological, psychological, and cultural determinants in sex differences in behavior with emphasis on humans; sexual behavior, aggression, personality, intelligence, and social roles are covered.

Course Materials:

- **Textbook:**
 - Rudman, L. A. & Glick, P. (2008). The Social Psychology of Gender: How Power and Intimacy Shape Gender Relations
- **Website:**
 - Course readings outside of the textbook will be made available on Sakai
 - Part of your class participation credit will come from maintaining weekly discussion on Sakai Discussion Boards

Course Disclaimers!

- Topics of sexuality are a large part of this course. If such discussions make you uncomfortable, it may be best to *drop this course*.
- You are **never** required to share any personal experiences you may have with any topics covered in this course, but others may choose to do so. If another student shares personal information, *you are expected to treat it with respect and understanding*.
- Discussion is encouraged argument is not. You may disagree with some theories, research or opinions expressed in this course. Your thoughts are important and we want to hear them! But there is a difference between disagreement and disrespect.
- This course takes a progressive perspective on gender and sex, but strives not to be biased. Sex and gender are emotional, political, and controversial topics. Despite any opinions that may be expressed by the instructor, fellow students or in any materials, you are encouraged to form your own ideas.

Course Structure:

Each class period is 4 hours and 20 minutes long. Believe me, I know it can be tiring. We have a lot of material to cover and only a little time (10 classes), so plan to be

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present for **the full class period**, I'll do my best to cover material in a timely manner and let out early when possible. There will be multiple breaks in each class period of 5-15 minutes each.

Grades will be based on:

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|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| - Participation | 15% (30) |
| o In Class (20) | |
| o Online (10) | |
| - Assignments (in & out of class) | 50% (100) |
| - Final | 35% (70) |

There will be a total of 200 points for this course with occasional, small extra credit opportunities. Grades will be based on a percentage system (not a curve). The percentages (and total points) needed for your final grade are as follows:

- **90%=A (180)**
- **85% = B+ (170)**
- **80% =B (160)**
- **75% = C+ (150)**
- **70%=C (140)**
- **65% = D+ (130)**
- **60% = D (120)**
- **59% and less = F**

Attendance is expected. I cannot threaten, guilt or otherwise entice you to attend lecture in any way that hasn't already been done. You're in college, you know how this works; come to class. This is not a particularly large OR long course, I will notice your absence and so will your classmates. If you have a personal emergency or become ill sometime during the course, let me or a classmate know and we will do our best to accommodate it.

Participation:

Part attendance, part preparation, you receive participation credit for showing up *prepared*.

You are expected to add meaningfully to the class discussion.* This is an interactive course; it will help you to do the readings in advance, formulate questions or comments you want to make and bring them to class. Each week, an article, critical question or other prompt will appear on the course's Sakai website, for you to respond to on the discussion boards.

- ***You may be exempted from online discussion only once!*** One freebie, where failure to respond will not count against you. After that, non-response will result in a loss of participation points.
- From the time a discussion topic is posted, *you have two class periods to respond (e.g., a week.)* If it's up on a Monday, it's due before class the next

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Monday. *When class starts is when discussion stops counting for points, of course you're free to keep discussing if the topic is interesting to you.*

* *meaningfully* is defined by the instructor and is not negotiable. Thinking critically and communicating it on the discussion board are all that I ask.

Assignments:

There will be a host of opportunities to interact with other students, talk about topics, prepare material or otherwise engage in the class. Assignments will consist of in-class tasks (like discussion groups) or out-of-class tasks, which will generally be short, written exercises. Written assignments are due by the date indicated on the syllabus at class time, unless otherwise specified, type-written in 12-point font. If you cannot come to class, you may e-mail your assignment by class time. If your absence is excused (e.g., with a doctor's note, for a religious ceremony) you may turn in your assignment by the next class period with no penalty. Otherwise, late assignments will not be accepted.

Final:

You will complete a paper and presentation for your final. More information is provided on a separate handout.

Academic Dishonesty: Don't cheat. You know what it looks like; I know what it looks like. I take cheating and plagiarism seriously, and frankly, as personal insults. If you're unclear about the university's policy on academic integrity, you may familiarize yourself here:

- <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Cite your sources, do your own work. If you are unsure if what you are doing (or plan to do) qualifies as cheating, ask. I will be happy to clarify what is and is not appropriate on any given assignment.

Disability Services:

If you have a disability recognized by the Rutgers Disability Services office, or feel in any way that you may not be able to participate in class requirements because of mental, physical or emotional health issues, please let me know. I abide by the policies set forth by the Disability Services offices, and should you require accommodations will be happy to make them available to you.

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The following is a tentative schedule, which is subject to change. Changes to the syllabus will be announced in class or on Sakai.

Date	Topic	Readings & Assignments (Before Class)
Wed, June 1	Introduction 1	<u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Gender Similarities Hypothesis “ • “Psychological Sex Differences: Origins Through Sexual Selection”
Mon, June 6	Stereotyping 2	<u>Assignment(s):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Gender Segregation Exercise” <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 4 & 5, in <u>Social Psych of Gender</u>
Wed, June 8	Masculinity 3	<u>Assignment(s):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare critical questions for the panel. (E-mail before 12pm on Wed!) <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What is a man?” • Vandello et al., 2008
Mon, June 13	Femininity 4	<u>Assignment(s):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Gender Transgression Exercise” <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What’s Wrong With Cinderella?” • Prentice & Miller, 2006
Wed, June 15	Beauty & Body Standards 5	<u>Assignment(s):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Body Standards in the Media” <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “All Girls Must Be Everything” • Hatoum & Belle, 2004 • “The Cult of the Fear of Age”

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Mon, June 20	Love & Sex 6	<u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 in <u>Social Psych of Gender</u> • Sex at Dawn: “On Mona Lisa’s Mind” / “The Pervert’s Lament” • “Hot and Bothered”
Wed, June 22	Marriage, Families & Domesticity 7	<u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Boys will be boys. Unless they’re girls.” • “The Science of a Happy Marriage” • “Hoovers and Shakers”
Mon, June 27	Gender Violence 8	<u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Collapsible Woman” • “The Military’s Secret Shame” • Chapter 11 in <u>Social Psych of Gender</u>
Wed, June 29	Equality & The Future 9	<u>Assignment(s):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “End of the Gender Revolution” <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12 in <u>Social Psych of Gender</u> <u>Pro Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackson, 2006 • Diekman & Goodfriend, 2006 <u>Con Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England, 2006 • Ridgeway, 2006
Mon, July 4	NO CLASS	<u>Assignment:</u> Work on your final projects! And don’t hit yourself in the face with an illegal firework.
Wed, July 6	Final Presentations	<i>Final Papers Due!</i>