

**CURRY COLLEGE****COURSE OUTLINE****Men, Self, & Society PSY/SOC 2115**

**This course meets the requirements as a Women and Gender Studies Course, Multicultural Course, Psychology, or Sociology course.**

**Spring 2009**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Jack Kahn, M.S., Ph.D.  
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OFC: Kennedy 438  
Phone: (617) 333-2271

**OFC HRS:** M, W 11:30-12:30; TH 11:00-12:00 F 8:30-9:30

**SEMESTER HOURS:** Three (3)

**COURSE:** **Men, Self, & Society PSY/SOC 2115**  
www.currypsych.com

**DAY/TIME:** M,W,F 10:30-11:30

**LOCATION:** TBA

**TEXT (s):** An Introduction to Masculinities: Blackwell/Wiley (2009) (Kahn)  
  
Articles accessible through library database.

<http://blackboard.curry.edu>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will explore several approaches to defining, explaining the origin of and crisis in masculinity. The diverse sociological and psychological experiences of masculinities from various perspectives will also be highlighted.

COURSE OBJECTIVES	<p>Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:</p> <p>Understand several theoretical perspectives on the definition of masculinity.</p> <p>Understand several theoretical perspectives on the origins of masculinity</p> <p>Understand the concept of patriarchy and how that affects defining and evaluating masculinity.</p> <p>Understand diverse voices of masculinities</p> <p>Understand the crisis of men and masculinity and different views in how to address it</p> <p>Understand the basic language and analysis of this field in order to make sense of other texts and sources.</p> <p>Recognize the need for social change to better people's lives</p>
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#### COURSE CONTENT

Date	Class Work	What is Due (or to do!)
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\*\* Every day lists what is due *on that day and what we will cover in class*. You should look ahead to see what you need to do for the next class.

Jan 23 Introduction to course

Jan 26 *Chapter 1 Overview of Masculinities*

**Read: Kanye alter's rap world's perceptions of masculinity** by Julian Benbow.  
**Masculinity and the Attack Of the Asian Athlete** by AsianWeek staff

Jan 28

Jan 30

Feb 2 *Chapter 2 Social Context: Power and Privilege*

Feb 4

**Read: Supporting our black men: Reproducing male privilege in a black student political organization** by Kenneth Holb.

Feb 6

**Paper topic due**

Feb 9 *Chapter 3 Difficulties and Social Definitions*

**Read: Popular Culture in Latin America: Love, Sex, and Marriage** by Linda A. Curcio-Nagy

Feb 11

**Feb 13 Quiz One (Chapters 1-3 & Readings)**

Feb 16 No Classes President's Day

Feb 18 *Chapter 4 Psychological and Interactive Definitions*

**Read: Defining androgyny and bending gender: The Matrix** by Kim Edwards.

Feb 20

Feb 23

Feb 25 *Chapter 5 Social Models of Origin*

Feb 27

**Read: An evolutionary perspective on why some men refuse or reduce child support payments** by Todd K. Shackelford, Viviana A. Weekes-Shackelford, & David P. Schmitt

**Part 1 & 2 paper due**

Mar 2 *Chapter 6 Psychological Models of Origin*

**Read: Gender Schema and Prostate Cancer: Veterans' Cultural Model of Masculinity** by Stansbury, James P., Mathewson-Chapman, Marianne & Grant, Kathryn E.

Mar 4

Mar 6 **Quiz Two (Chapters 4-6 and readings)**

**Spring Recess Mar 7<sup>th</sup>-Mar 15<sup>th</sup>**

Mar 16 *Chapter 7 Interactive & Social Constructionist Models*

**Read: Able bodies and sport participation: Social constructions of physical ability for gendered and sexually identified bodies** by Wellard, Ian

Mar 18

Mar 20

Mar 23 Chapter 8 Men in Crisis

**Read: "You're So Gay!": Do Different Forms of Bullying Matter for Adolescent Males?** Swearer, Susan M. , Turner, Rhonda K., Givens, Jami E., Pollack, William S.

Mar 25

Mar 27

Mar 30 Chapter 9 Essentialist Perspective

**Apr 1 Read: The Manly Man's Man: Harvey Mansfield Conservative Political Theorist and Academic Provocateur Argues that Women and Society Need to Come to Terms with Manliness'** by Christopher Shea

Apr 3

Apr 6

Apr 8

Apr 10 **Quiz Three Chapters 7-9**

Apr 13 Chapter 10 Psychosocial Perspective

**Read: Parent-child connections: The essential component for positive youth development and mental health, safe communities, and academic achievement.**by Pollack, William S.

Apr 15

Apr 17

Apr 20 Chapter 11 Social Constructionist Perspective

**Read: Is patriarchy the source of men's higher mortality?** By Stanistreet, D., Bambra, C. & Scott-Samuel, A.

Apr 22

Apr 24

Apr 27 Chapter 12: Putting it all Together

**Read: Read: Being a Heterosexual Ally to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Community: Reflections and Development.** By Ji, Peter.

