

**Psychology of Sex Differences: PSY315 (35009), WGS315 (35154) Winter 2019**  
**Robert Deaner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology**

**Office:** 1315 Au Sable Hall

**Office Hours:** M, W, & F 9:20 – 9:50, 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 2310

**Prerequisites:** None required. However, knowledge of research methods will be very helpful.

**Required texts:** (1) Buss, David (2014). *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind* (5th ed.). Psychology Press. ISBN: 978-0205992126. (2) Bosson, Katherine (2018). *The Psychology of Sex and Gender* (1st ed.) SAGE Publications. ISBN: 978-1506331324

**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. The course will emphasize the use of scientific methods 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. Attendance is not required, but most students who do not attend most classes will have great difficulty performing well. There will be frequent in-class quizzes for extra credit; these cannot be made up.

**Syllabus of Record Objectives**

Every course at Grand Valley State University has certain core learning objectives, described in the “Syllabus of Record.” Every topic covered in this course will include elements directly relevant to meeting these objectives:

- Describe biological mechanisms of sexual differentiation
- Describe sex and gender differences in classic behavioral domains
- Explain and apply principles from evolutionary, developmental, and sociocultural theories
- Critique primary research about sex differences
- Identify trade-offs in gender-related policy decisions

**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	5	80-82.99	B-
Literature critique	30	77-79.99	C+
Quizzes (extra credit)	0	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>355</u>	60-66.99	D
		59.99 & below	F

Number Grade = Earned pts/355 x 100 (no rounding up!)

**Autobiographical Sketch (5 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 psychology, 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 60 hours per week and will never be able to meet the instructor before or after class." The sketch must include, as part of the 1 page, a headshot of yourself – usually this is an interesting photo but photocopying your student ID is acceptable. **The entire written part should be 80 words or fewer.** The sketch doesn't have to be a work of art; in fact, I'd recommend spending about 5 minutes on it. Briefer is better. **The sketch must be typed, printed 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 Jan 11, at the latest. Briefer sketches are better than longer ones!

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

- **Description** – Roughly 12 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 magazine article. Materials for each assignment generally will be provided about one week in advance. **Students will submit their responses via Bb by noon 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.

**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.

**In-Class Quizzes (0 pts):**

- **Description:** There will be 10-12 unannounced brief, in-class, multiple choice quizzes. These are for extra credit. **Quizzes will be your only opportunity for earning extra credit.** The quizzes will mainly address assigned textbook readings but may cover information from recent lectures, response assignments or other course activities. Quizzes will be given during the first few minutes of class and may only be taken then. **If you're late, you won't be able to take the quiz. Quizzes cannot be made up. If you have a great excuse for missing a quiz (even if excused by the University), you still cannot make up a quiz.** Most quizzes will have 5 questions, each worth 0.4 points (2 points max per quiz). There will be a total of 20-24 quiz points available during the semester. This is enough to boost your overall course grade. For example, a student who answers an average of 3 out of 5 questions correctly on 9 quizzes would earn an extra 13.5 points, which would raise their overall course average by about 4 points; this would be enough to push a B average to a B+.

**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.

**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 Resources (DSR) 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.

**Laptop Policy**

Laptop computers are permitted for taking notes. You should not surf the web, edit facebook pages, twitter, email or work on other projects. Such activities will distract you, your peers, and the instructor. You will be asked to put your computer away or leave the class if you do not use it in accordance with this policy.

**Earbuds Policy**

Unless you have a documented reason for needing wear earbuds and have discussed it with the instructor, don't wear earbuds.

**The Student Code, Academic Dishonesty, and Plagiarism:**

This course is subject to the GVSU policies: <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies>.

Students are responsible for upholding ALL aspects of the Student Code:  
<https://www.gvsu.edu/studentcode/>

For example, **lying to a professor is a violation of the Code**. Here are some more details:

As described by the GVSU Student Code, "Academic dishonesty is defined as actions or behaviors that misrepresent one's contributions to or the results of any scholarly product submitted for credit, evaluation, or dissemination."

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.

