

Male Identity in Transition Syllabus
School for New Learning - DePaul University, Spring 2009
Course HC 329, Alternate Mondays, Oak Forest Campus

Course Description: This course, open to men and women, examines issues of gender with a focus on male identity. You will examine your own perspectives, attitudes, and experiences in light of psychosocial development theory, media influences, power struggles among social groups, and relationship issues in an effort to gain a greater understanding of factors that influence male identity in today's society. Through use of the Internet, you will link to information sources such as men's organizations, media outlets, library resources, psychological research and online interaction with your classmates in developing projects to evidence competence.

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Kenn Skorupa has been on the staff of the college and a part-time faculty member since 1990 and is currently an Assistant Director in Advising Services. He has designed and taught several courses for the college including two current offerings, "Connecting Thought and Behavior in the Workplace, the Community and in Your Personal Life" and "Male Identity in Transition". His academic background is in the areas of Psychology and Gender Issues and he has presented at Men's conferences around the country. Kenn also teaches the Learning Assessment Seminar.

Course Competencies:

H-4: Can analyze power relations among racial, social, cultural or economic groups in the United States.

Activities: You will develop this competence through examining a power struggle that exists between two social groups found in the U.S involving men and masculinity.

Assignment: The assignment is to summarize your findings and views regarding the power struggle you have examined and researched during the course related to gender issues.

H-2-G: Can evaluate the role and impact of mass media and/or information technology on society.

Activities: You will develop this competence through examination of a selected media source and its influence on male identity in today's society.

Assignment: The assignment is to summarize your findings and views regarding the media source you have examined and researched during the course related to gender issues.

H-3-C: Can use theories or models of adult growth and development to understand one's own experience.

Activities: You will develop this competence through examination of gender issues and how they interact with adult growth and development.

Assignment: The assignment is to summarize your findings and views regarding adult development and a particular relationship with a man that you have examined related to gender issues.

F-X: Can examine how gender issues, particularly in terms of men's roles, are experienced in the workplace.

Activities: You will develop this competence through examination of gender issues and how they interact with relationships and situations in the workplace.

Assignment: The assignment is to summarize your findings and views regarding issues of gender in the workplace in general and in your workplace in particular.

Class Schedule:

Module One: The Study of Masculinity

Week One: Online Discussion takes place Monday, 3/30/09 through Sunday, 4/5/09.
Students must logon to course Blackboard Site by Friday, 3/27/09.

Reading Assignment: Kilmartin Chapters One and Fifteen

Module Two: Determining Competence Focus

Week Two: Class Session, Monday, 4/6/09, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Oak Forest Campus
Online Discussion takes place Monday, 4/6/09 through Sunday, 4/12/09.

Reading Assignment: See Assignment One Description for each competence you are taking.
H-4 Power/Justice Readings: Chapters Five and Six
H-2-G Mass Media Readings: Chapters Eleven and Twelve
H-3-C Adult Development Readings: Chapters Four and Seven
FX Gender in the Workplace Readings: Chapters Two and Ten

Written Assignment One: Competence Focus Papers. Due: Friday, 4/10/09

Module Three: Examining Gender Roles and Characteristics

Week Three: Online Discussion takes place Monday, 4/13/09 through Sunday, 4/19/09.

Reading Assignment: Kilmartin Chapters Two and Three

Module Four: Men's Health and Physical Development

Week Four: Monday, 4/20/09, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Oak Forest Campus
Online Discussion takes place Monday, 4/20/09 through Sunday, 4/26/09.

Reading Assignment: Kilmartin Chapter Nine

Module Five: Psychological Perspectives of Male Development

Week Five: Online Discussion takes place Monday, 4/27/09 through Sunday, 5/3/09.

Reading Assignment: Kilmartin Chapters Four and Seven

Module Six: Cultural Influences on Male Development

Week Six: Monday, 5/4/09, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Oak Forest Campus
Online Discussion takes place Monday, 5/4/09 through Sunday, 5/10/09.

