

## The Psychology of Gender and Sexuality

7.1 Module Overview									
Module Number		Module Title	The Psychology of Gender and Sexuality						
Stage of Principal Programme			Award	Sem	2	Duration (Weeks F/T)	12	ECTS	5
Mandatory / Elective	E	Hours of Learner Effort / Week	2.3						
Analysis of required hours of learning effort									
Teaching and Learning Modalities						✓if relevant to this module	Approx. proportion of total (hours)		
Contact Hours									
In person face-to-face						✓	28		
Synchronous									
Indirect/Non-Contact Hours									
Asynchronous									
Work Based									
Other:						✓	97		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent reading, engagement with VLE, research and preparation of assessments</li> </ul>									
<b>Total</b>							125		

Pre-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A
Co-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A
Maximum number of learners per instance of the module	60
Specification of the qualifications	
Role e.g., Tutor, Mentor, Lecturer, Research Supervisor, etc.	Qualifications & experience required
Lecturer	A minimum level 9 qualification in psychology or closely cognate area
Tutor	A minimum level 9 qualification in psychology or closely cognate area
Staff - Learner Ratio X:Y	
	1:60
	1:20

Assessment Techniques – percentage contribution –				
Continuous Assessment	100%	Proctored Exam – in person		Practical Skills Based
Project		Proctored Exam - online		Work Based
Capstone (Y/N)?	N	If Yes, describe		

7.2 Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes (MIMLOs)	
MIMLO On completion of this module a learner will be able to:	Related MIPLO #
1. Critically analyse the role of psychology in creating and maintaining ideas about gender and sexuality.	1
2. Illustrate the key issues and debates in the field, in particular the nature/nurture debate, the controversy over the political implications of studying gender differences and the question of how large the differences between men and women are.	1, 2, 7

3. Critically discuss the alternatives to mainstream psychology, and the different characterisations they present of gender and sexuality.	1
4. Reflect on the need for a multiple theoretical perspectives to understand complex phenomena relating to gender and sexuality.	1, 7

### **7.3 Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure**

This module focuses on gender and sexuality from a variety of theoretical perspectives in psychology. The aims and objectives of this module are to examine critically the way in which gender has been studied within psychology. The module aims to give a critical understanding of the issues and key debates in the area and of how these debates have been influenced by research conducted across a range of sub-disciplines in psychology. Some questions that will be examined are: What are the political implications of studying gender? Is there a difference between sex and gender? How are men and women portrayed in the media? How large are actual gender differences? Where do gender differences come from? To what extent is gender based on nature or nurture? What is gender identity? What do these approaches have to offer us in understanding our own gender and sexuality, our life experiences and our relationships?

Over the course of 12 weeks the learner will cover topic such as:

#### **Introduction and Overview**

- Biological Paradigms of Gender and Sexuality
- Sex Differences and Physiology
- Sex Differences in Brain Architecture

#### **Social and Cultural Paradigms in Gender and Sexuality**

- Mainstream Psychological Approaches to Gender and Sexuality
- Bio-Psycho-Social Views of Gender and Sexuality
- Key Debates Include the Nature Versus Nurture Debate
- Stable Versus Malleable Gender Differences
- Prescriptive Versus Descriptive Gender Stereotypes

#### **Perspectives in Psychology Towards Sex and Gender,**

- Essentialist and Constructionist Accounts of Sex and Gender.
- Internalising the External
- Meta Analytical Techniques and Evidence About Sex Differences
- Gender Stereotyping
- The Contribution of Anthropology

#### **The Challenges to Mainstream Approaches**

- Liberatory Challenges
- Feminist Challenges
- Postmodern Challenges
- Feminism and Psychology
- The Range of Feminist Perspectives

#### **Historical Antecedents of Sex and Gender Within Psychology.**

- Queer Theory
- Liberal Humanism
- Humaneering
- Implications for Gender and Sexuality
- Liberalism and Women's Sexuality

#### **Applications of a Critical Approach to Gender and Sexuality**

- Domains of Professional Practice: Mental Health
- Education
- The Criminal Justice System
- Applied Aspects: Gender in the Workplace
- Gender and Health

