

Feminism, Sexuality and Neuroethics Midterm Project

For this project, you will be working in groups of three (assigned by the instructors). Each group will be given a description of the methods and results of a study investigating some aspect of sexuality and the brain. As a group you will be responsible for “writing up” your study and presenting your study to the class. In addition, as a group you will be responsible for writing two popular press articles based on the presentations given by other groups.

Grading: In general, all members of a group will receive the same grade. However, you will also be asked for feedback via email about the process and if your group members report that you have not completed your share of the work, your grade may be adjusted accordingly.

Discussion Section (due by 10:00am on Monday, March 5th) (10 points total):

- Length: 600-800 words
- Posted on the Blackboard Wiki created for your group.
- You must summarize the results of the study, offer a proposed explanation or interpretation of the results, and analyze the significance of the results either for future research or society (if any!). This should be written in the style of the scientific articles we have read, that is, written for other researchers and for publication in a journal. Be clear and concise in your summations, focus on the conclusions drawn from the results, and contextualize those findings as much as possible. The studies we have given you are vague in terms of method; you may choose, as a group, to give more details about your methodology in order to contextualize, but there is no need to be overly technical.

Presentation (Three groups will present on Monday, March 5th and three groups will present on Wednesday, March 7th) (10 points total):

- Length: 10 minutes
- Visual aid and/or PowerPoint: optional
- Your goal in this presentation is to communicate the details of your study, including your analysis, to members of the press. There will be reporters from Cosmopolitan magazine and NPR news in the audience. These reporters may have different levels of knowledge about neuroscience and sexuality. Your job is to adequately address the needs of your audience. You may choose one group member to serve as the spokesperson for the group or you may divide the speaking responsibilities among your group members.

Popular Press Articles (due by 5:00pm on Friday, March 9th) (10 points total):

- Length: 2 articles, 200-300 words EACH
- Posted on the Blackboard Wiki created for your group.
- During the presentations of the other five groups, you will all be members of the press core; you may even ask questions in character if you wish. Although you should participate as audience members for all presentations, your group will only be responsible for writing articles about TWO of the other five groups (we will assign these groups to you). One article should be written in the NPR “style,” for an audience of laypersons who are assumed to have some general scientific knowledge and interest, and one written in the Cosmo “style” for an audience who is assumed to have no scientific knowledge but great interest in sexuality.

Just in case this isn't clear: at the end of this project, each of you will have been part of one scientific team that has written up and presented a study, been an audience member for five other studies, and written up articles, as a team, about two of those five studies, one in the style of an NPR report and another as a blurb for Cosmo. Additionally, you will have two articles written, by other groups, about your study: one for NPR, and one for Cosmo.