

**Syllabus -- BIO/WGS 310 -- FALL 2016**  
**Biology of Gender**

**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](mailto:merrimad@uwosh.edu)     424-3076

**Classtimes:** MWF 1:50-2:50 pm, Halsey 260

**Office Hrs:** Mon and Wed 3:00-4:00 pm (first come, first served)

**Appointments:** Sign up REQUIRED, see sheet taped to my office door, Halsey 249. Days/times available vary weekly.

**TopHat:** You MUST sign up for TopHat, since its use will accrue points toward your final course grade. *Its use requires that you bring your smartphone, laptop, or tablet to every class.* You will have received a standard email inviting you to your own TopHat account and informing you of the charge to use it. TopHat login gives you access to my slides shown in class. It also allows me to take attendance at every class meeting. See separate sheet in D2L Content titled "TopHat" for full information.

**Textbook:** You SHOULD read your textbook, using your own best judgement about which chapter(s) are currently under discussion in class. As in past years, we save you hundreds of dollars by requiring a custom full-color book comprising 5 chapters selected from 3 textbooks. Available exclusively at University Books & More in Reeve Union. This textbook is especially vital for those admitted to the course without a prior anatomy course.

**Powerpoint files:** I will make every effort to put my slides up in D2L Content ahead of their display in class. Having the slides pre-printed may facilitate your note-taking, but does not substitute for TopHat, see next.

**Readings:** Additional *required* readings will be posted in D2L Content. I may also post reference material that is optional and for your own curiosity.

**Tutor:** You may request a tutor for this class by contacting the Center for Academic Resources (CAR, located in Student Success Center Rm 102), [www.uwosh.edu/car](http://www.uwosh.edu/car), 424-2290. Tutors are free and confidential.

**Students With Disabilities Are Welcome In This Course.** Students requesting accommodation(s) for a specific exam or assignment must make that request **at least one week in advance**. **The first such notification must include a photocopy of official documentation that lists the specific accommodation(s) requested.** Requests for accommodation submitted less than one week in advance cannot be considered.

**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.

**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:**

- You will be using your laptop or cell phone during the TopHat questions in class, but 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.
- This classroom is to remain a safe, civil, respectful learning space at all times.
- This course includes frank discussions and photographic images of human and animal genitalia and sexual behavior. The internet is a great resource for finding legitimate scientific information, but unfortunately online searches of legitimate course topics may bring up pornographic web sites. *There is no reason to view pornography for this course.* Please use good judgment in any computer work you do, at home or on campus, for our class.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES (lavender items reference WGS).**

Students coming out of this course will be able to:

- Distinguish between sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, and describe **differences** as continua.
- Describe the biological bases of "nature-nurture" arguments & why scientists now view them as meaningless.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of **past & 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 Sep 7: 1<sup>st</sup> class meeting

Wed Sept 21: Quiz material ends.

**Fri Sep 30: Quiz** over Sept 7-21, inclusive\*

Wed Oct 5: Exam 1 material ends.

**Fri Oct 14: Exam 1**, emphasizing Sept 7 – Oct 5\*

Wed Nov 9: Exam 1 material ends

**Fri Nov 18: Exam 2**, emphasizing Oct 7 – Nov 9, inclusive\*

Fri Dec 9: Exam 1 material ends

Mon Dec 12: SOSs, open Q&A

**Wed Dec 16: Exam 3**, emphasizing Nov 11 – Dec 9, inclusive\*

Fri Dec 18: No class

\*Questions will be drawn directly from material presented OR assigned in the stated date range, but the student's comprehension of *earlier* concepts may come into play. *In that sense, exams are cumulative.*

## EXAMS

- Exam coverage is date-based (see Important Dates, above).
- Electronic devices are NOT ALLOWED during exams.
- If a phone rings during an exam, its owner fails the exam.
- You are allowed to bring ONE 8.5"x11" sheet of paper to exams. It is your choice what to write on the sheet, front and/or back. You may NOT share your sheet with another student.
- To earn an A, you will need to successfully apply your knowledge answering questions that "make you think".
- To make-up a missed exam requires you fill out and submit a form found in D2L Content Course Documents. This form must be filed ONE WEEK AHEAD to arrange a makeup exam due to either a scheduled University activity or because you have 3 exams on the same day. For unexpected circumstances, this form must be filed within two weeks of the missed exam.

## GRADING

- Grades are based on performance, not effort.
- Grades are recorded as percentages and will post on D2L Gradebook.
- TopHat grades are exclusively from in-class work and cannot be "made up". TopHat grades appear in the TopHat app's gradebook. Only the cumulative TopHat grade will post in D2L, and only after Fri Dec 9.
- I will curve as needed to ensure no lower than a "C" average (TopHat work excluded).
- Final course grade based on: Quiz 1 = 10%, Exam 1 = 20%, Exam 2 = 25%, Exam 3 = 35%, TopHat 10%.

Letter	Percentage	Gradepoints
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