

Psychology 257
Psychology of Sex Differences
Spring Quarter 2011
11:30 -- 12:20 Daily

Instructor: Julia Wales
Office Hours: By appointment
Office: D200f
Mailbox: D110, Social Science Division
E-mail: jwales@bellevuecollege.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION (from course catalogue):

This course examines sex differences and similarities from an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing from biology, psychology, sociology, and history. Students analyze perceived and actual differences in communication styles, employment, education, mental health, and personal relationships.

REQUIRED READING:

Lips, H. M. (2005). *Sex and Gender: An Introduction* (6th Ed.). Boston: McGraw Hill

Additional required readings may be assigned and will be held on reserve in the Library or on electronic reserve. Students will need to make copies or print these.

FORMAT:

The course will be a lecture/discussion format. Occasional videos will be shown and guest speakers will come in to complement the lecture material. The discussions as well as group and individual assignments will provide an atmosphere that will encourage active learning of elements affecting the study of sex and gender.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES:

This course will address the following BCC General Education Outcomes:

- Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Problem Solving
- Research/Information Literacy
- Writing
- Ethics
- Historical and Intellectual Perspectives
- Cultural Diversity

SPECIFIC COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Explain the complexities of studying sex and gender
2. Critique the history of research on sex differences, including problems of bias and flawed methodology
3. Describe the wide cultural variations in gender roles as well as some universal, historical gender inequities
4. Analyze the distinction between stereotyped differences and actual differences between men and women as substantiated by research
5. Explain various theoretical positions on gender differences, including biological, psychodynamic, cognitive, sociological, and anthropological perspectives
6. Identify differences in female/male communication styles, interpersonal values, love, sexuality, and relational styles
7. Describe the role of language and media in shaping images of men and women.
8. Describe the broader impact of differentiated roles in the workplace, educational settings, and mental health institutions
9. Analyze the consequences of power differences as manifested by sexual victimization, domestic violence, sexual harassment, and other interpersonal problems

10. Compare the pressures, limitations, and advantages of being male and female in American culture
11. Articulate skills gained from the course that can apply to inter-gender relationships

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Exams

There will be four exams for this course. Exams will cover material from the readings, lectures, and videos. Each exam will be worth 100 points. **EXAMS MUST BE TAKEN AS SCHEDULED.** In the case of a legitimate emergency, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss your options. There will be no comprehensive final exam; Exam 4 will be given during the scheduled final for this class.

Discussion Assignments:

You will be given some worksheets and/or discussion questions during some class meetings. Some will be completed in class; others will be assigned as homework. Some assignments will provide the springboard for in-class discussions and others will require you to think about what was talked about during a discussion and write about your reflections. Assignments will be collected after class discussions and graded with a check, plus, or minus. If you get a check for every assignment, you will receive full points at the end of the course. All assignments will be assigned in class and posted on MyBC. You are responsible for knowing when assignments are due. No late assignments will be accepted.

Attendance:

I will not take attendance and there will be no points given specifically for attendants. However, regular attendance is strongly encouraged, since your contributions to the discussions are valued and since many of the test material will be drawn from lectures. Also, you will not be able to do most of the discussion assignments if you aren't there when we have a discussion. There will be no alternative assignments – you

Study Guides:

You will be given a study guide before each Exam. The study guides are an assignment that will consist of a comprehensive set of questions pertaining to the upcoming Exam. Study guides must be completed and turned in on the day of the exam. **LATE STUDY GUIDES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** In addition to being an assignment, study guides should be used as an aid to studying: I would highly encourage you to use them to study after they are completed. Try to answer all of the questions without looking at your answers and use your answers to check your understanding. The best way to use the study guide is to hand it to another person (a classmate would be ideal, anyone who's willing will work) and have them quiz you. If you can get all of the answers correct, you should be able to get an A on the exam.

GRADING:

Grades will be assigned based on total points as follows:

Exams - 4 @ 100 pts. each	400
Discussion Assignments	50
Study Guides – 4 @ 25 points each	100
TOTAL	550

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you require accommodations based on a documented disability, emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case of emergency evacuation, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. If you would like to inquire about DSS ([Disability Support Services](#)) please call 425-564-2498 or go in person to the DSS office in B132.

TENTATIVE EXAM SCHEDULE:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
4/20	Exam 1; Study Guides Due	Chapters 1 - 3
5/6	Exam 2; Study Guides Due	Chapters 4 - 6
5/24	Exam 3; Study Guides Due	Chapters 7 - 9
6/17 @ noon	Exam 4; Study Guides Due	Chapters 10 - 13