

Masculinity
PSYC 338/SiSP 338/FGSS 338
Professor Morawski
Winter Session 2016

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines masculinity and the psychology of men using theories and research findings. We will survey a range of perspectives on men and masculinity, drawing from evolutionary theory, cognitive psychology, psychoanalysis, social psychology, and queer theory. We will ask how the psychological attributes associated with men relate to private life and public spaces, and whether our enactments and conceptions of masculinity have changed over time. Exploration of these questions will be informed by both psychological research and close analysis of media representations of men. The course thus emphasizes methods for examining representations of masculinity in science and the media.

READINGS

Kilmartin, C. T. & Smiler, A.P (2015). *The Masculine Self*, 5th ed. New York: Sloane Publishing (required text).

Additional readings are located at class file in Moodle

SCHEDULE

Jan. 9 How to Build a Man: Representations and Realities of Masculinity
Jan. 10 Psychological Perspectives: Learning Theory and Social Construction
Jan. 11 Psychological Perspectives: Biology and Evolutionary Psychology
Jan. 12 Calculating “Difference”: Gender, Race, and Social Status
Jan. 13 Emotions and Relationships
Jan. 16 Sexualities: Straight, Gay, Transgender
Jan. 17 Regulating Masculinity: Sports, War, and the Workplace
Jan. 18 Mental Health: Depression, Addiction, and Violence
Jan. 19 Project Planning Sessions
Jan. 20 Project Presentations
(Prior to first class: reading assignment (tba) and research assignment due Jan.9)

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Preparation for Course: Assignment

In addition to reading selected sections of the textbook prior to the first day of class, you are to conduct an interview exploring the interviewee's conception of masculinity and self understandings of themselves as a man. A short written report of the interview is due at the first class meeting. Assignment details will be distributed before the end of fall semester. (10%)

Report on a Media Representation of Masculinity

You are to analyze a character represented in contemporary media – film, television, or fiction. The short written description should identify three masculine attributes of that character, and is due at meeting 2, Jan. 10 (5%)

Quiz of the Day

Starting with meeting 3 (Jan.11) we will begin class with a one question quiz based on the material discussed at the previous meeting. These questions will serve as an opportunity for you to review the material covered and provide indication of your understanding of the concepts and theories. (15%)

Provocation of the Day

You will be assigned a meeting day in which you will present a provocative perspective on the materials or concepts being considered that day and lead discussion of that perspective. Your provocation may take various forms, including discrepant empirical evidence, counter examples, or gaps in a theory. (5%)

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance and participation in discussions are expected and are essential to the interrogation of concepts, empirical findings, and theoretical perspectives. (15%)

Final Project

Drawing upon the psychological studies of masculinity and men you are to closely examine a media representation or autobiography/memoir. Your analysis should include discussion of previous studies of the representation or autobiography; incorporate or compare two psychological perspectives on the subject; and consider this subject in the context of contemporary culture. Detailed instructions for preparing the project will be distributed in class. Projects will be presented in class on Friday January 20. The final written paper is due on Tuesday, Jan. 23. No extensions are permitted. (50%).