

PSYC 355 001

ST: PSYCHOLOGY OF GENDER

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Course Description and Objectives:

This course analyzes the roles of physiological, psychological, and social factors in terms of gender and sex role related behaviors. Theories and research into sex differences and similarities will be discussed/reviewed. The concepts of masculinity, femininity, and androgyny in today's rapidly changing society will also be reviewed.

This course will provide you with plenty of material and research upon which to consider the pervasive influence of gender in your lives including:

1. Understanding the historical issues in the study of gender/sex differences in psychology.
2. Understanding the research methods used to study gender/sex.
3. The critique of the binary sex/gender through current and controversial theories.
4. Demonstrate your knowledge about gender stereotypes and how they are formed.
5. Understand the impact of hormones and chromosomes on gender.
6. Understand gender differences in communication; intelligence and mental abilities; emotional expression, relationships, and sexuality' school and career experiences; and physical and psychological health.

Texts and Reading Assignments:

Fixmer-Oraiz, N. and Wood, J. (2018). *Gendered Lives: Communication, Gender, and Culture* (13th ed.). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.

Projects:

Survey Papers

Choose **TWO** of the following survey paper topics. Write a summary of what you found (3-4 pages). There will be **TWO** specific due dates for submission.

Topic choices are as following: Define Feminism, Masculine Development versus Feminine Development, Gender and Emotion, Dating Scripts, Romance, Sexual Double Standard, Birth Control, Aggression, and Self-Objectification.

Gender Journals

The main goal of the journals are to explore your own reactions, beliefs, values, ideas, feeling, and behaviors regarding the material in the textbook, course content and class discussion boards. Your beliefs will not be subjected to grading; only your integration of course material and concepts will be graded. As journals often contain personal exploration and content, they are considered confidential and private. I will be the only one reading them.

Media Critique

Find any form of media that you prefer such as a music video, movie, magazine advertisement, news report, novel, etc. and critique the various messages about gender that are being conveyed, implicitly or explicitly.

If you have any questions about this course, please email me at tcemborski@westfield.ma.edu