Apr 29 **All four parts paper due**

May 1

May 4 Presentations

Final Fri., May 8, 11:30 a.m.

**Do NOT Plan any holidays during finals week. Final exams will not be rescheduled under any circumstances. If you are not available at the appointed time you will receive a zero on**

the exam.

## **POLICIES**

- Attendance: Required for all classes. You are responsible for material you miss regardless of the reason for missing class. If you do not discuss concerns prior to missing class, you will not be able to make up past work.
- Participation: The success of this class largely depends on input from the students. This means that question asking, opinion sharing, and critical thinking are integral aspects of the course. It is very important that you share your opinions, ideas, and knowledge as your ideas are very valuable and welcome when we discuss issues. I hope that we can foster an environment that will encourage participation and help all of us better understand the material and apply it to our own lives.
- Early paper policy: This course has a four-part semester project attached to it. Because I really want you to learn to improve your writing, I have an early paper policy. I have suggested that you hand in drafts so that I can give you feedback on them as we go. In the past several years, students who have done this have consistently done at least 1.5 grades better than the class average.
- Late work policy: All work must be stapled and college-ready when it's due (meaning it follows the requirements in the syllabus). I will not accept papers that are not college-ready.
- Work that comes in late (after I collect them) but *during the class it is due* will receive a 1/2-letter grade penalty.
- Work that comes in the same day, but after the class, will drop one grade with a grade maximum of a (D-). These papers are often lower due to last minute preparation. This is only with prior arrangements- I don't accept late papers after the class it is due.
- Any other time work is submitted after the due date without prior arrangements will default to a zero. Do not send me papers via e-mail or drop them off late. I will not print them or grade them.
- Exams: Reading the book and doing the homework are a good *start* in your studying. We will discuss other methods in the course on the first day to help. You will likely not do well if you do not study every week. I am more than glad to help you devise specific study strategies for the course.

Quizzes will be short answer/definition/short answer essay. The bulk of the material will come from lecture and overlap from the book. Complete sentences and appropriate use of grammar will be necessary but not sufficient to pass the quizzes.

Curry College affirms the principles of equal access and reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities as stated in section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973. If you have any accommodations that you need to make please see the instructor.

### **Masculinities Semester Project**

For this course you will choose a topic on masculinity, explore it, and write a proposal for an action project. The idea will be to think of an area of men's lives that needs understanding and improvement and design a way to do so. You will have two options to do this four part semester project: As a proposal or with distinction.

#### **The basics for all four parts:**

- (1) Typed
- (2) Double-spaced
- (3) Font size 12
- (4) Times New Roman or Courier or Arial
- (5) Stapled
- (6) APA style in writing & reference section Make sure to cite ALL FACTS every time for APA style- every paragraph will likely have a citation in it here.
- (7) 5 sources minimally (Web is OK for part one of this project ONLY)- 3 sources must be academic non-web sources
- (8) 1" margins ONLY
- (9) Use headings below (but not on title page)

In other words you must actually put the sections of the paper like this:

#### **Basic Information:**

#### **Referral Context:**

You do not need to do this for the cover page though 📄

- (10) Page numbers in upper-right hand corner
- (11) Appropriate grammar and style: Biggest problems:
  - (a) 1.5 page paragraphs
  - (b) Paragraphs with more than one main idea
  - (c) Paragraphs that are not ordered logically
  - (d) Papers that are basically copied from the internet/other sources (with/without APA

citations)

(e) Papers in someone else's voice

(12) Plagiarism of any sort will result in an F for the course

In your own words! You are responsible for both the academic content of the paper as well as the vocabulary used to explain that content. If you turn in a paper that you are unable to explain it will result in an F in the course and a letter to the dean- so please make sure that you can explain EVERYTHING in your paper in your own words.

(13) 3<sup>rd</sup> person not 1<sup>st</sup> person writing (don't say I think, I feel, etc.)

When you are handed back your papers you will see this list- if there are issues with any of these concerns you will receive a MAX grade of a D (could be less).

### WITH DISTINCTION

The psychology department offers a 'graduation with distinction' program for our majors that take additional courses and opportunities, maintain a competitive GPA and generally 'go beyond' the requirements of their college courses.

This course will give students the opportunity to prepare for distinction by engaging in additional assignments that will push the student to learn more about the topics of introductory psychology. The best way to approach this is to do each with the corresponding paper part.

You may do one/all/or none of these at your choice. However, you may need to meet with me in office hours by the deadline for each to do each piece.

This semester students will have the opportunity to work on a supply drive with a local organization. This drive will tie in to your academic project. Details about this will be discussed in the course. Sufficient participation in the supply drive and tie-in to course project can result in extra credit on each paper turn-in and a 2% overall course increase. Students who do not follow-through on meetings and assignments will not receive the extra credit.

Another option is to carry out your intervention this semester- please see me in office hours when the first draft is due to plan this approach.

### PART ONE

#### **Choose a topic**

You must choose a topic about an area of masculinity you would like to learn more about. Some suggested topics are below. You may do another topic but it must be approved. These topics are very general and will need to have a specific focus- in particular you will be looking at something that needs to be changed so that may help with your focus.

