Philosophy and Biology of Sex Syllabus, Spring 2019

Instructor:
Cailin O’Connor (cailino@uci.edu)
Office  SST 793
Office hours: Thursday 2-3pm, Au Bon Pain in the Business School

Course Description:
Covers the dynamics of sexual selection, sex differences in humans, and the construction of gender in human societies.

Required Texts:
Texts will be available on the class website.

Assignments/Evaluations:

1) **One page papers**: Students will complete one page response papers each week of the course to be handed in on Thursdays. Two of these will be assessed.
2) **Participation**: Students will post one discussion question to the class facebook group by the evening before each class. During in-class discussion time students will post answers to their assigned discussion question and will engage in both group and class discussion.
3) **Midterm Paper**: Students will complete a short-essay mid-term
4) **Final**: Students will complete an 8-page final paper

Grade Breakdown:

40% Final
30% Midterm Paper
15% One Page Papers
15% Attendance and Participation

Policies:

*Attendance*- Class attendance is mandatory.

*Extra Credit*- Extra credit will be offered for students who complete the mid-course evaluation. If further opportunities for extra credit arise, I will announce them in class.
Safe Space- This course will be a place where we discuss sometimes controversial topics in a way that is respectful and courteous to all members of the class. Hate speech or speech that denigrates the social identities of others will not be tolerated. At the same time, students’ rights to share and defend controversial ideas will be protected.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism- The penalty for any violation of academic integrity -- including but not limited to plagiarism -- is failure for the course and a letter recording the violation sent to the Dean. Please acquaint yourself with UCI’s academic honesty policy at http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm.

Readings:
Week 1 – Values in Science
Tues: No reading
Thurs: Read Okruhlik ‘Gender and the Biological Sciences’
‘Look Who’s Talking’
Famous Viking Warrior was Female

Week 2 – Values in Science/Gender and Gender Norms:
Tues: Longino and Doell, ‘Body, Bias, and Behavior’
Optional Why do we understand so little about breast-feeding?
Grandmothers
Thus: Basow, Gender Stereotypes and Roles, ch 1 1-12, 15-22
Drew Lynch
Pink Wasn’t Always Girly

Week 3 – Gender, Bias, and Norms
Tues: West and Zimmerman, Doing Gender
Paulette Huntinova
Life on Mars
Thurs: Ridgeway, ‘Framed by Gender’ ch 2
Watch Pat Skit
And Trailer

Week 4 – Gender and Race in Early Biology
Tues: Read Schiebinger ‘Nature’s Body, ch 3 pgs 75-78, 88-106
Thurs: Read Darwin ‘Descent of Man’
Bowerbird video
Bowerbird photo gallery
**Week 5 – Sexual Selection**
Tues: Read Puts ‘Beauty and the Beast’
[Article on huge boobs](#)
Thurs: Read Evolution’s Rainbow, Intro and ch 7
‘Hermaphrodites Duel for Manhood’
[Watch angler fish video](#)

**Week 6 – Sexing the Body**
Tues: **Midterm**
Thurs: Read Fausto-Sterling, Sexing the Body, ch 1

**Week 7 – Sexing the Body**
Tues: STB, ch 2
Thurs: STB, ch 3

**Week 8 – The New Physiognomy**
Tues: **Physiognomy’s New Clothes**
[Do Algorithms Reveal Sexual Orientation?](#)

**Week 9 – Sex Differences**
Tues: ‘The Egg and the Sperm’, Martin
Watch [clip from Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex But Were Afraid to Ask](#)
Thurs: Wood and Eagly ‘The Origins of Sex Differences in Human Behavior’
[A Tale of Two Brains](#)
[Girl Toys vs. Boy Toys](#)

**Week 10 – Sexual Orientation**
Tues: Blank, Straight Science, ch 3
Thurs: Roughgarden, Evolution’s Rainbow, Ch 8
[How Common are Gay Animals?](#)