

Sex and Gender

Course Description

Why are men masculine, women feminine, and sometimes vice versa? In this course we use a bio-cultural perspective to understand differences in the behavior of women and men. We begin with the biology of development and the hormonal bases of sex differences in behavior. We then consider how these physiological factors interact with socialization pressures to produce differences between girls and boys. Next, we look at how evolution has shaped human patterns of mating and parenting. Mealey, a psychologist whose text we will read in this section, focuses on cross-cultural similarities. Yet the anthropological literature documents considerable variation in mating and parenting cross-culturally. We will conclude the course, therefore, by addressing this cross-cultural variation and trying to explain it.

Readings

- *Sex Differences: Developmental and Evolutionary Strategies*, by Linda Mealey. You will need to order this on your own through Amazon or other online vendors. Look for a used copy! A copy will be on 2-hour reserve at Marriott.
- *Female of the Species*, by Martin and Voorhies. We will read only about half of this book. Assigned chapters will be on e-reserve, but used copies are available, some very inexpensively.
- *Sex on the Brain*, by Deborah Blum. We will read only about half of this book also. Copies of the assigned chapters are on e-reserve, but I recommend that you order it if you are able to do so.
- Additional articles will be available on e-reserve at Marriott

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on bi-weekly quizzes (30%), a midterm exam (20%), a final exam (25%) and a term paper (25%). The quizzes will be multiple choice and the exams take-home essay format.

Quizzes are to encourage you to keep up with the reading. There will be 7 quizzes, and I will drop your lowest score. Worth 5% each.

Exams will consist of two to four broad questions that will require you to synthesize the material. You will have a page limit (about 2–3 typed double-spaced pages per question) and a week to write them.

Term papers should be about 5 or 6 pages single-spaced. The topic is open, but must be approved in advance. A good term paper will pose a research question and will use evidence to answer it. The evidence can include original fieldwork as well as written sources if you wish. Expect a lot of guidance and emailed correspondence with me about your paper as you work on it. Term papers are due Dec. 14.

turnitin.com: Students will submit their written work (exam essays and term papers) directly to turnitin.com. They accept text in virtually any format and have a very user-friendly interface.

Turnitin compares submitted work against their electronic database, and checks for text matches. It doesn't make accusations; rather, it indicates the fraction of text that is matched and allows professor and student to see the matches on the screen. Most term papers will have some matches (bibliographic entries and quotations); my only concern is if the matches constitute plagiarism. If you want guidance about proper citation and use of sources, take a look at their companion site http://www.turnitin.com/research_site/e_home.html. Any cheating or plagiarism constitutes grounds for a failing grade on the assignment in question.

How to find me

I will be using both 217A Stewart and 102 Stewart Hall this term. We can meet after class, by appointment, or whenever I'm in the office. Contact me at cashdan@anthro.utah.edu or by phone at 581-4672 (office) or 486-6013 (home).

Notes

1. The calendar on the following page is provisional. Additional e-reserve readings will probably be assigned, and some text pages may be deleted. A revised, and final, calendar will be available next week.
2. Readings are discussed during the class period listed, so read a class period ahead!
3. We will not meet for the final, but the final essays and term paper are due at turnitin.com on December 14, the day scheduled for the final. You should also put a hardcopy in my office mailbox (102 Stewart Hall).

Course Calendar

Aug 24: introduction; nature and nurture; Mealey 3–6

Aug 29: why sex? (Blum 1–16, Mealey 40–50, Small)

From conception to adolescence

Aug 31: fetal development (Blum, rest of ch 1; Mealey pp. 11–23, 28–34 (top); check out www.isna.org: read homepage and an article from the site for class discussion)

Sep 5: **quiz 1**; fetal hormones and behavior (Pool ch. 4, Hines)

Sep 7: gender identity & sexual preference (Blum 127–33 & 143–57, Puts et al., Martin/Voorhies ch. 4)

Sep 12: infancy and childhood (Draper, Maccoby)

Sep 14: guest lecture

Sep 19: childhood and adolescence (Weisfeld 110–126; Hill and Hurtado)

Sep 21: **quiz 2**; film: Monday's Girls

Personality and cognition

Sep 26: nurturance and sociality (Blum ch. 3; Geary 268–275)

Sep 28: androgens, dominance, and aggression (Blum ch. 6)

Oct 3 **quiz 3**; sex differences in cognition (Geary,) **midterm assigned, due Oct. 10**

Oct 5: fall break

Evolutionary perspectives on sex and gender

Oct 10: natural selection and parenting (Mealey ch. 3, skip pp. 58–60)

Oct 12: sexual selection (Mealey ch. 4, Sapolsky)

Oct 17: male strategies and tactics (Mealey, ch. 5); film clip

Oct 19: female strategies and tactics (Mealey, ch. 6); film clip

Oct 24: **quiz 4**; mating systems (Mealey, ch. 7);

Oct 26: men's strategies and tactics (Mealey, ch. 9)

Oct 31: men's strategies and tactics (Mealey, ch. 9)

Nov 2: women's strategies and tactics (Mealey, ch. 10)

Nov 7: **quiz 5**; women's strategies and tactics (Mealey, ch. 10)

Nov 9: advertising (film: Killing us softly 3); courtship, mating, marriage (Mealey, ch. 11)

Nov 14: parenting (Hrdy – 2 articles)

Sex and gender across societies

Nov 16: **quiz 6**; film: Asante Market Women; **paper topics due via email (earlier ok)**

Nov 21: sex roles in hunter-gatherers (M/V ch. 7)

Nov 23: Thanksgiving

Nov 28: sex roles in horticulturalists (M/V ch. 8); **preliminary bibliography due**

Nov 30: sex roles in agriculturalists (M/V ch. 9); **final exam assigned; due Dec. 14**

Dec 5: **quiz 7**; sexual politics in Western societies (Mealey ch. 12)

Dec 7: review/film

Dec 14: exams and papers due