

Psychology of Sex Differences: PSY315 (21534), WGS315 (21535) Fall 2016
Robert Deaner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology

Office: 1315 Au Sable Hall

Office Hours: M, W, & F 11:00 – 12:00, and by appointment. Walk-ins are welcome, but students with appointments have priority. It is recommended that you make an appointment by emailing the instructor.

Email: robert.deaner@gmail.com (recommended and preferred to deanerr@gvsu.edu). Always type “315” in the subject line and include your full name in the message.

Phone: 331-2423 (definitely not recommended; I don’t check phone messages.)

Course time: Mon, Wed, Fri, 1:00 – 1:50

Course location: AuSable Hall 2132

Prerequisites: None

Optional text: Buss, David M. (2004). *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind* (2nd ed.). New York: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN 0205370713. This book can be purchased online or from the GVSU bookstore. I have selected the 2nd edition, rather than a later edition, in order to save you money. Using a later edition is acceptable, although lectures will be based more on the 2nd edition. The text is optional because we will use only about half of the book and the instructor will make copies of the key chapters available online. All other reading materials for the course will also be available online.

Catalog Description: A critical examination of the psychological research regarding purported mental, emotional, and behavioral differences between women and men, theories of the development of gender identity, and the etiology of differences. Issues discussed will include the construction of difference and the cultural and ideological uses of the rhetorics of difference.

Additional Description (Dr. Deaner’s):

This course’s primary goal is to characterize sex and gender differences and explore their causes. The secondary goal is to consider the application and implications of this knowledge for real-world settings. It will emphasize the use of critical thinking and the complementary nature of evolutionary, developmental, and sociocultural perspectives. The course will be organized according to an evolutionary framework, although other perspectives will be considered throughout. Classes will consist of roughly two-thirds lecture and one-third discussion. About one class per week will involve an extended discussion of assigned reading (i.e. “response assignment”). Students will answer questions and respond to the reading prior to the class and submit their responses via Bb by noon on the day of the class. The other classes will generally consist of lecture designed to explicate the context and key concepts for the next response assignment. There will be frequent in-class quizzes.

Basis for Grading:

		<u>Grading Scale</u>	
		94 above	A
<u>Potential Points</u>		90-93.99	A-
		87-89.99	B+
		83-86.99	B
Autobiographical sketch	6	80-82.99	B-
Literature critique	30	77-79.99	C+
Quizzes	44	73-76.99	C
Response assignments	120	70-72.99	C-
Exams	200 (midterm and final exam, 100pts each)	67-69.99	D+
Total Points =	<u>400</u>	60-66.99	D
		59.99 & below	F

Number Grade = Earned pts/400 x 100 (no rounding up!)

Autobiographical Sketch (6 pts)

- **Description:** To make it easier for me to get to know you, your assignment is to create a one page (8½” x 11”) mini-autobiography. This mini-autobiography, or sketch, should include your full name, what you like to be called, and your class year. The sketch should also include three other brief items of interest, such as your hometown, your favorite activity, your most unique talent or interest, why you’re interested

in this course, or why your family status or background is unusual. It is also suggested that you include personal information directly relevant to this course, such as, "I work 40 hours per week and will never be able to meet the instructor before or after class." **The entire written part should be 80 words or fewer.** The sketch must include, as part of the 1 page, a headshot of yourself – photocopying your student ID is acceptable. The sketch doesn't have to be a work of art; in fact, I'd recommend spending about 5 minutes on it. The sketch must be typed and handed to me before or after class or during office hours. No emailed sketches will be accepted. To receive credit, it must be turned in by Friday Sept 2nd.

Literature critique (30 pts):

- Description: In this course, we will regularly read primary research articles. The instructor will generally select these articles. However, for this assignment each student will select an article and summarize and critique it. Details on the requirements for this assignment will be provided later in the semester.

Quizzes (11 quizzes, 4 pts each, 44 pts in total):

- Description – Approximately once per week, there will be a brief multiple choice quiz given in class. You can only take the quiz if you attend that class – quizzes cannot be made up. Quizzes will not be announced prior to class. Students will take quizzes on laptops or other portable digital devices.

Response assignments (12 assignments, 10 pts each, 120 pts in total):

- Description – Most classes will be organized around the discussion of an assignment that students will complete prior to the class. Generally, this will involve answering questions and responding to one or two primary research articles, although it may also involve some other activity such as watching a video, or reading a newspaper or magazine article. Materials for each assignment generally will be provided about one week in advance. Students will submit their responses via Bb by 1pm prior to the class where they will be discussed. Students can only earn full credit for an assignment if they submit it by the deadline.

