

Psyx 335 Psychology of Gender Fall 2011 Syllabus

Instructor: Judith A. McLaughlin, Ph.D.

Room & Time: LA 306 TR 10:30–12:00

Office & Hours: TR 9:15–10:15
LA 505, 657-2961 or 657-2242; email: jmclaughlin@msubillings.edu

Texts: Lips, H. M. *Sex & Gender: An Introduction*. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield, 2005.
Kilmartin, C. *The Masculine Self*. 2nd Ed. Boston : McGraw-Hill, 2000.

Web Page: Copies of the course syllabus and assignments are available in PDF format at <http://www.msubillings.edu/CASFaculty/mclaughlin/>. Copies of the PowerPoint presentation slides used in class are also available.

Course Objectives:

1. To critically examine various viewpoints about gender differences, to identify the assumptions underlying those viewpoints, and to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of those assumptions.
2. To critically examine evidence of the cause of gender differences, both genetic and environmental.
3. To critically examine the functions that gender differences serve and their positive and negative effects in our lives, in our relationships with others, and with the maintenance of society.

Critiques: Critiques are essays (minimum of 600 words) examining opposing sides of issues related to gender differences. Critiques should be typewritten, but may be handwritten only if legible to the reader. Five critiques will be assigned. Due dates are listed in the course schedule. Each critique is worth 25 points, less 5 pts per class day if late.

Mini-Surveys: There will be five mini-surveys conducted during the term, in which students will collect information from members of both sexes, which will provide data that will be the focus of class discussion. Each survey is worth 25 points. Surveys may only be turned in on the due date.

Mini-Projects: There will be several opportunities for students to bring evidence of gender bias in our culture to demonstrate in class. Each mini-project will be worth 25 points each. Mini-projects will only be accepted on the day due.

Attendance: Students may earn credit for attendance by signing the attendance sheet each day. Students will be given 4 points credit for each day in attendance, for a maximum of 100 points. To pass the course, students must attend at least 75% of the class days.

Grading: Please note that no work will be accepted after the beginning of the final exam period. The criterion for grading in this course is as follows:

A	360 points or higher (90% or higher)
B	320 - 359 points (80% - 89.9%)
C	280 - 319 points (70% - 79.9%)
D	240 - 279 points (60% - 69.9%)
F	239 points or fewer (lower than 60%)

Tentative Schedule

9/8–9/22	Section 1: The Debate on Gender Differences	
	Lips Ch. 1 Masculinity & Femininity: Myths & Stereotypes	
	Kilmartin Ch. 1 Introduction; Ch 2 Models for Understanding Masculinity	
9/8	The Study of Gender Differences	
9/13	Sex and Gender	
9/15	Research on Gender	Project 1 due
9/20	History of Gender Roles	
9/22	History of Gender Roles, continued	Survey 1 due
9/27–10/13	Section 2: What Gender Differences Exist and Why Do They Occur?	
	Lips: Ch 4 (pp 111-128) Gender Differences in Social Behavior; Ch 5 Biology & Environment; Ch 6 Perceptual and Cognitive Abilities; Ch 9 Mental & Physical Health	
	Kilmartin: Ch 3 The Male of the Species; Ch 5 Social Learning Perspectives; Ch 6 Cultural Influences; Ch. 9 Men and Physical Health	
9/27	Physical and Cognitive Gender Differences	Critique 1 due
9/29	Emotional and Social Gender Differences	
10/4	Genetic Causes of Gender Differences	Project 2 due
10/6	Genetic Causes, continued	
10/11	Environmental Causes of Gender Differences	
10/13	Gender Differences in Physical Games & Activities	Survey 2 due
	Questions for survey 3 will be prepared in class	
10/18–11/3	Section 3: The Domain of Romance and Relationships	
	Lips: Ch 7 Sexual Lives & Orientation; Ch 8 Hormonal & Reproductive Connections; Ch 11 (pp 320-339) Family & Friends	
	Kilmartin: Ch 8 Emotion and Masculinity; Ch 11 Male Sexuality; Ch 12 Men and Violence; Ch 13 Men in Relationships with Others	
10/18	Issue of Romance and Sexuality	Critique 2 due
10/20	Issue of Love and Marriage	
10/25	Issue of Moral Development	
10/27	Moral Development, continued	Project 3 due
11/1	Issue of Aggression and Violence	
11/3	Gender Differences in Relationships	Survey 3 due
	Questions for survey 4 will be prepared in class	
11/8–11/24	Section 4: The Domain of Parenting	
	Lips: Ch 10 Sex & Gender in Childhood; Ch 11 (pp 342-348) “Men and Women as Parents”	
	Kilmartin: Ch 13 (pp 245 ff) “Sons and Fathers”	
11/8	Library Day	
11/10	Issue of Social Development	Critique 3 due
11/15	Issue of Parenting	Project 4 due
11/17	Parenting Survey	Survey 4 due
11/22	Open Topic Day	
11/24	Thanksgiving Day: No Classes	
11/29–12/8	Section 5: The Domain of Work	
	Lips: Ch 13 Issues in the Workplace	
	Kilmartin: Ch 10 Men at Work	
11/29	Issue of Wage Differences	Critique 4 due
12/1	Issue of Differences at Work	Project 5 due
12/6	Issue of Differences in Scouting	
12/8	Future of Gender Differences	Survey 5 due
12/13, 2:00 pm	Final Exam Period	Critique 5 due