PSYCHOLOGY OF SEXUAL AGGRESSION (PSYC 140P)
University of California, Santa Cruz
Fall 2006

Professor
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Office Hours: Thurs 2:00-3:00 and by appointment

Class meets
Tu/Th 12:00-1:45
161 Social Sciences 1

Course Goals
The purpose of this course is to examine current psychological theory and research relating to the causes and consequences of rape and other forms of sexual aggression. It is designed to acquaint you with some of the key issues, questions, and findings in this field, as well as to allow you to develop some of the critical skills needed by research psychologists. The course is organized topically. We begin by reading and thinking about the social construction of masculinity and femininity and how these might contribute to sexual aggression. We then explore the role of the media in creating and enforcing these cultural constructions. The bulk of the course is devoted to an examination of psychological processes related to victimization and perpetration. We then discuss legal issues related to rape and sexual assault and violence prevention. We conclude the course by discussing alternative visions of sexuality -- ones not based in dominance and submission.

Course Web Page
http://psych.ucsc.edu/faculty/zurbrigg/psy140p/

Required Texts
The following texts are required and are available at the Slug Books Co-op (Phone: 469-7584; URL: www.slugbooks.com). All five of the required books are also on 2-hour reserve at McHenry library.

(1) Readings available on ERES


A natural history of rape can be purchased at Slug Books; however, it is also available on-line (access through Cruzcat). You can read the required sections of the book on-line or download them to a disk; however, it is not possible to print them. Access is free of charge for UC students. Note, however, that you must either access this site from a UC portal (i.e., via an on-campus connection) or log in using the "Off-Campus Access" system. For more information on Off-Campus Access (OCA) see the FAQ at: http://library.ucsc.edu.oca.ucsc.edu/oca/faq.html

Additional Readings
For most days, one or more additional readings are listed. If you want to read more about any topic that we cover (either for your final paper/project or for any other reason), these references are a good starting point. Some of these books are on 3-day reserve at McHenry library.

Prerequisites
Students should have successfully completed Psychology 1 (Introduction to Psychology), Psychology 2 (Introduction to Psychological Statistics), and Psychology 3 (Research Methods in Psychology), or their equivalent. Please talk to me if you have not met the prerequisites.

Format
This course is a senior seminar, and satisfies that requirement for psychology majors. Most of class time will therefore be spent in group discussion of the assigned readings. Discussions will be supplemented with videotape presentations, outside speakers, and occasional lectures. Most of the readings are original empirical or theoretical articles from psychology journals; however, some are written by scholars in other disciplines (e.g., anthropology, sociology, evolutionary biology).

Academic Honesty
All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the student guide available on the web at:

http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students/

Violations will be taken seriously. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements of the course.

Information about Classroom Accommodations
If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me during my office hours in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. Contact the DRC at 459-2089 (voice), 459-4806 (TTY).

Requirements
The most important requirement for the course is a serious commitment to critically engage with the course material. The structure of the course and the reading and writing assignments are
designed to facilitate this process; however, the course will succeed or fail only as a collective effort. Specific assignments and their relative weights in determining a final grade (for those who have requested a letter grade) are as follows:

1) Submission of 10 discussion questions, one for each of 10 class periods, beginning as early as the class scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 26. Discussion questions must be submitted electronically (via WebCT; login at http://ic.ucsc.edu/webct) by **9 p.m. on the day before a class meeting takes place.** Late questions will not be accepted towards your minimum of 10 (but can help boost your participation grade; see below). You are free to submit a question for any 10 class periods in the quarter, but I encourage you to try to spread them out over the entire quarter (i.e., start early). (1 percent per question; 10% total)

2) Co-facilitate discussion. Each student will help facilitate one day's class meeting. Sign-ups will occur during the second week of class. (10%)

3) Media diary/analysis paper (2-3 pages). Record your media usage for one day and describe the messages (especially concerning gender and sexuality) that are communicated. **Due Tuesday, Oct 17.** (10%)

4) Article analysis (2-3 pages). Summarize and critique one of the assigned empirical articles. **Due at the beginning of class on the day the article is being discussed.** (10%)

5) Alternative Visions assignment (2-3 pages). Provide a description of two representations of sex or sexuality that are positive rather than negative models (that is, representations that are likely to contribute to a reduction in the prevalence of sexual aggression). We will post these descriptions on the course web site. **Due Thursday, Nov 30.** (10%)

6) Final individual paper (10-12 pages) or group project/paper. A literature review or other scholarly project related to some aspect of the psychology of sexual aggression. **Due Tuesday, Dec 5.** (40%)

7) Attendance and in-class and/or WebCT participation. (10%)

Additional Notes
(1) I can only read email that is in plain text format. If you use a web-based email program, please make sure that you turn off all HTML or other kinds of “markup” before sending me email.

(2) Papers cannot be submitted electronically.

(3) Some of the videotapes we will watch include scenes of aggression. I will give you an overview of the content before showing the tape. You may elect not to view videos if you think they might upset you. Please also do not hesitate to slip out of the room during viewing, if you need to do that.

