

Psychology 250. Human Sexuality

Final Exam
Spring 2007
Dr. Muñoz
Wells College

Final exam due May 15 by 10PM, Macmillan 310.

Instructions

1. Answer all five essay questions. You also have the option of an extra credit question.
2. Each essay question should be answered in thoughtful and critical ways. Include diagrams and models to illustrate your thinking. Think critically about the theories, methods, findings, and the historical context. This does not mean to simply criticize or give your opinion, but rather find the limitations of the studies and develop ideas on how these limitations can be attended to through further study. You can refer to the online articles as well.
3. You may use your notes and books to answer the questions but please do not discuss your work with other students.
4. All answers must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, and printed out clearly in black ink.
5. It's fine to use recycled paper that is printed on one-side already.
6. Staple your exam together.
7. Page limit = 10 pages maximum (does *not* include pages of illustrations, references page, or extra credit essay).
8. Spell check and proofread your answers. Typos detract from your ideas.
9. Total essays = 5. Total possible points = 125.
10. Extra credit = 10 possible points
11. References page required as well as in text citations.

Evaluation/Grading

The criteria for evaluation will be:

1. Insightful use of quotes, films, charts, maps, and diagrams to support your views.
2. Creativity and insight, grounded in evidence through the use of citations, include page numbers with direct quotes. What this means is that you balance your views with views presented in the texts and films we have read and seen (personal opinions without any supporting evidence will not receive credit);
3. Organization and clarity of your writing;
4. Questions raised for future research, as critiques of theory, or interesting explorations of less understood aspects of theory;
5. Detailed attention paid to grammar, syntax, and spelling.

Essay Questions

1. Vera Whisman in her book, Queer by Choice, examines the relationship between sexual orientation and choice. Whisman finds gender differences between gay men and lesbians and categorizes sexual orientation as fitting into roughly three types of narrative accounts; chosen, determined, and mixed. Discuss each of these accounts, the gender differences, and explore how we might account for these differences. Whisman also argues that all research which is focused on finding out why people are gay or lesbian is heterosexist and homophobic. What do you think of this argument? Should civil rights for gay men and lesbians be determined by whether or not sexual orientation is chosen or genetic?

2. In the video, Self-Loving, Betty Dodson explores the power and liberation of masturbation for women. Do you believe that masturbation empowers women? Why or why not? How do Dodson's ideas connect with Kinsey's findings on female masturbation? What might a dialogue between Freud and Dodson include? How about a dialogue between Kinsey and Dodson?
3. The film, Brain Sex, and the book, As Nature Made Him, take an evolutionary and neuroscience approach to the study of sex differences and how these lead to gender differences. Do you think based on the evidence presented that sex differences are "hard wired" into the brain? Why or why not? In your discussion include examples from As Nature Made Him and David Reimer's life to support your views. Also include a discussion of the film, Sex: Unknown. Be sure to include Milton Diamond's and John Money's arguments. This essay should be a solid review of the arguments as well as your own thinking.
4. In the films Gender Trouble, Is it a Boy or a Girl?, and Hermaphrodites Speak!, the lives of people born with intersex conditions are explored from a variety of perspectives. What is your position on the question of whether or not infants who are born intersexed should have surgery? Provide examples from the films to support your views. This essay should be a solid review of the arguments as well as your own thinking.
5. Suzanne Kessler in her book, Lessons from the Intersexed, studies how genitals are socially and medically constructed based on society's need to constrain two sexes, male and female, to only two genders, men and women. Kessler argues that there are more than two sexes and that intersex people prove the wide range of natural human sex variation. Discuss the ways in which intersexuality challenges the male and female dichotomy. Discuss what the possibilities for gender might be if we accepted intersex conditions as part of typical human sexuality. This essay should be a solid review of the arguments as well as your own thinking.

Extra Credit (10 points)

Throughout the semester we have explored our own models of sexuality. Now, at the end of the semester, explore in what ways the theories we have engaged connect with your own development. For example, discuss how nature and nurture, femininity and masculinity, male and female sex assignment, heterosexual assumptions, socio-economic class, ethnicity, race, and historical moment have provided you with frameworks for constructing your sexuality.