- Gender in the Media

#### **7.4 Work-based learning and practice-placement (if applicable)**

N/A

#### **7.5 Specific module resources required (if applicable)**

N/A

#### **7.6 Application of programme teaching, learning and assessment strategies to this module**

The module promotes deep learning through its aim is to investigate key debates with an in-depth consideration of a range of areas in which gender research has been conducted, such as power, leadership, self-concept, sexuality, and health. The learner will be encouraged to engage in a critical evaluation of the debates that are covered and to apply this analysis to their everyday experience of gender. The module investigates gender difference research and its limitations, whilst focusing on sexualities and development of gender identities across the lifespan. The learner will consider several areas where the psychology of gender and sexuality intersects with topics such as education, sex crimes and body image, in contemporary society. This module will be delivered in a two-hour lecture format across twelve weeks and four one-hour tutorials delivered across eight weeks. The rationale for this teaching mode rests in the amount of information to be covered in this timeframe.

Moodle will be used each week to upload relevant articles, required reading and in some instances, links to essential viewing

#### **7.7 Summative Assessment Strategy for this module**

<b>MIMLOs</b>	<b>Technique(s)</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
<b>1, 2</b>	Group Presentation	<b>40%</b>
<b>1-4</b>	Essay	<b>60%</b>

#### **7.8 Sample Assessment Materials**

##### **(A) Group Presentation:**

This module will ask the learners (in groups of three or four) to provide a 20-minute presentation based on a topic related to the psychology of gender and sexuality, for example, The Bio-Psycho-Social Views of Gender and Sexuality.

This presentation will be equivalent to 1,000 – 1,250 words and should take at least seven-eight hours of learner effort. The guidelines involve:

1. Adhering to APA formatting within the presented work.
2. Work must be proof-read for spelling and grammatical errors.
3. Include a Title page for the presentation and a separate page of references.
4. Employing a discursive and critical approach to the topic.
5. Using a balanced, objective approach to the question outlined.
6. Do not refer to "I" in this work, instead write in the third party.
7. All work should include reference to appropriate peer-reviewed texts or resources when making a specific point or argument.
8. As this is a presentation, learners must ensure that their slides are not overly cluttered and are clearly legible, while still demonstrating an appropriate depth and breadth of reading.
9. Communicate clearly and effectively.

This work is worth 40% of the Continuous Assessment and is graded as follows:

- Structure (Guidelines 1 – 3) is worth 10%.
- Academic understanding and ability as per Guidelines 4 – 6 is worth 20%.
- The remaining 10% is awarded for content comprehension and excellent flow to the work (as indicated by Guidelines 7 - 9).

**(B) Essay****Sample Essay Title:**

Discuss the key issues relating to the political implications of studying gender differences, with specific reference to the nature/nurture debate in psychology. Support your answer with relevant psychological studies.

The essay will have a word limit of 1,750 words and is worth 60% of the CA and is graded as follows:

- Structure (Guidelines 3-8) is worth 20%
- Academic understanding and ability as per Guidelines 1 and 2 is worth 20%
- The remaining 20 % is awarded for content, comprehension and excellent flow to the work.

Marking of assessments will be in line with the Marking Assessment Guidelines as outlined in Section 3.3 of the College's [Regulations in Relation to Assessment and Standards](#) unless otherwise indicated.

**7.9 Indicative reading lists and other information resources****Indicative Core Reading:**

Clarke, V. (2010). *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Psychology: An Introduction*. UK: Cambridge University Press.

Hayfield, N. (2020). *Bisexual and pansexual identities: Exploring and challenging invisibility and invalidation (Gender and sexualities in psychology)*. New York: Routledge.

Helgeson, V. S. (2020). *Psychology of gender* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Routledge.

Wood, G. (2018). *The psychology of gender: The psychology of everything*. New York: Routledge.

**Indicative Other Resources:**

Google Scholar

EBSCO Digital Journal Resource

Educational Ted Talks/YouTube Videos

Journal articles will also be employed from journals:

*Gender and Society*

*Politics and Gender*

*Gender, Place and Culture*

*Journal of Gender Studies*

*Gender and Education*

*Gender and Society*

*Culture, Health and Sexuality*