**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>

**Writing Center and Library Knowledge Market:**

"The Fred Meijer Center for Writing, with locations at the Allendale and Pew/Downtown Grand Rapids campuses, is a peer service available to assist you with writing for any of your classes. Writing consultants, who are fellow GVSU students, are trained to help you with all stages of your writing process, from brainstorming to organizing to editing your papers. Simply bring an idea, prompt, or draft of your paper along with the assignment sheet to any of the Center's locations. Also, through your Gmail account, you have access to online consultations through Google Docs. The Center's services are free and you can drop in and work with a consultant or make an appointment, either through our website or by calling the Center (331-2922). Peer support is available for research and speech/presentation through the Knowledge Market, where the Writing Center partners with the Speech Lab and the Peer Research Center. Additional information about the Knowledge Market and Writing Center services and locations can be found on our website."

**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, I will provide links. I will attempt to make the lecture materials, labs, and other materials available prior to each class, although I cannot guarantee this.

**Communication**

The instructor will communicate all class announcements in class and 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. Announcements will generally remain on Bb throughout the semester. They should be considered as official amendments to the syllabus. Please read the relevant announcement before emailing a question to the instructor.

**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:**

Below 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 or the grading scheme. When the instructor makes changes, he will communicate them in class and via announcements on Bb.

**Provisional Schedule**

DATE	ACTIVITY AND READING DUE	OTHER ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Jan - M	Course overview; Discussion of a reading	
Jan 9 - W	L1 Intro to Evolutionary Approach: Buss 1	
Jan 11 - F	L1 cont.: Buss 2	Autobiographical sketch
Jan 14 - M	L1 cont.	Assignment #1
Jan 16 - W	L2 Sexual Differentiation: Bosson 3	
Jan 18 - F	L2 cont.	Assignment #2
Jan 21 - M	<b>MLK Day - no class</b>	
Jan 23 - W	L3 Mating: Buss 4-6; Bosson 9	
Jan 25 - F	L3 cont.	
Jan 28 - M	L3 cont.	Assignment #3
Jan 30 - W	L4 Meta-Analysis & Effect Sizes: Bosson 2	
Feb 1 - F	L3 cont.	(75% refund deadline)
Feb 4 - M	L3 cont.	Assignment #4
Feb 6 - W	L5 Gender Development: Bosson 4	
Feb 8 - F	L5 cont.	Assignment #5
Feb 11 - M	L6 Cooperation & Competition: Buss 9, 12; Bosson 5, 10	
Feb 13 - W	L6 cont.	
Feb 15 - F	Assignment of Lit critique	Assignment #6
Feb 18 - M	Exam Review	
Feb 20 - W	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	
Feb 22 - F	L7 Aggression: Buss 10; Bosson 14	
Feb 25 - M	L7 cont.	
Feb 27 - W	L7 cont.	
Mar 1 - F	L7 cont.	Assignment #7
Mar 4 - M	<b>Mid-Semester Break</b>	
Mar 6 - W	<b>Mid-Semester Break</b>	
Mar 8 - F	<b>Mid-Semester Break</b>	(Last day to withdraw – grade W)
Mar 11 - M	TBA	
Mar 13 - W	L8 Sexual Conflict: Buss 11; Bosson 14	
Mar 15 - F	L8 cont.	
Mar 18 - M	L8 cont.	Assignment #8
Mar 20 - W	L9 Cognition: Bosson 7	
Mar 22 - F	L9 cont.	
Mar 25 - M	L9 cont.	
Mar 27 - W	L9 cont.	Assignment #9
Mar 29 - F	L10 Work & Home: Bosson 11	
Apr 1 - M	L10 cont.	
Apr 3 - W	L10 cont.	Assignment #10
Apr 5 - F	L11 TBA	
Apr 8 - M	TBA	
Apr 10 - W	TBA	Assignment #11
Apr 12 - F	L12 TBA	
Apr 15 - M	TBA	
Apr 17 - W	TBA	Assignment #12
Apr 19 - F	Exam Review	
<b>Apr 23 - Tu</b>	<b>Final Exam: 2:00 – 3:50 PM; Lit Critique Due</b>	