

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY  
PSY 265 – PSYCHOLOGY OF MEN AND WOMEN (3 CR.)**

**Course Description**

Examines the major determinants of sex differences. Emphasizes psychosexual differentiation and gender identity from theoretical, biological, interpersonal, and sociocultural perspectives. Includes topics such as sex roles, socialization, rape, abuse, and androgyny. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

To provide the student with an understanding of the physical, psychological, and cultural variables that influence men and women.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites**

Prerequisites: PSY 125, PSY 200, PSY 201, or PSY 202

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Describe the history of men's and women's studies within the field of psychology.
- Differentiate and explain the major theoretical perspectives used to understand and explain gender and gender differences
- Articulate the differences between the research designs used by psychologists; critically evaluate the reliability, validity, and generalizability of research; explain the ethical issues pertaining to research within gender psychology
- Define gender bias and identify examples of bias, stereotypes, and gender typing in everyday situations
- Explain the development of gender roles and gender identity throughout the lifespan. Evaluate the influence of media on gender development.
- Differentiate male and female biology and sexuality
- Evaluate gender differences research and understand the myths versus supported differences in abilities such as achievement, motivation, personality, and cognitive skills.
- Define historical and contemporary perspectives regarding men's and women's roles in work, including equality and harassment
- Explain gender differences and similarities in love and intimate relationships.
- Identify important health issues for men and women and explain the relationship between gender and psychological disorders
- Evaluate the role of aggression and power in issues of violence including rape and abuse
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**Major Topics to be Covered**

- Major theoretical approaches to gender
- Research Methods
- Gender stereotypes
- Lifespan gender development
- Gender differences and similarities in abilities
  - achievement and motivation
  - personality
  - cognitive abilities
- Work

- Love and intimate relationships
- Male and female biology and sexuality
- Physical and mental health issues
- Violence

**Optional topics**

- Cultural differences in gender roles
- Power
- Communication style