



Syllabus for PSYC & WMST 305 001

Psychology of Gender

Department of Psychology

Fall 2025: 8/18/2025 – 12/12/2025

Instructor: Dr. Diana Jenkins

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Office: AH 0122

Student Hours: Tue/Wed 10am

Term: Fall 2025

Class Location: AH 0302

Class Time: T/Th 11:00 – 12:15

Course Description: This course will introduce students to the psychological and cultural history of gender, changing sex roles, socialization, sexuality, issues related to mental health, stereotyping, cognition. This course will incorporate a lot of hot-topic discussions that will require active participation by students.

Course Objectives:

1. Examine sex and gender through the lens of psychological science, identify sources of bias, and distinguish between valid and invalid claims.
2. Understand the complexity of sex, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, and analyze how biological and social forces interact in complex ways to shape sex and gender outcomes.
3. Demonstrate an awareness of how principles of the theories and concepts related to the aforementioned topic apply to everyday life.
4. Apply concepts and research findings to your own everyday experiences and real-world situations and events.
5. Understand the influence of psychological factors such as culture, socialization, and individual perception on gender and related topics.

Textbook:

Bosson, Buckner, & Vandelle (2022). *The Psychology of Sex and Gender*. (2nd Edition). Sage.

Undergraduate students can rent textbooks from SIUE. Please visit the [Textbook Service website](#) for more information.

Additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester and will be posted to blackboard.

Communicating with the instructor:

The most reliable way (and only way) to contact me is via e-mail. I respond to e-mails I receive during the week (M-F, 9-5 p.m.) within 24-48 hours. If you need to speak with me personally, I am easy to find during my office hours. If you are unable to attend office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please contact me for an appointment.

E-Mail Guidelines:

E-mail is a wonderful tool when used properly. Please follow these simple guidelines when e-mailing me, so that I can identify you as one of my students quickly and address your concern.

1. Include class info in your subject line (PSY/WMST 305-001)
2. ALWAYS sign your e-mail. Many of you have e-mail addresses that mask your identity.

3. Please treat your e-mails as professional communications.

Communicating with YOU:

In addition to in-class announcements, I will may send out emails and announcements via Blackboard so it is your responsibility to check your SIUE email regularly, as well as Blackboard announcements.

Course Requirements and Policies

Assignments and supplemental readings are posted in Blackboard throughout the semester and will be due online at the scheduled date and time. The dates of each assignment can be found on Blackboard and in the course calendar. It is your responsibility to make sure that all assignments are completed and turned in on time. Work turned in after the scheduled date and time is considered late work.

Syllabus Quiz (10 points)

All students will need to complete a syllabus quiz at the start of the semester. The syllabus quiz will be completed online through blackboard. You will have 10 minutes to take the quiz. Please check the course calendar for the date of the quiz.

Pre- and Post- Course Quizzes (0 points – opportunity to earn EC)

There will be a pre-quiz at the beginning of the course and a post-course quiz that you can complete for extra credit (2 pts each). They cannot hurt you and are meant to gauge your knowledge before starting this course and again at the end of the course.

Attendance Points (75 points total)

Attendance will be taken every class meeting. Holidays and scheduled class cancellations will not be included in the count of missing days. Each class is worth 3 points. We will meet for a total of 30 times and you are allowed to miss 5 classes. What counts as attendance may look different depending on the class and this will be communicated properly during class time.

What should I do if I miss a class?

- An “Excused” absence will be recorded for any student who notifies me (by email or in class) at least **24 hours** prior to the class meeting time that they will not be able to attend class. I will work with you to figure out how to make up the attendance points that were missed.
- If less than 24 hours, it is unexcused and you do not need to email me. Remember, you are allowed to miss 5 classes. If you are not feeling well, you have car troubles, etc., you do not need to email me.

Reflective Journals (10 x 10 points each)

Reflective journals are 300-word reflections based on a prompt that I will provide in Blackboard. Students have the opportunity to reflect on the concepts learned that week in a confidential journal. There will be 11 reflective journals throughout the course, and you are allowed to skip/drop one. In other words, only 10 will count toward your final grade. See Blackboard for more details.

Unit Essays (3 x 75 points each)

In lieu of exams, unit essays will be used to demonstrate your ability to apply the content presented in the course. You will respond to the prompts with an APA-style 2-3-page double-spaced essay, including appropriate in-text citations. You will need to include 2-3 concepts from each chapter that the unit essay covers. Individual instructions will be posted on Blackboard.

