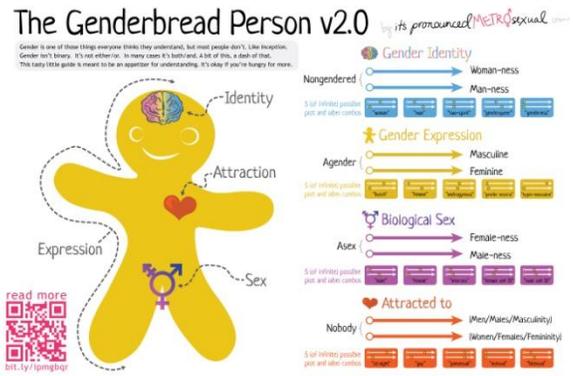
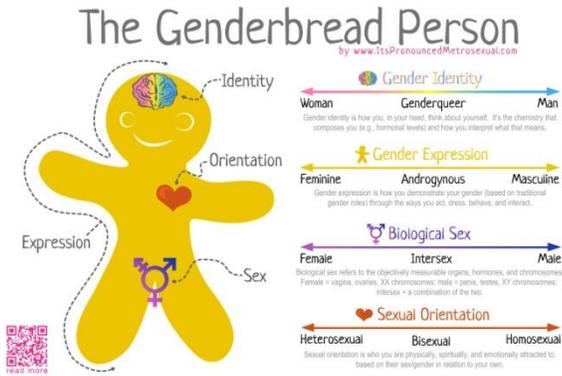


Syllabus -- BIO/WMSTDS 310 -- FALL 2013

Biology of Gender



Images from itspronouncedmetrosexual.com

Bulletin Course Description: Evolution, genetics, development, anatomy, and physiology of gender in humans and other animals. Gender diversity including intersex and transgender. Roles of gender in reproductive and social behavior. Using biology in evidence-based critical thinking about related sociopolitical issues such as endocrine disruptors, defining deviancy, gender-based medicine, and sexual reassignment of infants and adults. Prerequisites: BIO 105 and either BIO 211 (preferred) or 230 or 308, or instructor's permission. *3 credits.*

Instructor: Dana Merriman Halsey 249 merrimad@uwosh.edu 424-3076

Podcasts: Will post on our D2L site.

Powerpoints: Will post on Fridays, or at exam cut-off, on our D2L site.

Office Hrs: Wed 11:30-12:30 pm Wed 3:00-4:00 (no sign-up necessary; just stop by)

Apptmts: Sign up on sheet on my office door, Halsey 249. Thursdays, 9:00-3:00.

Textbook: Fox *Human Physiology* 13th ed. Available at University Books & More. The "custom version" is paperback, which shaved about \$50 off the price. It was used in Spring 2013 so you should be able to find a used copy. It will be used again in Spring 2014 (for BIO 212) so you should be able to sell yours. If you cannot afford this book, any edition that's 5 years old or less will likely match our content pretty well. The figure numbers won't, but I'll be podcasting and posting slides after lectures. **ADDITIONAL READINGS** will be announced and posted on D2L as they occur.

Readings: Posted in D2L Content.

Tutors: There aren't tutors for this class specifically, but tutors for BIO 105, BIO 211, and/or BIO 212 could prove helpful. Tutors are free and confidential and provided by the Center for Academic Resources (CAR, located in Student Success Center Rm 102), www.uwosh.edu/car, 424-2290.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ARE WELCOME IN THIS COURSE. There is a form posted on D2L Content for you to fill out and hand in to me the first week of class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY policies are clearly defined at this University and all students are expected to abide by them. Penalties for violations are severe. Cheating on an exam (including looking at someone else's paper) at a minimum results in a zero on that exam, with no opportunity for a make-up or extra credit. A second offense is an F in the course and a report to the Dean of Students.



IMPORTANT WARNING: This course includes frank discussions and photographic images of human and animal genitalia and sexual behavior. **An appropriately respectful and safe classroom is to be maintained at all times.** The internet is a great resource for finding legitimate scientific information on the biology of gender, but unfortunately online searches may bring up pornographic web sites. There is no reason to view pornography for this course. What you do at your home computer is your business, but at campus computer labs, you must NOT VIEW OR DOWNLOAD pornography. Possession of child pornography is a crime. Please use good judgment in any work you engage in for our class.

