

History 19: Fiat Lux Seminar  
History of the Science of Sex Differences

Prof. Mary Terrall  
5276 Bunche  
Office Hours: 10:30-11:30, Tuesday 10-12, and by appointment  
terrall@history.ucla.edu

This is a 1-credit seminar, graded Pass/No Pass. In order to get credit, you must attend every week, do the reading, do the one library assignment, and participate in the weekly discussion. If you miss more than one class, you must have a documented excuse. If you miss more than two classes, you will not get credit for the class. The estimated time to be spent on a 1-credit class is three hours per week. One of these hours is spent in class; the other two are allotted for the reading. The reading will not take you 2 hours every week; some weeks it may take you more if you do it carefully. If you read the assignment quickly and do not understand it, read it again and come up with something to say about it in class.

The readings will be posted online, through the course web page. In order to access some of the readings, you will need either to do it from campus, or have a UCLA proxy server set up from your home computer. This is done through Bruin Online, and gives you access to anything for which you need a UCLA affiliation (many subscriptions and databases available through the library website).

Weekly Reading Assignments and Class Schedule

Week 1, Jan. 6: Introduction to the topic; discussion of **library assignment** for Week 2.

For our session on Jan. 13, you will use the resources in the Young Research Library (including but not limited to electronic resources) to identify and find an article published in the last five years on the science of sex difference in humans. You should look in the popular press for articles written for a general, non-specialist readership. You may look in magazines like Time or Newsweek, but you may also look for something in the popular scientific press (e.g. Scientific American, or Psychology Today, or Endeavor). Once you find the article, get a copy of it, read it, and be prepared to talk about it in class. On Jan. 13, you will also turn in one page with the full reference for the article and a **one-paragraph** summary of it.

Week 2, Jan. 13: Discussion of articles

Your reading for this week is the article you found through your research. The purpose of this assignment is two-fold: to get some practice using the library and to identify some of the ways in which sex differences are discussed in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the subsequent weeks, we will be reading material from previous centuries.

Week 3, Jan. 20: Aristotle

Selections from [On the Generation of Animals](#).  
[Handout on Aristotle](#)

Week 4, Jan. 27: Feminism in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century: Poullain de la Barre

Selections from [On the Equality of the Two Sexes](#) (first published in French, 1673)

Week 5: Feb. 3: Sex Differences in Medicine in the French Enlightenment

Cabanis, [A Influences of the Sexes on the Character of the Ideas and Moral Affections](#)@

Week 6: Feb. 10: Medicine in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century America

[Charles Rosenberg and Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, A The Female Animal: Medical and Biological Views of Women](#)@

Week 7: Feb. 17: Sex Hormone Research (1925-1940)

Adele Clarke, [Disciplining Reproduction](#), Chap. 5: [A Coalescing the Discipline: Endocrinological Approaches, 1925-1940](#)"

Week 8: Feb. 24: Hormones, Brains and Behavior

Marianne van den Wijngaard, [Reinventing the Sexes](#), Chaps. 2 and 3.

Week 9: Mar. 3: Sex Differences in the 1970s

articles from [Psychology Today](#), November 1978 [[Part1](#)] [[Part2](#)]

Week. 10: Mar. 10 Sociobiology (Evolutionary Psychology)