

The Social Psychology of Gender
Summer 2012
Mon-Thurs 12:10 – 2:00, Beck 250

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Course description: This course examines social psychological theories and research on how gender shapes self-conceptions and social interaction 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 gender 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.

Readings: To provide both a broad overview as well as detail on specific topics, the readings include a primary text (co-authored by a Rutgers researcher, Dr. Rudman), a secondary, popular press text for a look at myths and realities of gender’s impact on relationships and intimacy, and outside readings comprising a mix of chapters from edited volumes, empirical journal articles, and review articles. All of the outside readings and assignments will be provided at Sakai.rutgers.edu. Login with NetID and password, click on class website. You are obliged to buy (or borrow from the library) the required text(s), which are available for purchase (new or used) or rental for the duration of the course through Rutgers. In addition, online retailers (e.g., half.com) offer paperback versions of both texts for reasonable rates. Copies of both can be loaned from the libraries or myself, if necessary. With so many options there is *no reason* that you should not have access to the texts and lack of access will *not* be accepted as an excuse if you cannot complete assignments.

Required Texts:

Rudman, L. A., & Glick, P. (2008). *The social psychology of gender: How power and romance shape gender relations*. New York: Guilford Press. ISBN: 978-1-59385-825-4

Ryan, C. & Jetha, C. (2011). *Sex at dawn: The Prehistoric origins of modern sexuality*. New York: Harper. ISBN: 9780061707810.

Course Evaluation. Course grade will be based on class participation and assignments, online quizzes, and a team (or solo, if you so choose) presentation on a topic of interest in this course. There are no exams. Bring your written assignments to class on the day they are due and be prepared to discuss. Late assignments will not be credited. If you have to miss class or are unable to print your assignment, e-mail me your assignment by class time. See the last page of your syllabus for how grades are assigned. For all written assignments, please double space and use only the APA-approved font (12-point Times New Roman).

Online quizzes. The quizzes will become available to you on Thursdays, after class, on Sakai. Quizzes will be timed on Sakai (e.g., once opened, you will have 1 hour to complete the quiz, and they cannot be saved/left), but you may start them at any point before the following Monday. Their material will be pulled from lecture/class discussion and readings. *Quizzes are open note.* You may refer to any material (your own notes, the texts, internet searches, each other) you find helpful in answering the questions. At 12:10 on Mondays, quizzes will become *inactive* and *will not count for points*. If you have technical problems with a quiz, send me an e-mail *immediately*. I will provide an alternative arrangement.

Group Presentations. On the handout provided is a list of presentation topics, with a short description of their expected content (you may add to this as you like, provided it is relevant to the course, the descriptions are just to help you figure out what topic might be most interesting to you.) I will post a poll on Sakai, on it you should rank your *top 3* choices of topic. Groups will be assigned based on matching topic interests. This poll will be first come, first served. Those who complete it early are the most likely to be assigned their preferred topics. Presentations should last 20-30 minutes and discuss the points outlined by the handout, and/or other readings, related media or relevant material. Each group member will complete a brief (1-2 pages) report on their contribution and each of the other group members' contribution to the presentation. Grades will be (roughly) 65% on the final outcome of the group and 35% on individual contribution. A grading rubric will be provided on Sakai; successful presentations will address the points provided on the syllabus, as well as extending them by using relevant examples/outside of class material and will spur class discussion.

Schedule of Readings and Class Topics

Readings are *due* by the date indicated. All readings except those marked “optional” may appear on quizzes, some but not *all* of their content will be covered in lecture.

Day/Date	Topic	Readings/Class Content
Week 1		
1 (Mon -7/9)	Introduction to course	None
2 (Tues-7/10)	History of Gender Research	Collins (2009) <i>When Everything Changed</i>
3 (Wed-7/11)	Nature vs. Nurture	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 1 Buss (1995)
4 (Thurs-7/12)	Gender Similarities	Hyde (2005)

Assignment for 7/16: Gender Role Interview Exercise

Week 2		
5 (Mon-7/16)	Ambivalent Sexism	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 2 Optional: Jost & Kay (2005) Discuss Gender Role Interviews
6 (Wed-7/17)	Childhood Origins	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 3 Orenstein (2006) Princess Culture

Assignment for 7/19: Gender Segregation Exercise

9 (Wed-7/18)	Stereotype Content	None
10 (Thurs- 7/19)	Origins of Stereotypes	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 4 Discuss Gender Segregation Exercise

Assignments for 7/23: Media Analysis Exercise

Week 3

11 (Mon-7/23) Media Analysis

Discuss Media Analysis Exercise

Group Presentations 1 & 2:

1) *Media and Women*2) *Media and Men*

12 (Tues-7/24) Media Continued

Douglas (2010) *Enlightened Sexism*Film: *The Codes of Gender* (75 min)**Assignment for 7/25: Implicit Association Exercise**

13 (Wed-7/25) Implicit Associations

Rudman & Glick: Ch. 5

Discuss Implicit Association Exercise

14 (Thurs-7/26) Gender in (Inter)Action

Rudman & Glick: Ch 6

Group Presentation 3: *Gender Interactions*Film: *Gender & Communication* (42 min)**Assignment for 7/30: Gender Transgression Exercise**

Week 4

15 (Mon-7/30) Gender Conformity

Prentice & Miller (2006)

Discuss Gender Transgression Exercise

16 (Tues-7/31) Backlash Effects

Rudman & Glick: Ch 7

Optional: Brescoll & Uhlmann (2008)

Group Presentation 4: *Gender Backlash*

17 (Wed-8/1) Work-Family Conflict

Ryan & Jetha, Ch. 6 & 7

Rudman & Glick: Ch. 8

Optional: Lisa Belkin, 2008 (Equal Parenting)

18 (Thurs-8/2) Love & Romance

Rudman & Glick: Ch. 9

Group Presentation 5: *Love & Romance***Assignment for 8/6: Personal Ads Exercise**

Week 5

19 (Mon-8/6) Sex & Marriage

Rudman & Glick: Ch. 10

Ryan & Jetha: 8, 9, 10 & Part IV

Discuss Personal Ads Exercise

Assignment for 8/8: Who Controls the Sexual Double Standard?

20 (Tues-8/7) Beauty Standards	Group Presentation 6: <i>Beauty Standards</i>
21 (Wed-8/8) Sex & Gender	Baumeister & Twenge (2002) Ryan & Jetha: Ch. 3, 20, 21 & 22 Discuss Sexual Double Standards Exercise
22 (Thurs-8/9) Gender Politics	None

Assignment for 8/14: End of Gender Revolution Exercise?

Week 6

23 (Mon-8/13) Sexual and Gender Violence TBA	
24 (Tues-8/14) End of gender revolution?	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 12 Discuss End of Gender Revolution Exercise Group Presentation 7: <i>Revolution?</i>
25 (Wed – 8/15)	Discuss Graduate School in Psychology Final thoughts and discussion Mini-party!

Grading policies: Extra credit is not an option. Late assignments will not be accepted (but you may always turn assignments in *early*, if you have commitments outside of the course.) There are 8 Assignments worth 10 points each, and 5 quizzes worth 10 points each, your group presentations will be worth 60 points (40 points as a group, 20 individual). 20 points are participation and preparedness, total points are 210. 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 (189), 85% = B+ (178), 80% =B (168), 75% = C+ (158), 70%=C (147), 60% = D (126), 59% or less = F (less than 124).**