



Department of Psychology
Psychology 439 (L01) – Psychology of Gender
Winter 2010 – Course Outline

Instructor:	H. Lorraine Radtke	Lecture Location:	Admin 253
Phone:	403-220-5223	Lecture Days/Time:	TR/17:00-18:15
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Office Hours:	TR/15:00-16:00 or by appointment		

Course Description and Goals

Gender refers to how cultures define male and female, masculine and feminine. It can be thought of as a system of power relations, a means of structuring social relations, and a constraint on who we are as individuals and our social practices. Consequently, the psychology of gender intersects with virtually every other field within psychology. Hence, we will explore the meaning of gender, the development of gender, gender and social relationships (stereotypes, emotion, relationships, sexuality), and the association of gender with mental health. We will also touch on the distinction between gender and sex. A gender perspective involves recognizing that femininity and masculinity/female and male are defined in relation to one another, and maintains a focus on *similarities and differences*. Rooted in feminist theory and scholarship that was spawned by the second wave of the women's movement, the psychology of gender foregrounds the experiences of girls and women and existing gender inequities and offers a corrective to the historical male bias at the centre of feminist critiques of psychology in the 1960's. The male experience is incorporated, and we will specifically consider some of the research from the developing field of Masculinity Studies. An important theme woven into the treatment of each topic is diversity--it is well recognized that other social differences intersect with gender in shaping our experience. The learning environment will be a hybrid between the traditional lecture model and a collaborative learning model. Thus, a key course component is a group project, providing students with an opportunity to work together on a gender-relevant problem. Through the sharing of project outcomes with the class, all students will benefit from the knowledge generated by each group.

Prerequisites

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology,
Psyc 345 – Social Psychology or Psyc 351 – Developmental Psychology

Required Text

Brannon, L. (2005). *Gender: Psychological perspectives* (5th ed.). Boston: Pearson. [Available in the University Bookstore.]

Evaluation

Final course grades will be based on four course components:

1. Exams (50%)
2. Class participation (10%)
3. Group project presentation (20%)
4. Individual paper based on group project (20%)

1. **Exams** (50% of final grade): There will be **three** non-cumulative exams, with short answer format. Please note that exam questions will be generated from the textbook and lectures.

Exam	Date	Material Covered	Weighting
1	Feb 4	Lectures Jan 12-Feb 2; Brannon, Ch. 1-5	20%
2	Mar 11	Lectures Feb 9-Mar 9; Brannon, Ch. 6-10	20%
3	Apr 15	Lectures Mar 16-Apr 13; Brannon, Ch. 12-14	10%

2. **Class participation** (10% of final grade): A collaborative learning model requires students to actively participate in the learning environment. One opportunity is to attend the group presentations, ask questions or make comments, and provide written feedback (of course, this does not include your own group's presentation). You will receive 1% for each peer feedback sheet you hand in, and students who evaluate all of the presentations will automatically receive the full 10%. Completed peer feedback sheets will be handed in at the end of the class in which the presentation was made. A copy of the feedback sheet will be posted on Blackboard so that you can see what is involved, but the instructor will provide the feedback sheets when they are needed.

3. **Group project** (20% of final grade): The projects will be completed by groups of four students maximum. Details of the 10 topic areas, method for assigning students to groups, project requirements, and evaluation criteria will be posted on Blackboard.

Project Deadlines	Project Component	Weighting
Jan 26	Email rank order of 10 topic areas to instructor	0%
Jan 28	Group assignments posted on Blackboard	0%
Feb 25	Project plan	5%
	Informal peer evaluation of participation	0%
Mar 16-Apr 13	Group project presentation (ppt)	12%
	Formal peer evaluation of participation	3%

Please note the following:

- Students who do not email their rankings of the topic areas by the deadline will be randomly assigned to a group.
- A print copy of the project plan and the **signed informal project participation forms** are to be handed in during class. Project participation forms are posted on Blackboard for you to download and print.
- Power point presentations will be emailed to the instructor **one day before** the scheduled presentation so that they may be posted on Blackboard for the other students to download.
- A student who misses their group presentation will receive 0% for the project presentation grade unless they provide documentation for a medical excuse.
- **Signed formal project participation forms** are to be handed in during the class when the group is presenting. Project participation forms are posted on Blackboard for you to download and print.

4. **Individual paper** (20% of final grade; due **Apr 19**) – Each student will submit a paper based on the group project. Although all the members of each group will be drawing on the same material used in the group presentation, each group member is expected to write their own paper in their own words. Care must be taken to avoid plagiarism. Details, including requirements for the paper and evaluation criteria, will be posted on Blackboard. Late assignments will be accepted, but will be penalized one letter grade per day (e.g., an A paper handed in on Apr 20 will have the grade reduced to A-, etc). Students must provide a printed copy of their paper; emailed papers will not be graded. They can be given to the instructor in her office or placed in the green box outside A275.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity	Readings/Due Dates
T Jan 12	The study of gender	Ch. 1
R Jan 14	Researching sex and Gender	Ch. 2
T Jan 19	Gender stereotypes	Ch. 3
R Jan 21	Gender stereotypes cont.	
F Jan 22	Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.	
T Jan 26	Hormones and chromosomes Last day for registration/change of registration.	Ch. 4 Email project rankings to instructor
R Jan 28	Theories of gender development Meet your project group members	Ch. 5
T Feb 2	Theories of gender development cont.	
R Feb 4	Exam 1	
T Feb 9	Developing gender identity	Ch. 6
R Feb 11	Developing gender identity cont.	
T Feb 16	Reading Days. No lectures.	
R Feb 18	Reading Days. No lectures.	
T Feb 23	Gender, intelligence and cognitive abilities	Ch. 7
R Feb 25	Emotion	Ch. 8 Project Plans
T Mar 2	Gender and relationships	Ch. 9
R Mar 4	Gender and relationships cont.	
T Mar 9	Gender and sexuality	Ch. 10
R Mar 11	Exam 2	
T Mar 16	Group presentations #1 and #2	Ch. 12
R Mar 18	Gender, careers and work	
T Mar 23	Group presentations #3 and #4	
R Mar 25	Gender, careers and work	
T Mar 30	Group Presentations #5 and #6	
R Apr 1	Gender, health and fitness	Ch. 13
T Apr 6	Group presentations #7 and #8	
R Apr 8	Gender and psychopathology	Ch. 14
T Apr 13	Group presentations #9 and #10	
R Apr 15	Exam 3	
F Apr 16	Winter Session Lectures end. Last day to withdraw.	
M Apr 19		Deadline for paper
M Apr 19 – R Apr 29	Final exam (scheduled by the Registrar)	No Registrar-scheduled Final Exam

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two (2) credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **April 15, 2010.**

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 [suyvaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates:

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Jan 22nd, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Jan 26th, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 16th, 2010**.