Final Project (100 points total):

The goal of this final project is for you to demonstrate your understanding of key course concepts by analyzing how gender and sex shape everyday life. You will choose one of two options: (1) a media application or (2) an observational analysis. In three to four pages, you will describe your media example or setting, apply at least two course topics and one theory to explain the gender dynamics you observed, and reflect on your insights. The media option asks you to analyze a book, movie, TV show, or similar media source through a gendered lens. The observation option involves selecting a real-world environment (e.g., gym, café, classroom, store) and documenting how gender is communicated, reinforced, or challenged in that space. Each student will also deliver a **5-minute in-class presentation** that should include an overview of your example or setting, the key gender patterns you identified, the theory and concepts you applied, and a brief personal or critical reflection. See instructions and rubric on Blackboard.

Grading

Assignment	Points Possible
Syllabus Quiz	10
Participation (25)	75
Reflective Journals (10)	100
Unit Essays (3)	225
Final Project	100
Total Points Possible	510

A letter grade of A, B, C, etc. will be assigned based on the following scale:

A = 90% or better (459 points or higher); B = 80-89% (408-458 points); C = 70-79% (357-407 points); D= 60-69% (306-356 points); F = anything lower than 59% (305 points or lower).

Final grades are not negotiable. I do NOT round up. There will be opportunities to receive extra credit in this course, but it is your responsibility to work for it. ***I especially do not respond to end-of-semester e-mails that request unearned grade bumps.***

Late or Missed Assignments

Any written assignment must be completed and submitted via Blackboard by the due date. Assignments submitted within 24 hours late will receive a 10% deduction. Assignments submitted within 48 hours late will receive a 20% deduction. Anything more than 48 hours will not be accepted and receive a 0. Students are responsible for anticipating that technology can often fail and should be in communication with the instructor, if necessary, PRIOR to the deadline. Assignments cannot be submitted via email unless communicated with the instructor beforehand. You are encouraged to confirm that your assignment has been received via blackboard.

Course Calendar:

Week		Topics/Readings	Assignments due Sundays 11:59pm
Week 1	8/19	Syllabus & Course Introduction	<i>Syllabus Quiz</i> <i>Pre-Course Quiz (E.C.)</i> <i>Reflective Journal 1</i>
	8/21	Introduction to Sex & Gender (Ch. 1)	
Week 2	8/26	Studying Sex and Gender (Ch. 2)	
	8/28		<i>Reflective Journal 2</i>
Week 3	9/2	Nature and Nurture of Sex and Gender (Ch. 3)	
	9/4		<i>Reflective Journal 3</i>
Week 4	9/9	Gender Development (Ch. 4)	
	9/11		<i>Reflective Journal 4</i>
Week 5	9/16	Gender Stereotypes (Ch. 5)	
	9/18		<i>Unit Essay 1 (Chapters 1 – 5)</i>
Week 6	9/23	Power, Sexism and Discrimination (Ch. 6)	
	9/25		<i>Reflective Journal 6</i>
Week 7	9/30	Cognitive Abilities and Aptitudes (Ch. 7)	
	10/2		<i>Reflective Journal 7</i>
Week 8	10/7	Language, Communication and Emotion (Ch. 8)	
	10/9		<i>Reflective Journal 8</i>
Week 9	10/14	Sexual Orientation and Sexuality (Ch. 9)	
	10/16		<i>Reflective Journal 9</i>
Week 10	10/21	Interpersonal Relationships (Ch. 10)	
	10/23		<i>Unit Essay 2 (Chapters 6 – 10)</i>
Week 11	10/28	Work and Home (Ch. 11)	
	10/30		<i>Reflective Journal 11</i>
Week 12	11/4	Gender and Physical Health (Ch. 12)	
	11/6		<i>Reflective Journal 12</i>
Week 13	11/11	Gender and Psychological Health (Ch. 13)	
	11/13		<i>Reflective Journal 13</i> <i>Final Project Early Submit Option</i> <i>+3% Extra Credit</i>
Week 14	11/18	Men & Masculinities (<i>reading posted in Blackboard</i>)	
	11/20		<i>Unit Essay 3 (Chapters 11 – 13 and masculinity)</i>
Week 15	11/25-11/30	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Week 16	12/2	<i>Presentations</i>	<i>Final Project – Due Monday night</i> <i>12/1 11:59pm on Blackboard</i> <i>Post-Course Quiz (E.C.)</i>
	12/4	<i>Presentations</i>	
Finals Week		No Class	

