

# 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](#)

Thurs: Wang and Kosinski, *Deep Neural Networks Can Detect Sexual Orientation From Faces*, pp 1-22 (optional 23-36)

[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?](#)