#### **Suggested topics:**

Men and body image  
 Men and steroid use  
 Men in the military  
 Men and violence  
 Masculine identity and the focus on career  
 Men in families  
 Single fathers  
 Men in science fiction  
 Men & Discrimination in the workplace  
 Gay men and violence  
 The phenomenon of machismo  
 Trans men/queer men and defining masculinities  
 The good and bad aspects of sports for men  
 Fraternities and masculinity  
 Acquiring the masculinity role  
 Men and the media  
 Profeminist men  
 Non-traditional men and relationships with women  
 Men and sex  
 Men and drug use

### **Masculinities Paper Specifics**

#### **I. Cover page**

Make sure your name, my name, course #, time, and a title are apparent. There is no need for fancy graphics etc.

**(5 points)**

#### **II. Background**

This part of the paper should present the issue you are interested in. It should give historical and factual information about the subject (incidence of date rape for example). It should also discuss research studies that deal with the topic. A minimum of 3 research studies must be discussed in this section pertaining to the topic.

So for example, if your paper is about the use of drugs by men you should not only discuss a history of drug use, the rates of drug use, the types of drugs used, but specific research studies (recent after 1995) that have examined this issue and shed light on it.

**(4-5 pages)**

**(60 points)**

### **PART TWO**

#### **III. Statement**



This section should begin with a statement about an issue that needs to be changed as a result of the information presented in the prior section.

So if you discussed binge drinking in college campuses, this section might begin with a statement recognizing the dangers of binge drinking.

**(1 paragraph)**

**(5 points)**

#### **IV. PAST INTERVENTIONS**

At this point you need to describe interventions that have been done to attempt to educate the public about this issue. You will need to discuss at least two different ways that people have attempted to alleviate this problem- you should discuss community programming, services, etc. They should be cited from appropriate academic sources.

**(4-6 pages).**

**(60 points)**

### **PART THREE**

#### **V. MY COMMUNITY**

First describe a local community you think interventions like these could benefit. This could be general (a neighborhood) or specific (a school). This should include location, population, information on race, gender, etc. This should be very specific and include factual information indicating why this community could benefit from an intervention.

**(15 points)**

#### **VI. COMMUNITY INTERVENTION**

Thinking of what you have learned from the past interventions design one for your community. Pretend you have an unlimited budget and describe the following:

- (a) Who is it you want to reach
- (b) Where are they located
- (c) How would you get them involved

- (d) Who would do the intervention?
- (e) How would it be done?

This is the most important part of the paper and **MUST** include how these interventions will include information about masculinity—in other words what do men need to learn about masculinity to help them? You may use the text as one source and must include at least three aspects of masculinity as they connect to your intervention. You may want to include a specific model of masculinity as discussed in class (such as blueprint for masculinity, archetypal model for masculinity, conformity to gender role norms etc.).

**(45 points)**

## **PART FOUR**

### **VII. EVALUATION**

For this section you must describe how you will measure whether your intervention worked. Now that you have described what you will do we need a way to determine whether it might have had an impact.

(First describe how you will measure the problem --consider methods you learned in introduction to psychology/sociology. In detail describe a survey, interview, etc. You will also need to create this tool and include at the end of the paper in an appendix. When you refer to this in the paper say (see appendix A) and then label the appendix “appendix A” at the end of the paper (or B, C, etc. depending on how many you use)

- (a) Describe baseline: Where do you think this population currently is with the problem?
- (b) Describe goal: What is a reasonable change you would want to see here?

**(55 points)**

### **VIII. FORMAL SUMMARY**

Summarize the main points of your paper

(5 points)

(4-6 pages)

**PLEASE INCLUDE WHOLE PROJECT**

**PRESENTATION (May be used with Supply Drive to be determined)**

**At the end of the course you may do a presentation on your experience in your community activity. You must first have visited the Speaking Center at Curry College (617) 333-3138. A form will be sent for them to fill out. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE FORM SIGNED YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DO THE PRESENTATION AND WILL RECEIVE A ZERO.**

**Please use the following outline:**

**I. Introduction**

State your name and title of your presentation.

**(5 points)**

**II. Research**

Summarize the research portion of your paper. Give the audience a good background on the topic and emphasize why it is important to explore and change.

**(40 points)**

**III. Community Activity**

Explain what your community activity was and why you chose that activity. Explain how you measured progress and what the outcome was.

**(25 points)**

**IV.** Explain what it was like for you to do this activity- was it scary, anxiety provoking, rewarding etc.

**(15 points)**

**V.** Explain what the course has taught you about masculinities and about yourself

**(10 points)**

**VI.** Summarize the presentation

**(5 points)**

**EVALUATION/GRADING:**

Quiz 1	5%
Quiz 2	10%
Quiz 3	15%
Quiz 4 (FINAL)	35%

Topic on time	1%
PART ONE& TWO	12.5%
PART THREE & FOUR	11.5%
Participation in class	10%