



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Department of Psychology

Psychology 439 (L01) – Psychology of Gender

Fall Session 2007

Instructor: Dr. Kimberley Vaughan
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Thursdays 11 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Course Blackboard Site: <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca>

Lectures: Wednesdays 12 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.
Location: Room 2303, Main Building

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the many aspects of the psychology of gender – a relatively new sub-field within psychology. Course topics to be covered include gender stereotypes; the interaction of gender with culture, ethnicity, race and class; ability and achievement, employment and education; sexuality and sexual orientation; and physical and mental health. Furthermore, we discuss and evaluate relevant theory, research approaches and results from other areas of psychology (e.g., cognition, neuroscience, social-personality, developmental and psychopathology). Class discussions and a term paper provide an opportunity for students to apply what they have learned about the psychology of gender to their own everyday lives.

Course objectives

- to introduce students to the theories, methodologies, issues, and current experimental findings in the field of gender psychology
- to encourage students to think critically about conceptual and empirical issues
- to provide students with research experience in the form of a term paper

- Lectures are intended to highlight and extend, rather than summarize, assigned readings. Students will benefit most from lectures if they read the assigned material prior to the corresponding lecture. Discussion is encouraged and questions are invited during lectures. If you have questions or concerns please raise them -- either in class or out (office hours and email are the best ways to reach me).

Required Text:

Brannon, L. (2005) Gender: Psychological perspectives (5th ed.). Boston: Pearson. This text provides important background reading for the topics covered in this course.

The ISBN for this textbook is 0205521142

This textbook is available at the RDC bookstore.

Evaluation:

Midterm 1 (in-class):	25% of final grade
Midterm 2 (in-class):	25% of final grade
Final exam	25% of final grade; to be scheduled by the Registrar
Term Paper	25% of final grade

Exams **will not** be cumulative. Format will be a combination of multiple choice and short written answers.

Please note:

- The following percentages indicate the standard required for each letter grade. These may be lowered but will not be raised.

Final letter grades for the course will be assigned as follows:

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	Less than 50%

Bonus credits will be added to the final grade percentage. To determine finale letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage as appropriate (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.)

PSYC 439: Tentative Course Schedule, Fall 2007

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter
1	Sept. 5	Introduction/the study of Gender	1
2	Sept. 12 th	Researching Sex and Gender/Hormones and Chromosomes	2 & 3
3	Sept. 19 th	Hormones and Chromosomes/ Intelligence and Cognitive abilities	3 & 4
4	Sept. 26 th	Theories of Gender Development	5
5	Oct. 3rd	Midterm 1 (Chapters 1-5) Developing Gender Identity	6
6	Oct. 10 th	Gender Stereotypes/Emotion	7 & 8
7	Oct. 17 th	Emotion/Relationships	8 & 9
8	Oct. 24 th	Sexuality	10
9	Oct. 31	Midterm 2 (Chapters 6-10) School	11
10	Nov. 7 th	Careers and Work	12
11	Nov. 14 th	Health and Fitness	13
12	Nov. 21 st	Stress, Coping and Psychopathology	14
13	Nov. 28 th	Treatment for Mental Disorders How different? Term paper due by end of class	15 16
		Final Exam (Chapters 11-16) Scheduled by the Registrar (exam period: Dec. 8-15th)	

Term Paper Topics:

The following is a short list of possible term paper topics. You may pick a topic from this list, or choose your own topic to debate. If, however, you prefer to do your own topic, you need to run it by me first.

You are to debate both sides of the issue, based upon current research. I expect the use of 10 or more primary references. These references should be journal articles (primary references) rather than textbooks or websites (secondary references).

The paper should have an introduction to the topic at hand, which will include the purpose of your paper. The body of the paper will present research both supporting the 'pro' and 'con' side of the topic you have chosen to debate. In the conclusion you should provide a brief summary of findings, include your own opinion on the topic and include ideas for future research. The text of the paper should run between 12-15 pages in length, not including your title page and your reference list.

Sample topics:

Topic 1:

Are single-gender classes the only way to ensure equal educational opportunities for boys and girls?

Topic 2:

Are female police officers as effective as male police officers?

Topic 3:

Should mothers stay at home with their children?

Topic 4:

Are fathers really necessary in raising children?

Papers are due on the last day of class by the end of the class. I would like a hard copy of your paper given to me on the last day, but would also like an electronic copy, sent to me as a WORD attachment. I will be marking your paper on the computer and sending it back to you with your mark and my feedback.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen 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 fifteen 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 fifteen 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.

Student Support Services: Free student support services (disability services, counseling, learning skills) are available from Student Success Services, Rm 1402, 343-4064.

Absence From A Test

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

Academic Accommodation:

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Disability Services, please contact the RDC Counseling and Learning Support Services office (Ph. 343-4064 or 343-4067). If you are seeking academic accommodation, please notify your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of the course.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is September 21, 2007. The last day to withdraw from this course is December 7, 2007