Subject to change notice

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

Course Policies

Course Questions

It is natural for everyone to have questions and I want you to feel comfortable asking questions. That said, in some cases, students ask questions that could be easily answered by looking in the syllabus or course materials. In order to facilitate personal responsibility, I ask that you follow the “rule of 3 then me” before asking a question. If your question is about the course requirements or some aspect of the course check in 3 places for the answer before you ask me. When you ask me, tell me where you have looked for the answer and explain your question. This helps me understand the question so I can give you a better answer. If you do have a question, you can send me an email.

Technology

This course will use Blackboard (<https://bb.siue.edu>) as the primary vehicle for disseminating class materials. Announcements, updates, grades, and other important course information will be posted to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to regularly check this course’s Blackboard website throughout the semester. All assignments will be turned in on Blackboard (when applicable) unless otherwise instructed to do something differently by the instructor of this course.

Academic integrity/plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without crediting that person. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, or dismissal from the University, per the SIUE academic dishonesty policy. Students are responsible for complying with University policies about academic honesty as stated in the University’s Student Academic Conduct Code.

Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is **explicitly prohibited** unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. It’s imperative that all work submitted should be your own. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and / or be reported for academic misconduct. By submitting assignments in this class, you pledge to affirm that they are your own work and you attribute use of any tools and sources.

APA Format in Written Work

- Students are expected to be familiar and/or to familiarize themselves with APA standards for citations and references, per the 7th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.
- If you would like additional instruction in the use of APA format, please see me during office hours, or seek out the resources described below.
- Students who require additional assistance in writing in the areas of grammar and/or organization are strongly encouraged to seek out additional assistance. University-based services for assisting students with professional writing include the Writing Center (<http://www.siue.edu/lss/writing/index.shtml>), which also provides workshops in APA style.

Department of Psychology Writing Policy

As a student in this course, you will be expected to display university-level writing, which includes completing course assignments that meet the following basic writing criteria.

Specifically, all written assignments completed for this course should include:

- clear transitions from sentence to sentence and idea to idea (e.g., paper is organized/flows well);
- verb tense consistency;
- clear and unambiguous sentences and ideas;
- writing that is free of typos, spelling errors, and major grammatical errors;
- properly formatted paper including headings, citations and references, per the 7th edition of the APA manual.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of basic writing skills, but will give you an idea of what we are looking for in our papers. If you feel you need help with your writing, you are encouraged to seek assistance from the writing center on campus (<http://www.siue.edu/is/writing>) or utilize one of the many online resources they have identified to help students (<http://www.siue.edu/lss/writing/resources.shtml>).

University Policies

Services for Students Needing Accommodations

Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. Students who believe they have a diagnosis, but do not have documentation, should contact ACCESS for assistance and/or appropriate referral. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618-650-3726. If you feel you would need additional help in the event of an emergency situation, please notify your instructor to be shown the evacuation route and discuss specific needs for assistance.

Diversity and Inclusion

SIUE is committed to respecting everyone's dignity at all times. In order to learn, exchange ideas, and support one another, our virtual and physical classrooms must be places where students and teachers feel safe and supported. Systems of oppression permeate our institutions and our classrooms. All students and faculty have the responsibility to co-create a classroom that affirms inclusion, equity, and social justice, where racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other social pathologies are not tolerated. Violations of this policy will be enforced in line with the SIUE Student Conduct Code.

The Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion <https://www.siue.edu/csdi> is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Ms. Jamie Ball, Director in the Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination at (618) 650-2333 or jball@siue.edu. There is also an online form for reporting bias incidents at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SIUEdwardsville&layout_id=10.

Additional Support

Academic and Other Student Services

As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available to you, including:

- [Lovejoy Library Resources](#)
- [The Writing Center](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Campus Events](#)
- [Counseling Services](#)

If you find that you need additional support, please reach out to me and let me know.

Cougar Care

Dealing with the fast-paced life of a college student can be challenging, and I always support a student's decisions to prioritize mental health. Students have access to counseling services on campus (Student Success Center, 0222). Make an appointment by visiting cougarcare.siu.edu or by calling 618-650-2842.

Academic Integrity

Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the Student Academic Code (3C2) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the University, regardless of modality or location. The full text of the policy can be found here: <https://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>.