

The Social Psychology of Gender
Fall 2011
Mon-Wed 3:20 – 4:40, Beck 253

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Pre-Requisite: Psychology 321 (Social Psychology)

Course description: This course examines social psychological theories and research on how gender shapes self-conceptions and social interaction across many domains. Topics include evolutionary versus cultural accounts of gender phenomena, how and why attitudes toward the other gender are ambivalent, and the ways in which even positive gender stereotypes tend to uphold the gender status quo. We consider how prescriptive stereotypes (“gender rules”) result in social disapproval for gender deviance (e.g., backlash toward powerful women), and examine how gendered attitudes play out in the workplace and in romantic relationships. Finally, what are the prospects for continued change in gender roles, stereotypes, hierarchy, and sex differences in social behavior? Has the gender revolution stalled, ended, reversed? Or is it continuing on a slow or fast trajectory? How optimistic or pessimistic should we be and why?

Goals: To provide an engaging, integrative, and broad overview of gender-related theory and research that can help students to understand the complex cross-currents underlying modern day gender relations and incorporate gender into their own areas of research interest.

Readings: To provide both a broad overview as well as detail on specific topics, the readings include a primary text (co-authored by your instructor) and outside readings comprising a mix of chapters from edited volumes, empirical journal articles, and review articles. All of the outside readings and assignments will be provided at Sakai.rutgers.edu. Login with NetID and password, click on class website (Gender is in the title). **Print out and bring the syllabus to class.** You are obliged to buy (or borrow from the library) the required text, available in paperback at Livingston Book Store or Internet sites.

Required Text:

Rudman, L. A., & Glick, P. (2008). *The social psychology of gender: How power and romance shape gender relations*. New York: Guilford Press. ISBN: 978-1-59385-825-4

Course Evaluation. Course grade (150 points) will be based on class participation and assignments (90 points, or 60%), and a final paper (60 points, or 40%). There are no exams. Bring your written assignments to class on the day they are due and be prepared to discuss. Late assignments will not be credited. If you have to miss class, e-mail me your assignment by class time. See the last page of your syllabus for how grades are assigned. For all written assignments, please double space and use only the APA-approved font (12-point Times New Roman).

Research papers. The final paper is due on Wed, December 14th (e-mail it to me no later than 5 pm that day). This assignment requires you to write an analysis of any theoretical or applied gender issue that you find interesting. To do so, choose an outside reading from the provided list of suggested texts. I welcome your own ideas for a text, but do clear it with me. Aim for around 10 double-spaced pages. High scorers integrate the material from your chosen text with the concepts discussed in class.

Schedule of Readings, Assignments, and Class Topics

Day/Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1		
1 (Wed-9/7)	Course Introduction History of Gender Research	None
Assignment for 9/14: Gender Role Interview Exercise		
Week 2		
2 (Mon-9/12)	Nature vs. Nurture	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 1 Buss (1995)
3 (Wed-9/14)	Gender Similarities	Hyde (2005) Discuss Gender Role Interviews
Assignment for 9/21: Gender Segregation Exercise		
Week 3		
GENDER ATTITUDES & STEREOTYPES		
4 (Mon-9/19)	Ambivalent Sexism	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 2 Optional: Jost & Kay (2005)
5 (Wed-9/21)	Childhood Origins	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 3 Orenstein (2006) Princess Culture Discuss Gender Segregation Exercise
Assignment for 9/28: Media Analysis Exercise		

Day/Date	Topic	Readings
Week 4		
6 (Mon -9/26)		NO CLASS
7 (Wed-9/28)	Origins of Stereotypes	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 4 Discuss Media Analysis Exercise
Assignment for 10/3: Visit https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/ (or Google Project Implicit), click on Demonstration, and complete the Gender-Career IAT and Gender-Sciences IAT		
Week 5		
8 (Mon-10/3)	Implicit Associations	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 5
Assignment for 10/5: Visit these two websites to watch short, amusing films: "Girls Will Be Boys" - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paNiEdFTvuA "Boys Will Be Girls" - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gspaoaecNAg&feature=channel		
9 (Wed-10/5)	Gender in (Inter)Action	Rudman & Glick: Ch 6 Film: <i>Gender & Communication</i> (42 min) Discuss ideas for next exercise in small groups
Assignment for MONDAY 10/10: Gender Transgression Exercise		
Week 6		
STEREOTYPE MAINTENANCE		
10 (Mon-10/10)	Gender Conformity	Prentice & Miller (2006) Discuss Gender Transgression Exercise
11 (Wed-10/12)	Backlash Effects	Rudman & Glick: Ch 7 Optional: Brescoll & Uhlmann (2008)
Assignment for 10/19: Personal Ads Exercise		
WORK and LOVE		
Week 7		
12 (Mon-10/17)	Work-Family Conflict	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 8 Lisa Belkin, 2008 (Equal Parenting)
13 (Wed-10/19)	Love & Romance	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 9 Discuss Personal Ads Exercise

Day/Date	Topic	Readings
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Assignment for 10/26: Defining Feminism Exercise

Week 8

14 (Mon-10/24)	Sexual Harassment	Rudman & Borgida (1995)
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15 (Wed-10/26)	Feminism & Romance	Rudman & Fairchild (2007) Discuss Defining Feminism Exercise
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Week 9

SEX, ROMANCE & MARRIAGE

16 (Mon-10/31)	NO CLASS: NSF	Start reading Baumeister & Twenge (2002)
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17 (Wed-11/2)	Sex & Marriage	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 10
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Assignment for 11/9: Who Controls the Sexual Double Standard?

Week 10

18 (Mon-11/7)	Beauty Standards	Film: <i>Good Hair</i>
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19 (Wed-11/9)	Sex & Gender	Baumeister & Twenge (2002) Discuss Sexual Double Standards Exercise
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Assignment for 11/16: Gender and Aggression Exercise

Week 11

20 (Mon – 11/14)	Aggression	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 11
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21 (Wed – 11/16)	Aggression II	Film: <i>Bigger, Stronger, Faster</i> Discuss Gender and Aggression Exercise
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Day/Date	Topic	Readings
Week 12		
22 (Mon – 11/21) NO CLASS IHCC		Prepare for the final exercise
23 (Wed – 11/23) NO CLASS THANKSGIVING		
Assignment for MONDAY 11/30: End of Gender Revolution?		
Week 13		
24 (Mon-11/28)	End of gender revolution?	Rudman & Glick: Ch. 12 Discuss End of Gender Revolution Exercise
25 (Wed -11/30)		Film: <i>Ballot Measure 9</i>
Week 14		
26 (Mon-12/5) NO CLASS – Federation Meeting		
27 (Wed -12/7)	Optional Class	Discuss Graduate Work in Psychology
Wed December 14: FINAL PROJECTS DUE (e-mail to me by 5:00 pm)		

Grading policies: Total points possible = 150. Extra credit is not an option. There are 9 Assignments worth 10 points each, and a final paper worth 60 points. Grades will be based on a percentage system (not a curve). The percentages (and total points) needed for your final grade are as follows: **90%=A (135), 85% = B+ (128), 80% =B (120), 75% = C+ (113), 70%=C (105), 55% = D (83).**