



SYLLABUS Psychology 257 Psychology of Sex and Gender

Spring Quarter, 2009
MW 9:30-11:20, hybrid B101

Instructor: Dr. Helen Taylor
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

How does gender influence our self-concept, experiences, and relationships? How do we explain perceived differences between men and women in the US and across cultures? This course is designed to explore the meaning of gender and to examine sex differences and similarities from a variety of perspectives, including biological, psychological, sociological, and anthropological. Communication and language differences will be investigated in the context of education, work, and personal relationships.

FORMAT:

Monday/Wednesday classes: This part of the class will combine lecture/discussions, activities, films, and occasional guest speakers.

Hybrid part of the class: This part of the class will be conducted as an on-line discussion in MyBCC, where we'll talk about the readings, websites and related issues.

REQUIRED READING

Wood, Julia T. (2009). Gendered Lives: Communication, Gender, and Culture (8th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/ Cengage.

Additional required readings will be posted on MyBCC. Students can read these on-line or print their own copies:

- Gould, L. "X: A Fabulous Child's Story"
- Fausto-Sterling, A. "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough"
- Cahill, L. "His Brain, Her Brain"
- Pipher, M. "Saplings in the Storm," from Reviving Ophelia
- Pollack, W. "Real Boys: The Truths Behind the Myths" from Real Boys
- Gelles, R. & Straus, M. "Because they can: Violence in the Home"
- "Purdue Study shows Men, Women Share the Same Planet"
- Tannen, D. "Men and Women: Can't We Talk?"
- Alzado, L. "I'm Sick and I'm Scared"
- Onishi, N. "Globalization of Beauty Makes Slimness Trendy"

Additional readings may be added during the quarter. **To access these articles, log onto MyBCC and go to our class site.**

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

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



COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

EXAMS

There will be three unit exams administered roughly every four weeks. Exams will include both objective (multiple choice, true/false) and essay questions, and will cover material from the readings, lectures, and videos. Each exam will be worth 100 points, to be doubled at the end of the quarter. **EXAMS MUST BE TAKEN AS SCHEDULED.** In the case of a legitimate emergency, one exam may be rescheduled on a date determined by the instructor. There will be no comprehensive final exam, but there will be questions related to the whole quarter on the third unit exam.

RESEARCH PROJECT & PAPER:

An original research project and paper will be required in the class, to be assigned and completed during the first half of the quarter. This paper will require students to do primary research (collect data) on some aspect of sex or gender differences and write up the results. A detailed explanation will be given in another handout. This paper will be graded and will be worth 14% of the grade.

GROUP COMMUNICATION PRESENTATION

Toward the end of the quarter, groups of 3-5 members will be formed to develop a class presentation on male-female communication. This project will be described fully in another hand-out and will be worth 10% of the final grade.

ONLINE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For the hybrid portion of the class, you will be participating in an online discussion on MyBCC. Each week, the instructor will post two questions. The questions will relate to the supplemental reading material, be pulled from the text questions at the end of each chapter, ask you to check out and report on a related website, or be based on interviews with people you know. Questions will be posted on Monday (except for the first week, when they will be posted on Wednesday), and you will have until Friday at 11 p.m. to post your responses.

For full credit, you will need to respond to both questions and to two other student posts, and to put effort and thought into your posts. You also need to cite the text or readings in your posts, using APA style (help with this will be available on in class and on MyBCC). When you write your responses to the questions, use concrete examples and be sure to address all aspects of the question. Each of the 11 discussions will be worth 10 points. In addition, 30 points will be

assigned at the end of the quarter for overall participation and quality, for a total of 14% of the final grade.

ATTENDANCE:

Regular attendance is strongly encouraged, since your contributions to the discussions are valued, since we meet infrequently, and since some of the test material will be drawn from lectures. Up to 20 points will be given for attendance and participation, figured on the percentage of classes attended and the level of participation in discussions and activities.



GRADING:

Grades will be assigned based on total points as follows:

Exams: 3 @ 100 pts. each x 2 =	600
Online Discussion Question Responses =	140
Research Paper =	140
Group communication presentation =	100
Attendance/participation=	<u>20</u>
TOTAL=	1000

GRADING SCALE:

A	94%	940-1000	C+	77%	770-799
A-	90%	900-949	C	74%	740-769
B+	87%	870-899	C-	70%	700-739
B	84%	840-869	D+	67%	670-699
B-	80%	800-839	D	64%	640-66

Students with special learning needs should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Students are expected to arrive on time, turn off cell phones, and show respect to their fellow students at all times.

Quarterly Calendar: Readings, Topics, Exams, and Assignments

Readings	Mon	Wed	Assignments
Text Introduction/ "Story of X"		April 1: Introduction Sex and Gender	Online discussion: 4/1-4/3
Ch. 1 + "The Five Sexes"	April 6 Research methods Real M/F differences	April 8 Theories: biological Social learning, cognitive development	Online discussion: 4/6-4/10
Ch. 2 + "His Brain, Her Brain"	April 13 Psychodynamic Social roles, symbolic interaction theory, standpoint theory	April 15 Anthropological theory Guest: Sexual dimorphic physiologic traits and gender roles	Online discussion: 4/13-4/17
Ch. 7 + "Saplings in the Storm"	April 20 Pulling the theories together Film	April 22 Exam I/ objective + essay	Online discussion: 4/20-4/24
Ch. 11 + "Real Boys"	April 27 Growing up male and female Tough guise	April 29 Influence of media Research Paper due Killing us softly	Online discussion: 4/27-5/1
Ch. 8 Ch. 10	May 4 Mental health Education	May 6 Gender and work	Online discussion: 5/4-5/8
Ch. 12 + "Because They Can"	May 11 Exam II/ objective + essay	May 13 Power & violence Film	Online discussion: 5/11-5-15
Ch. 5 Ch. 6	May 18 Verbal communication	May 20 Nonverbal communication	Online discussion: 5/18-5/22
Ch. 9	May 25 Holiday	May 27 Relationships: friends Attraction/ love	Online discussion: 5/25-5/29
Epilogue + Article to be selected	June 1 Sexuality	June 3 Closing discussion Group rehearsal time	Online discussion: 6/1-6/5
	June 8 Group presentations	June 10 Group presentations	Online discussion: 6/8-6/12
	June 15 Group presentations	June 17 Exam III/ objective + essay	

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

(Revised Spring 2009)

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the [Disability Resource Centre](#) (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with [Disability Resource Centre](#), and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*