Lecture Gender

Test Section 1
A father and his son are out driving. They are involved in an accident. The father is killed, and the son is in critical condition. The son is rushed to the hospital and prepared for the operation.

The doctor comes in, sees the patient, and exclaims, "I can't operate, it's my son!"

How can this be?
HOW COULD THIS BE?

Only 35% of participants answered the riddle correctly.

- Stepfather is the surgeon?
- Stepfather died in the accident?
- Father was reincarnated?
What pops into your head when you think of “Doctor”? 
or 

[Image of two doctors]
What pops into your head when you think of “housework”?

or
**TERMS**

- **Sex:**
  - Our biological identity, whether we are male or female
Gender roles
- The roles that a person is expected to perform as a result of being male or female in a particular culture

Gender-role stereotype
- A rigidly held and oversimplified belief that all males and females, as a result of their sex, possess distinct psychological and behavioral traits
GENDER ROLES IN SOCIETY & PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
What is the difference between sex and gender?

Gender Role

- Prescription for masculine and feminine
- Masculine – Characterized by instrumental traits
- Feminine – Characterized by expressive traits
GENDER ROLE CONTINUUM

Men & women are essentially & occupy roles. Certain roles are to a specific gender.

Belief in political, social, economic, & civil rights. There is based on gender.
Why Do We Talk About Gender Roles?

- Policies
  - Amendment 19 (1920) – Women’s Suffrage
  - Family & Medical Leave Act (1993)

- Inequality in Treatment
  - Traditional Sexism
  - Modern Sexism

- We “see” differences (religion, edu, work/pay)
HOW ARE GENDERED IDEOLOGIES FORMED?

- Gender Schema
  - _____________________________(usually by age 3)
    then develop knowledge about what our sex “does”
HOW ARE GENDERED IDEOLOGIES FORMED?

- Symbolic Interactionism
  - ________; play out _____ in interactions with significant other (parents, peers, job, spouse)
What does this mean for our relationships?

- Are we “stuck” in the roles given to us by society?

- Studying gender roles is about understanding how society influences our views of relationships.
What does this mean for Relationships?

There is no “RIGHT” gender role

- Relational satisfaction

   ___________________________
   ___________________________
GENDER ROLE ATTITUDES
Gender Similarities Hypothesis

Men & women are ______
__________________
 Cognitive traits & abilities
 Verbal & nonverbal communication
 Social & personality variables

Are Men really from Mars?

______________: Men & Women are inherently different and do not understand each other’s needs

Truth? You Decide...
Are Men and Women Different?

- In what ways?
- Biological differences
- Distribution of sex differences?
Are Men and Women Different?

Men
- Better daylight vision
- Less sensitivity to extreme heat
- More sensitivity to extreme cold
- Faster reaction times
- Better depth perception
- Better spatial skills
- More ability to rotate three-dimensional objects in the mind

Females
- Better night visions
- Better sense of smell
- More sensitivity to touch in all parts of the body
- Better hearing, especially in higher ranges
- Less tolerance to loud sound
- Better manual dexterity and fine coordination
- More ability to read people's emotions in photographs
Are Men and Women Different?

- **Men**
  - More Aggressive
  - More Heart Disease
  - Males less verbal
  - More problems with learning to read
  - More dyslexia, Learning Disabilities
  - 3 to 6 times more ADHD
  - Better with math skills
  - 95% of color blindness

- **Females**
  - Females are less aggressive
  - More emotional and excitable
  - Excel in verbal areas and reading
  - More depression and phobic responses
  - Better detail memory during crises and traumatic events
## High School Students with Disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Percentage Male</th>
<th>Percentage Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning Disability</td>
<td>73.4%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Disturbance</td>
<td>76.4%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Impairment</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Retardation</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Impaired</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing Impaired</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Disabilities</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Valdes et al. (1990).
Brain Differences

- Brain Size: Male brain weighs __________
- Cell Number: Males have _______________.
- Cellular Connections: ________________ ________________ ________________ communication among neurons.
Brain Differences

 Corpus Callosum: Is larger in women.
  - Women can transfer data ______________ ______ ___________.
  - Men tend to be more ________________________.
  - Male brain tends to ________________________ _________________________.
  - Female have access to ____________________ _________________________.
  - Female emotions are in ________________.
**Brain Differences**

- **Broca and Wernicke Brain Areas**
  - _______ in females which is related to ________ in language associated thoughts
  - Males have language in the ____________, while women ______________.
  - Female stroke victims exhibit ________________
    ________________.
**Brain Differences**

- **Inferior parietal lobule (IPL):**
  - Region in the cortex larger in men than in women.
  - Located just above the level of the ears (parietal cortex).
  - The left side IPL is larger in men than the right side.
  - IPL's size correlates highly with mental mathematical abilities.
  - Studies have linked the right IPL with the memory involved in understanding and manipulating spatial relationships.
  - The left IPL is involved with perception of time and speed, and the ability of mentally rotate 3-D figures.
Brain Differences

- Limbic Size: bonding/nesting instincts
  - Females, on average, have a larger limbic system than males.
  - Larger limbic brain more related to feelings, and expression of feelings
  - Increased ability to bond and be connected to others, especially in nurturing
  - Women produce Oxytocin which is a bonding chemical for offspring. There is no society on earth where men are primary caretakers for children.
  - Females have a more acute sense of smell, which is likely to have developed from an evolutionary need for the mother to recognize her young.
  - Having a larger deep limbic system leaves a female somewhat more susceptible to depression, especially at times of significant hormonal changes such as the onset of puberty, before menses, after the birth of a child and at menopause.
COMMONLY HELD MYTHS OF GENDER DIFFERENCES

- Women have _____ self-esteem than men
- Women are _____ achievement oriented than men
- Men have a _____ biological need for sex than women
FACT:

- Throughout the industrialized world, women outlive men, on average, by 7 years
Theories to Explain Gender Differences

- Sociobiological theories (NATURAL)
  - Criticisms of sociobiology
- Animal models
  - Ducks & rape
- Cultural invention
Social construction, social learning & socialization theories (NURTURE)

- Cognitive social learning theory
- Cognitive development theory
Jeremy, age 4, decided to wear barrettes to school one day. This was very upsetting to another boy in the preschool who kept urging Jeremy to remove the barrettes, because "only girls wear barrettes." Jeremy replied that he was a boy because he had a penis, and that the barrettes themselves did not make him a girl. After further attempts by the other boy to get Jeremy to remove his barrettes, Jeremy became so upset that he pulled down his pants to make his point. In response, his companion remained unconvinced, saying, "Everybody has a penis, only girls wear barrettes!"
I have had so much fun with both of you this summer. Before I started playing with both of you, I thought that boys were so boring, mean, unforgiving, and were not mature at all. But when I met you guys you were a lot funner, nicer, understanding, and mature than any other boys.

- Katie, age 8
**Nature-Nurture Debate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>Nurture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Differences in male and female beliefs, attitudes, and behavior are:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innate</td>
<td>Learned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological, Physiological</td>
<td>Psychological, social, cultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to heredity</td>
<td>Due to environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairly fixed</td>
<td>Very changeable</td>
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</tbody>
</table>