Syllabus
First Year Seminar 13: Gender and Science
Fall 2010
Professor Olver

Texts:

**E Reserve Readings** – Articles marked E on the syllabus are online in library e-reserve (go to course web page). **Readings on e-reserve must be printed out and brought to class** for discussion on the date assigned. [https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/courses/1011F/FYSE/FYSE-13-1011F](https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/courses/1011F/FYSE/FYSE-13-1011F)

**Print Reserve Readings** – Several copies of the assigned reading marked R on the syllabus are on reserve in the Science Library:


**Text to be purchased** – available at Amherst Books (8 Main St., Amherst)


**Children’s book** of your choice (available at local bookstores, the Jones Library or your own bookshelf)

**Written and oral presentations:**

A series of brief writing assignments and in-class discussions focused on analysis of the arguments posed in the assigned texts will provide the foundation for a longer final paper and oral presentation of a proposed empirical study based on library resources as well as on the course materials.

Written work should be typed and handed in in hard copy (12-point font, double spaced with 1 inch margins).
Topics and Readings:

9/7 (Tu) **Introduction**

9/9 (Th) **Stereotypes**


Kimura, Appendix: Dealing with numbers, pp. 189-200

Gender-Science IAT [https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/](https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/)

9/14 (Tu) **Discussion: Gender Stereotypes at Amherst**

*Bring gender stereotypes interview responses to class for discussion*

Accounting for gender differences and similarities

9/16 (Th) **Evolution**


*Bring analysis of argument and evidence to class for discussion*

9/21 (Tu) **Genes & Hormones**

Kimura, Chapter 3


*Bring response to should male and female be defined differently in different circumstances? to class for discussion*
9/23 (Th)  **Socialization**  
E Crowley, K. et al. (2001) Parents explain more often to boys than to girls during shared scientific thinking, *Psychological Science*, 12, #3, 258-261  

*Writing Center presentation: Michael Keezing (in class)*

9/28 (Tu)  **Discussion of children's book**  

*Bring analysis of children's book to class for discussion*

**Personality and Social Behaviors**

9/30 (Th)  **Aggression**  

10/5 (Tu)  **Affiliation**  

10/7 (Th)  **Discussion: Comparison of Explanatory Models**
Bring comparison paper to class for discussion

10/12 (Tu)  October Break

Embodied and Disembodied Gender

10/14 (Th)  **Transgender**

- American Psychological Association (2006) Answers to your questions about transgender individuals and gender identity. Brochure written by the APA Task Force on Gender Identity, Gender Variance, and Intersex Conditions
- Brown, P. (2006) Supporting boys or girls when the line isn’t clear, *NYTimes*, December 2, 2006, 4 pages

*Film: You Don’t Know Dick (shown in class)*

10/19 (Tu)  **Gender identity**


10/21 (Th)  **Language**


*Bring gender in cyberspace posts to class for discussion*

Cognition

10/26 (Tu)  **Cognitive skills and abilities**

Kimura (2000) Chapters 1, 4, 5, 7, 8

*Film: War of the Sexes: Spatial Abilities (shown in class)*

10/28 (Th)  **Biological factors**
Kimura (2000) Chapter 9


11/2 (Tu) **Role of experience**

**P** Denmark, F., Rabinowitz, V., & Sechzer, J. (2000) Ch. 6 Ability and achievement, pp. 171-195 from *Engendering Psychology*, Allyn & Bacon


*Library research presentation: Susan Kimball (in class)*

11/4 (Th) **Math and Science**

Kimura (2000) Chapter 6


11/9 (Tu) **Discussion: Sex differences in performance on cognitive tasks**

*Bring analysis of sex differences on cognitive tasks to class for discussion*

**Issues and Topics for Research on Gender**

11/11 (Th) & 11/16 (Tu) **No class meetings**

*Individual meetings to discuss final projects*
Gender and Science

11/18 (Th)  **Is science a gendered activity?**
   Is there a ‘female style’ in science?
   Seeing nature through the lens of gender


11/23 & 11/25  **Thanksgiving**

11/30 (Tu)  **Presentations**

12/2 (Th)  **Presentations**

12/7 (Tu)  **Presentations**

12/9 (Th)  **Presentations**

12/14 (Tu)  **Presentations**

*Final paper due Monday, December 20 at noon in Merrill 326*