CAMPUS EMAIL & D2L will be used as official communication to the class. Any class questions emailed to me will be returned with a request to post them on the D2L Discussion board. Please check email and D2L frequently for updates and make sure you email doesn't send "BIO 306" messages to spam. If you need help, see any Help Desk at any Computer Lab on campus (e.g. Halsey 101).

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- Please silence all electronic devices on entrance to the classroom.
- Please address me as "Dr. Merriman". *If you know me from before as "Dr. Vaughan", that is okay, too!*
- Feel free to raise your hand to ask questions in lecture at ANY time. *I enjoy classroom give-and-take!*
- If you are struggling with a concept (or two) in class, get my assistance early. Right before (or worse, right after) an exam may be too late to cement proper thinking in time for it to show.
- Old exams will be posted on D2L to help you study. Answer keys will NOT be posted because they only help you memorize, and that isn't the point of a college course. Questions this semester may be the same as, or different from, old exams.
- This course includes frank discussions and photographic images of human and animal genitalia and sexual behavior. **An appropriately respectful and safe classroom is to be maintained at all times.**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES. Students coming out of this course will be able to:

- Distinguish between sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, and describe them as continua instead of dichotomies
- Describe the biological bases of "nature-nurture" arguments & why scientists now view them as meaningless
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of current hypotheses about how sexual reproduction, and hence gender, evolved
- Describe the respective roles of chromosomes, hormones, and learned behavior in "determining" gender
- Describe the lifelong stages of human gender development, insofar as they are known
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of gender diversity & plasticity in humans and other animals
- Participate skillfully in discussions of how gender biology has (and has not) informed social issues

Important Dates for your Calendar:

Wed Sept 4: 1st class meeting
Fri Sept 27: Early Alert quiz (does not count toward grade)
Mon Sept 30: Exam 1 material ends
Fri Oct 4: Exam 1, covering Sept 4 – Sept 30, inclusive
Mon Nov 4: Exam 2 material ends
Fri Nov 8: Exam 2, covering Sept 4 – Nov 4, inclusive
Wed Nov 27: No class, Thanksgiving
Fri Nov 29: No class, Thanksgiving
Fri Dec 6: Exam 3 material ends
Mon Dec 9: Open Q&A
Wed Dec 11: Exam 3/final, covering Sept 4 – Dec 6, inclusive
Fri Dec 13: Make-ups for missed Exam 1 or 2

EXAMS

- Exams are cumulative.
- Exam coverage is date-based (see Important Dates, above).
- I don't know what kind of exam questions I will write. In the realm of gender biology, you may expect graphs, drawings, short answer, thought questions, and multiple choice "all that apply" (meaning that one, some, none, or all answer choices may be correct).
- Exams are written to "stretch" the class to differentiate between average (C) and outstanding (A) performance.
- Exams are never given early.
- If you miss Exam 1 or 2, contact me asking for a make-up to be scheduled on Fri Dec 13.
- Silence electronics on entry to class each day. If a phone rings during an exam, its owner fails the exam.
- No notes, books, hats, electronics, talking.

GRADING

- Grades are based on performance, not effort.
- I usually curve on the midpoint between the points possible and the high achieved. However, if a C average is produced, I may not curve at all.
- Grades are recorded as percentages and will post on D2L Gradebook.
- Exam weight for final course grade: Exam 1 = 20%, Exam 2 = 30%, Exam 3 = 50%.

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Gradepoints</u>
A	92.0-100	4.00
A-	90.0-91.9	3.67
B+	88.0-89.9	3.33
B	82.0-87.9	3.00
B-	80.0-81.9	2.67
C+	78.0-79.9	2.33
C	72.0-77.9	2.00
C-	70.0-71.9	1.67
D+	68.0-69.9	1.33
D	62.0-67.9	1.00
D-	60.0-61.9	0.67
F	<60.0	0.00

Course Topics (no dates are given since it's impossible to predict how fast we'll go):

Principles of Modern Gender Biology
Principles of Physiology needed for this course
Principles of Endocrinology
Evolution of Sexual Reproduction
Gender Genetics & Epigenetics
Human Embryology
Human Male Reproductive Physiology
Human Female Reproductive Physiology
Disorders of Sex Determination
Diversity & Plasticity of Gender Biology