



Department of Psychology
Psychology 439 (L01) – Psychology of Gender
Fall 2011 – Course Outline

Instructor:	H. Lorraine Radtke	Lecture Location:	SH 288
Phone:	403-220-5223	Lecture Days/Time:	R/17:00-19:50
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Office:	Admin 255B		
Office Hours:	R/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, theories of gender development, gender and social relationships (e.g., stereotypes, 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, offering a corrective to the historical male bias at the centre of feminist critiques of psychology in the 1960s. The male experience is incorporated, however, 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 distinctions 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. (2011). *Gender: Psychological perspectives* (6th ed.). Boston: Pearson. [Available in the University of Calgary Bookstore.]

Evaluation

Final course grades will be based on four course components:

1. Exams (60%)
2. Class participation (5%)
3. Group project (15%)
4. Individual paper based on group project (20%)

1. **Exams** (60% of final grade): There will be **three** non-cumulative exams, two midterms and a final exam, with written answers. Exam questions will be generated from the textbook and lectures.

Exam	Date	Material Covered	Weighting
Midterm #1	Oct 13	Ch 1-4	15%
Midterm #2	Nov 17	Ch 5-7, 9	20%
Final	To be determined by the Registrar	Ch 10, 13, 14, 16	25%

2. **Class participation** (5% 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 the presenters questions or make comments about the presentation, and provide written feedback (of course, this does not include your own group's presentation). You will receive .5% for each completed peer feedback sheet you hand in. Students who provide feedback on all of the presentations will automatically receive the full 5%. 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 is 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** (15% of final grade): Details of the 10 topic areas, method for assigning students to groups, project requirements, and evaluation criteria are posted on Blackboard.

Project Deadlines	Project Component	Weighting
M Sept 26	Email rank order of 10 topic areas to instructor	0%
R Sept 29	Groups and group members posted on Blackboard	0%
Oct 27 – Dec 8	Group project presentation (ppt)	14%
	Peer evaluation	1%
	Self-review of teamwork	0%

- Students who do not email their rankings of the topic areas by the deadline will be randomly assigned to a group.
- 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's presentation will receive 0% for the project presentation grade unless they provide documentation for a medical excuse.

- **Signed peer evaluations** and your **self-review** are to be handed in during the class when the group is presenting. Details are provided on Blackboard.

4. **Individual paper** (20% of final grade; due **one week after the presentation – see the table below**): 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, are posted on Blackboard. Late assignments will be accepted, but will be penalized one letter grade per day (e.g., an A paper handed in one day late will have the grade reduced to A-, etc.). Students must provide a printed copy of their paper.

Groups	Presentation Date	Deadline for individual paper	Where to hand it in
1 and 2	Oct 27	Nov 3	In class
3 and 4	Nov 3	Nov 10	Green box (Admin 275)
5 and 6	Nov 24	Dec 1	In class
7 and 8	Dec 1	Dec 8	In class
9 and 10	Dec 8	Dec 15	Green box (Admin 275)

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
R Sep 15	The study of gender	Ch 1
R Sep 22	Researching sex and gender	Ch 2
F Sep 23	Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.	
M Sep 26	Last day for registration/change of registration.	
R Sep 29	Gender stereotypes: Masculinity and femininity Meet your group members	Ch 3
R Oct 6	Hormones and chromosomes	Ch 4
R Oct 13	Midterm #1 Theories of gender development	Midterm #1 Ch 5
R Oct 20	Developing gender identity	Ch 6
R Oct 27	Presentations #1 and #2 Intelligence and cognitive abilities	Presentations #1 and #2 Ch 7
R Nov 3	Presentations #3 and #14	Presentations #3 and #4

	Relationships	Ch 9
R Nov 10	Reading Days. No lecture.	
R Nov 17	Midterm #2 Sexuality	Midterm #2 Ch 10
R Nov 24	Presentations #5 and #6 Gender, health and fitness	Presentations #5 and #6 Ch 13
R Dec 1	Presentations #7 and #8 Stress, coping and psychopathology	Presentations #7 and #8 Ch 14
R Dec 8	Presentations #9 and #10 How different?	Presentations #9 and #10 Ch 16
F Dec 9	Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits. Last day to withdraw.	
Dec 12-21	Final exam scheduled by the Registrar	

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.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

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 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 **Dec 9th, 2011**.

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 suvpaca@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 **Sep 23rd, 2011**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Sep 26th, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 9th, 2011**.