WS 821-5 Graduate Seminar in Psychology of Women: Constructing Gender Throughout Our Lives

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Wed. 10:30-2:20

The theoretical focus of the course will be on how gender, including the biological basis of gender, is socially constructed and therefore open to change. Topics will include biological correlates of gender, constructing masculinities and femininities by both women and men, intersexualities, gender blending including transexualities and transgenders, sexualities, and a brief overview of constructing genders in major adult life transitions such as parenting and aging. The first half of the course will consist of assigned readings and discussion. In the second half of the course, undergraduate students will choose a topic to present to the class. This will include assigning readings for the class, a major oral report, and leading the class discussion on the topic. Graduate students will be expected to attend the undergraduate student presentations and to participate, but will not be making oral presentations themselves.

As this is a combined undergraduate/graduate seminar, graduate students will be expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes. In addition, the graduate students will meet as a group with the instructor for two further hours each week at a time convenient for the group. This time will include both a further discussion of readings and a focus on the major graduate assignment for this course: developing the paper the student wishes to submit to a peer-reviewed academic journal at the end of the term. This will involve choosing a topic, surveying academic journals (in print and on line) discussing issues in publishing and peer review, writing and revising the paper at least twice based on the instructor's and other students' comments, and preparing an abstract. Graduate students will also prepare two short (1-2 paragraphs) qualitative evaluations of undergraduate oral reports, and receive feedback from the instructor on these reports. How to prepare these evaluations will also be discussed in the graduate seminar.

REQUIRED READINGS:
A custom courseware package will be available at the bookstore, and some readings will be on reserve in the library.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:
Seminar Participation 20%
Two Thought Papers (2-3 pages each, 10% each) 20%
Short paper (10-20 pages) to be submitted to journal at end of the term on topic chosen by student 50%
Two qualitative evaluations of undergraduate oral reports (1-2 paragraphs, 5% each) 10%

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.