Reading Assignment: Kilmartin Chapters Five and Six

Written Assignment Two: Research Sources for Final Project. Due Friday, 5/8/09

Module Seven: Men's Emotions and Mental Health

Week Seven: Online Discussion takes place Monday, 5/11/09 through Sunday, 5/17/09.

Reading Assignment: Kilmartin Chapters Eight and Fourteen

Module Eight: Relationships and Sexuality

Week Eight: Monday, 5/18/09, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Oak Forest Campus

Online Discussion takes place Monday, 5/18/09 through Sunday, 5/24/09.

Reading Assignment: Kilmartin Chapters Thirteen and Eleven

Module Nine: Men and Violence

Week Nine: Online Discussion takes place Monday, 5/25/09 through Sunday, 5/31/09.

Reading Assignment: Kilmartin Chapter Twelve

Module Ten: Men at Work

Week Ten: Monday, 6/1/09, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Oak Forest Campus

Online Discussion takes place Monday, 6/1/09 through Friday, 6/5/09.

Reading Assignment: Kilmartin Chapter Ten

Written Assignment Three: Final Projects. Due Friday, 6-5-09

Learning Experience: The course has been organized into 10 modules to facilitate your learning. Each of the modules has a general theme that is associated with the reading assignment and discussion for that module. You will be expected to complete the reading assignments before participating in discussion in class and on the Blackboard site of the weekly module themes. You will also develop a final project for each competence due at the end of the quarter. If you take the course for two competencies, you will submit a final project for each of them.

In preparation for your final projects, you will be assigned to read certain chapters of the text that pertain to your competencies before they are assigned to the class for general discussion. Each project will address the module themes that we will examine during the quarter and will conclude with a final statement of your views. Your final projects will be developed in three stages. The first stage will be to develop the focus of your projects; the second stage will be to conduct your research to be included in your projects; and the third stage will be to compose your paper to submit at the end of the course.

You will be asked to search for and collect relevant Internet sites to share with the class. These links may relate to general men's issues, to one of the competence learning statements or to one of the weekly course themes. The links will be captured and organized by the facilitator and can be accessed through the "Resources" link on the course main menu.

Blackboard Interactions: Students will have access to the course Blackboard website upon registration for the course. Blackboard training is available for students through the DePaul Instructional Technology Department at <http://www.depaul.edu/itd/>. Students are required to learn about how to use the Blackboard system and logon to the course as listed on the class schedule above. The Blackboard system provides class announcements, syllabus information, assignments, reading documents, student identification information, communications and the course discussion board. Students are to begin with the announcements section of the Blackboard site to get started with the course.

Assessment of Competence: Students will be assessed on three aspects of their participation in the course. These three aspects are the following.

1) The quality of contributions to the Blackboard discussion: relevance to the topic addressed; accuracy of information and use of theory; conciseness of explanations and focus on main points; evidence cited to substantiate ideas; timeliness of submitting messages

2) The quality of contributions to class discussion: demonstrates respect for the ideas and input of others; acknowledges and offers feedback to others; stays on track with discussion objectives; contributes helpful and insightful ideas; offers questions that challenge and engage others

3) The quality of written assignments: submits assignments by the assigned due date; addresses the assignment according to directions; demonstrates an appropriate level of reflection; addresses assignment in appropriate level of detail; demonstrates understanding of learning objectives; Integrates and references theories and concepts from resources accurately; presents project with attention to aesthetics, clarity and grammatical acuity.

Course Text:

The Masculine Self, Third Edition, by Christopher Kilmartin. The ISBN for the paperback version (recommended by the instructor) is 1-59738-005-9, Sloan Publishing (2006).

Academic Integrity: Students are responsible for reading and following the University's guidelines on academic integrity found in the Student Handbook and will be held accountable to those guidelines.