(4) I am committed to fostering an atmosphere in which we can engage in vigorous discussion while remaining courteous, respectful, and professional. I trust that you share that commitment.
If at any point during the quarter you feel that this atmosphere of civility is being threatened, please let me know immediately.

(5) Because of the small size of the senior seminars, students who need letters of recommendation for graduate school or other professional purposes often approach seminar instructors with requests to write such letters. I am generally happy to write a letter for any student who does well in this course. If you think you might want to ask me to write a letter for you, please plan to retain a portfolio of your work in this course. In other words, save all your written work, and compile and download all of your posts to the WebCT discussion board. You might also want to keep notes about your participation during class. Having this information will help me to write a better letter. I also appreciate as much advance notice as possible (at least two weeks before your first deadline).

(6) Studying rape and other forms of sexual aggression can be difficult emotionally. This is especially true for those who have been victimized. Because the mission of the course is academic rather than therapeutic, only limited kinds of support can be provided. For that reason, I urge you to plan ahead (now) for external emotional support from supportive friends, a therapist or counselor, or a social service agency. Some area resources are listed below. Additional information is provided in a supplemental document. Please note that I do not assume any responsibility for the quality of services offered by these organizations.

**Area Resources**

Walnut Avenue Women's Center., 303 Walnut Ave. (426-3062)

Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women, 915 Cedar St. (420-6298)

Rape Crisis Hotline + 24 Hour Women's Crisis Support (429-1478)

Women's Crisis Support/Defensa de Mujeres (685-3737)

Sexual Abuse Referral and Treatment (800-852-5209)

UCSC Rape Prevention Education Program (459-2721)

UCSC Counseling and Psychological Services (459-2628)

Survivor's Healing Center 2301 Mission Street, Suite C-1 (423-7601)

www.survivorshealingcenter.org
COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note that the following schedule is tentative and subject to change. All changes will be announced in class. An updated schedule will always be available on the web site.

Th Sep 21
Course Introduction
FILM: Rape Is (VT8314)

Readings:
None

Tu Sep 26
Overview, Prevalence, and Measurement
Required readings:
Buchwald, E., Fletcher, P. R., & Roth, M. (2005). Are we really living in a rape culture? In Transforming a rape culture (pp. 5-9).


Additional readings:


Th Sep 28
Social Construction of Masculinity, Femininity, and Sexuality
FILM: Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity (VT6613)

Required readings:

Murnen, S. K., Wright, C., & Kaluzny, G. (2002). If "boys will be boys," then girls will be victims? A meta-analytic review of the research that relates masculine ideology to sexual aggression. Sex Roles, 46, 359-375.


Additional readings:


Tu Oct 3
Cultural and Sub-Cultural Forces
Required readings:


Additional readings:


**Th Oct 5**

**Media I: Music, Music Videos, and Movies**

FILM: *Dreamworlds II: Desire, Sex, and Power in Music Videos* (VT5516)

and/or

FILM: *Beyond Beats and Rhymes: A Hip-Hop Head Weighs in on Manhood in Rap Music*

**Required readings:**


**Additional readings:**

Tu Oct 10  
**Media II: Advertising and Pornography**  
FILM: *Killing Us Softly 3* (VT7615)  

**Required readings:**  


**Additional readings:**  


Th Oct 12  
**Victimization I: Overview & Voices of Victims**  
FILM: Excerpts from *Campus Rape*  

**Required readings:**  


**Additional readings:**  


Tu Oct 17  
**Victimization II: Effects on Mental and Physical Health**  

**Required readings:**  


Additional readings:

**Th Oct 19**
**Victimization III: Community Responses**
**Required readings:**


Additional readings:


**Tu Oct 24**
**Victimization IV: Risk factors**
**Required readings:**


Additional readings:

**Th Oct 26**
**Victimization V: Coping, Recovery, and Treatment**
FILM: *Relearning Touch*

**Required readings:**


**Additional readings:**


**Tu Oct 31**
**Victimization VI: Complicating Victimization**

**Required readings:**


**Th Nov 2**

**Perpetration I: Overview & Voices of Perpetrators**

**FILM: The Undetected Rapist**

**Required readings:**


**Additional readings:**

**Tu Nov 7**

**Perpetration II: Biological and Evolutionary Theories**

**Required readings:**


Patai, D. (2000, Fall). Do they have to be wrong? *Gender Issues*, 74-82.


**Additional readings:**


Th Nov 9
Perpetration III: Confluence and Multivariate Theories
FILM: Men's work: Fraternity brothers stopping violence against women

Required readings:


Additional readings:


Tu Nov 14
Perpetration IV: Cognitive factors and the Role of Alcohol
Required readings:


Additional readings:


**Th Nov 16**

**Legal Issues**

**Required readings:**


**Additional readings:**


**Tu Nov 21**

No class - work individually or in groups on final papers/projects.

**Th Nov 23**

No class -- Happy Thanksgiving!

**Tu Nov 28**

**Rape Prevention and Education**

**Required readings:**


**Additional readings:**


**Th Nov 30**

**Alternative Visions**

**Required readings:**


**Additional readings:**


**Tues Dec 5, 4:00-7:00pm**

**Final exam period: in-class presentations and course conclusion.**