



**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 439 (L20) – Psychology of Gender**  
**Spring 2011 – Course Outline**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Michaela Zverina	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	Admin 167
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-5213	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	Mon. & Wed. 11:00am – 1:45pm
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment (e-mail)		

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### **Course Description and Goals**

This course will explore the meaning of gender (i.e., how cultures define male/masculinity and female/femininity), theories of gender development, gender and social relationships (stereotypes, emotion, relationships, sexuality), and the association of gender with mental health. We will examine how gender can be thought of as a system of power relations and a means of negotiating social positions (i.e., by constraining and enabling our individual identities and social practices). Although the experiences of women and existing gender inequalities is the most prominent focus in the psychology of gender, the male experience (i.e., research from Masculinity Studies) will also be included. The class will be composed of traditional lecture material and a group project on a gender-relevant problem that will be shared with the rest of the class.

### **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* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Pearson. [Available in the University Bookstore.]

Blackboard will be used to post lecture notes and other important announcements.

### **Evaluation**

Final course grades will be based on four course components:

1. Exams (50%)
2. Group project (20%)
3. Individual paper based on group project (25%)
4. Class participation (5%)

**1. Exams (50% of final grade):** There will be **three** non-cumulative exams. The exams will be composed of both short answer and multiple-choice questions. Exam questions will be generated from the textbook and lectures. No study aids are permitted during exams.

Exam	Date	Material Covered	Weighting
1	W, May 25, 2011	Chapters 1-4	12%
2	M, June 6, 2011	Chapters 5, 6, 7, 9	18%
3	W, June 15, 2011	Chapters 10, 13, 14, 16	20%

**2. Group Project (20% 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	Weighing
M, May 16, 2011	E-mail rank order of 10 topic areas to instructor	0%
W, May 18, 2011	Groups and group members posted on Blackboard	0%
M, May 30, 2011	Project plan Informal peer evaluation	5% 0%
M, June 20, 2011 Or W, June 22, 2011	Group project powerpoint presentation Formal peer evaluation Self-review of teamwork	12% 3% 0%

- Students who do not e-mail 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 peer evaluations** are to be handed in during class. Details are provided on Blackboard.
- Power point presentations will be e-mailed 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 formal peer evaluations** are to be handed in during the class when the group is presenting. Details are provided on Blackboard.

**3. Individual Paper (25% of final grade; due June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 by 4:30pm):** 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 on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 will have the grade reduced to A-, etc.). Students must provide a printed copy of their paper. They are to be submitted in the Psychology Office Drop-Box (in the green box outside of A275) between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

**4. Class Participation (5% of final grade):** One opportunity for class participation 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 0.5% 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.

### 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. In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

### Tentative Lecture Schedule with Important dates

Class (#)	Date	Topic/Activity	Readings/Due Dates
1	W May 11	Lecture Begins: The study of gender	Chapter 1
2	M May 16	Researching sex and gender Gender Stereotypes: Masculinity and Femininity  (Last day for registration/change of registration and last day to drop a course with tuition refund.)	Chapter 2 Chapter 3  <b>E-mail your project rankings</b>
3	W May 18	Gender stereotypes cont. Hormones and chromosomes <b>Meet your group members</b>	Chapter 4
	M May 23	<b>Victoria Day. No lecture.</b>	
4	W May 25	<b>Exam #1</b> (Covering Ch. 1-4) Theories of gender development	Chapter 5
5	M May 30	Developing gender identity	Chapter 6 <b>Project Plan and Informal Peer Evaluations</b>
6	W June 1	Intelligence and cognitive abilities Relationships	Chapter 7 Chapter 9
7	M June 6	<b>Exam #2</b> (Covering Ch. 5, 6, 7, 9) Sexuality	Chapter 10
8	W June 8	Sexuality cont. Gender, health, and fitness	Chapter 13
9	M June 13	Stress, coping, and psychopathology How different?	Chapter 14 Chapter 16
10	W June 15	<b>Exam #3</b> (Covering Ch. 10, 13, 14, 16)	
11	M June 20	<b>Group Presentations (#1-5)</b>	<b>Formal peer</b>

			<b>evaluations Self-review of teamwork</b>
12	W June 22	<b>Group Presentations (#5-10)</b>	<b>Formal peer evaluations Self-review of teamwork</b>
	F June 24	Last day to withdraw.	
	Th, June 30		<b>Paper Due</b>

### **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**

Students who miss a term test due to a valid and documented official University reason (illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction) have 48 hours to contact AND schedule a makeup test with the instructor. The onus is on the student to have a makeup test approved and scheduled within 48 hours, or the makeup test option is forfeited. The same process applies to missed makeup tests. At the instructor's discretion, the makeup test may differ significantly in

form and/or content from the missed test. However, the makeup test cannot differ in weight (% of final grade) from the missed test. Except in extenuating circumstances (a documented official University medical excuse), a makeup test must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test. Absence from a final exam, and deferral of a final exam, are handled by Enrolment Services (see [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final)). Students absent from a final exam must notify the instructor within 48 hours and must then apply for an official deferred final exam no later than the deadline indicated in the Examinations Schedule.

### **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 (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 **June 24<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)  
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 403-220-3913 [socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Student Ombudsman's Office**

The Office of the Student Ombuds provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca) (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

**Safewalk**

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333.

**Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a tuition fee refund** and the last day for registration/change of registration is **May 16, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **June 24, 2011**.