

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF GENDER

PSY 301-T, Fall, 2007, TR, 5:00-6:15, MM 113

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Textbook: Gender, Psychological Perspectives, Linda Brannon, 5th ed., 2008, Allyn & Bacon.

Course Description: In recent years, the pioneering work of feminist scholars, both in traditional disciplines and women's studies, along with the work of feminist women in the political arena have made us aware of the centrality of gender in our lives. Gender is a core feature of social life, one of the critical organizing principles around which our lives revolve. In the social sciences, gender has taken its place alongside class and race as one of the three central mechanisms by which power and resources are distributed in our society. Also, gender is currently a hot topic, and almost everyone has an opinion. Most people are not familiar with research findings; they simply know their own opinion.

It is for these reasons that a review of psychological gender research is important. However, gender research is neither simple nor complete. Research findings are complex and sometimes contradictory. Despite the bias and controversy that have surrounded the gender research process, this research is highly valuable. It helps us understand our own life experiences that influence and cause us to believe the way men and women should be. During this course we will be learning about gender research findings and compare them to our personal opinions and experiences. Many of the issues we will be exploring will be quite provocative; keep an open mind and enjoy the learning!

Course Requirements:

Attendance. Attendance is required. It is important because class lectures will often deviate from the material covered by the assigned reading and you are responsible for **BOTH** lecture and text material for the exams. You may miss only three classes before your grade will be negatively affected.

Participation. A portion of your grade will be based upon your participation in class discussions. Much of the content of this course is founded upon debates and controversy therefore I expect everyone in the class to offer a viewpoint, give input and express feedback during class dialogues.

DO NOT HAVE BEEPERS OR CELL PHONES ON DURING CLASS LECTURES. THEY ARE DISRUPTIVE AND IT IS RUDE TO HAVE THEM ACTIVATED DURING CLASS. DO NOT READ NEWSPAPERS OR OTHER MATERIAL DURING CLASS LECTURES. YOU MAY USE A LAPTOP COMPUTER BUT ONLY TO TAKE CLASS NOTES. YOU MAY NOT SURF THE WEB, EMAIL, IM, Text message OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITY OTHER THAN TAKING CLASS NOTES ON YOUR COMPUTER. A VIOLATION OF ANY OF THESE MANDATES WILL RESULT IN YOUR BEING ASKED TO LEAVE THE CLASS.

Exams. Your grade will be based largely upon four exams given over the course of the semester. All exams will be NON-cumulative. Only legitimate reasons for make-ups will be taken into consideration, and I must be notified BEFORE the exam is given that you will need to take a make-up. All make-ups will be given immediately following the 4th exam.

HONOR CODE: Strict adherence to the University Honor Code is expected at all times. ANY attempt to cheat on an exam in this course will be considered sufficient reason for the assignment of a FAILING GRADE.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

| | | | |
|-------|----|--|---------|
| Aug. | 23 | Introduction and course orientation | |
| | 28 | Tough Guise (Part One) | Video |
| | 30 | Tough Guise (Part Two) | Video |
| Sept. | 4 | The Study of Gender | Chpt. 1 |
| | 6 | The Study of Gender - con't | |
| | 11 | Researching Sex and Gender | Chpt. 2 |
| | 13 | Gender Stereotypes: Masculinity and Femininity | Chpt. 3 |
| | 18 | Hormones and Chromosomes | Chpt. 4 |
| | 20 | EXAM #1 | |
| | 25 | Theories of Gender Development | Chpt. 5 |
| | 27 | Theories of Gender Development - con't. | |

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| Oct. | 2 | Developing Gender Identity | Chpt. 6 |
| | 4 | Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities | Chpt. 7 |
| | 9 | Emotion | Chpt. 8 |
| | 11 | Emotion - con't | |
| | 16 | EXAM #2 | |
| | 18 | Relationships | Chpt. 9 |
| | 23 | Sexuality | Chpt. 10 |
| | 25 | School | Chpt. 11 |
| | 30 | School - con't | |
| Nov. | 1 | Careers and Work | Chpt. 12 |
| | 6 | EXAM #3 | |
| | 8 | Health and Fitness | Chpt. 13 |
| | 13 | Stress, Coping, and Psychopathology | Chpt. 14 |
| | 15 | Treatment for Mental Disorders | Chpt. 15 |
| | 20 | Killing Us Softly | Video |
| | 22 | Thanksgiving Holiday | |
| | 27 | Treatment for Mental Disorders - con't. | |
| | 29 | How Different? | Chpt. 16 |
| Dec. | 4 | Reading Day | |
| | 11 | EXAM #4 (5:00 PM to 7:30 PM) | |