

## Men & Masculinity WS 250

Course description: This course will explore the range of male life and masculinity, posing important questions about sex-role socialization, violence, pornography, advertisement images, and team sports. It will look at straight and gay men., how the Men's movement is being sought out by men--straight or gay--who feel alienated from a macho culture, and compares the participation and reactions of men to various ``manly pursuits." Throughout, this course will examine the performance of masculinity.

### Course objectives:

This course will

1. clarify and analyze the nature of historical and contemporary notions of masculinity.
2. explore the connections between sexism and heterosexism and how each is perpetuated.
3. investigate sexism and heterosexism and other "isms" that undermine the self-esteem of men.
4. require written and oral presentations which demonstrate critical thinking.
5. encourage cooperative work in small and large groups.

### Student learning outcomes:

Students will:

1. ~show knowledge of past and present sexist & heterosexist practices and attitudes in an essay.
2. ~explain several theoretical explanations for sexism and heterosexism and will explain the difference
3. between individual prejudices and systems of oppression in an essay or exam.
4. ~discuss some of the psychological and social realities that have determined the status of men in an essay or exam.
5. ~articulate the connections between the systems of oppression in an essay or exam.
6. ~critically write about and discuss the issues addressed in this course in an essay or exam.
7. ~work cooperatively with others in small class discussion groups and on a collaborative project.

Suggested texts:

**Male Impersonators: Men Performing Masculinity**

by Mark Simpson

**Studs, Tools, and the Family Jewels: Metaphors Men Live by**

by Peter F. Murphy

Men's Lives

By Michael S. Kimmel and Michael A. Messner

Outline for course content:

- ❖ Introduction and definitions. What is meant by masculinity?
- ❖ The social construction of masculinity
- ❖ From boys to men
- ❖ Sports and war: rites of passage in male institutions
- ❖ Men and work
- ❖ Men and health: body and mind
- ❖ Men with women: intimacy and power
- ❖ Men and violence against women
- ❖ Men with men: friendships and fear
- ❖ Male sexualities
- ❖ Men in families
- ❖ Visions of future masculinities

Teaching methods:

This course includes lectures, class discussions, small group discussions, film, and a critical evaluation of the literature.

Preparer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

WS Curriculum Committee: \_\_\_\_\_