Exams (2 exams, 100 pts each = 200 pts)

- Exam format: There will be 2 exams, a Mid-term and a Final. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions and may also include short-answers or short essays. Questions will be drawn from lectures, the textbook, and assignments. The second exam will be partly cumulative. The instructor will make a study guide available prior to each exam.
- Make-up exams: If you miss an exam due to illness, you must provide a doctor's excuse within 24 hours following the scheduled exam time. If you must miss an exam for any reason other than illness, you **MUST** email me with a valid excuse 24 hours in advance to schedule a make-up exam. Failure to notify me in advance will result in a zero on the exam. Please note that make-up exams must be completed outside of regular class time. Because make-up exams are difficult to create, schedule, and administer, at the instructor's discretion, the student's score for the exam may be reduced by up to 20%.
- Other issues: During exams, you will be required to turn off all digital devices, such as cell phones and hand-held computers. Any student identified with such a device powered on during an exam will receive an F on the test at the instructor's discretion. Students are responsible for bringing their own #2 pencils to the exams.

Blackboard:

The syllabus, announcements, outside readings, assignments, and grades will be posted on Blackboard. If additional materials are placed elsewhere, e.g. electronic library reserves, the instructor will provide links. The instructor will attempt to make the lecture materials available prior to each class, although this cannot be guaranteed.

Communication

The instructor will communicate all class announcements via Blackboard email. You are expected to check your email regularly. The instructor will send an announcement with this syllabus prior to the first day of class. If it is the first day of class and you haven't received this email yet, it is your responsibility to figure out why and make sure that you receive future emailed announcements. It is strongly suggested that you keep a record or file of all emails sent by the instructor because you are responsible for all information sent

in such emails. The instructor also will maintain a log of emails sent to the class in a file in the "Announcements" area of Bb.

Plagiarism:

As described by the GVSU Student Code, "Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism...." "Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged." "Depending on the instructor's judgment of the particular case, he/she may...give a failing grade for the ... entire course."

Simply rearranging the words or substituting synonyms in the original source is still plagiarism. Details about the APA method for citing research will be provided during the course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of learning, physical or other disability, please contact me or Disability Support Services (DSS) at 616.331.2490. Furthermore, if you have a disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency situation, please make me aware so I can develop a plan to assist you.

Fire / Emergency

Fire: Immediately proceed to the nearest exit during a fire alarm. Do not use elevators.

Emergency: More information is available on the University's Emergency website located at <http://www.gvsu.edu/emergency>

Canceled Classes

Unless the instructor emails you otherwise if classes are canceled at the university, any exam will take place at the next class meeting.

Course Schedule:

This is a provisional schedule, meaning dates will change based on time constraints, unanticipated events, and the instructor's discretion. However, every effort will be made to make sure there will be no changes to the exam dates, assignment due dates, the grading scheme, or the topics covered. When the instructor makes changes, he will communicate them in class and via email.

Provisional Schedule

DATE	READING DUE AND ACTIVITY	OTHER ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Aug 29 - M	Course overview; Discussion of a reading	
Aug 31 - W	L1 Introduction to an evolutionary approach	Autobiographical sketch
Sep 2 - F	L1 cont.	(Drop deadline – 100% refund)
Sep 5 - M	LABOR DAY RECESS	
Sep 7 - W	Discussion	Assignment #1
Sep 9 - F	L2 Mechanisms of sexual differentiation	
Sep 12 - M	L2 cont.	
Sep 14 - W	Discussion	Assignment #2
Sep 16 - F	L3 Sex-differentiated social challenges: mating	
Sep 19 - M	L3 cont.	
Sep 21 - W	L3 cont.	
Sep 23 - F	Discussion	Ass. #3 (75% refund deadline)
Sep 26 - M	L4 meta-analysis	
Sep 28 - W	Discussion	Assignment #4
Sept 30 - F	L5 Sex-differentiated social challenges: cooperation & competition	
Oct 3 - M	TBA	
Oct 5 - W	L5 cont.	
Oct 7 - F	L5 cont.	
Oct 10 - M	Discussion	Assignment #5
Oct 12 - W	Assignment of Lit critique	
Oct 14 - F	Discussion	Assignment #6
Oct 17 - M	Exam Review	
Oct 19 - W	Exam 1	
Oct 21 - F	TBA	
Oct 24 - M	L6: Sex-differentiated developmental challenges	
Oct 26 - W	L6 cont	
Oct 28 - F	Discussion	Assignment #7
Oct 31 - M	L7 Sex differences in cognition	
Nov 2 - W	L7 cont.	
Nov 4 - F	Discussion	Assignment #8
Nov 7 - M	L8 Sex differences at work	
Nov 9 - W	L8 cont.	
Nov 11 - F	Discussion	Assignment #9
Nov 14 - M	L9 Sex differences in mental disorders	
Nov 16 - W	L9 cont.	
Nov 18 - F	Discussion	Assignment #10
Nov 21 - M	L10 Homosexuality	
Nov 23 - W	THANKSGIVING RECESS	
Nov 25 - F	THANKSGIVING RECESS	
Nov 28 - M	L10 cont.	
Nov 30 - W	Discussion	Assignment #11
Dec 2 - F	TBA	
Dec 5 - M	Social change	
Dec 7 - W	Discussion	Assignment #12
Dec 9 - F	Exam Review	
Dec 13 - Tues	Final Exam (2:00 – 3:50pm)	Lit Critique due