The purposes of the exam are (1) to encourage students to attend to, study, and commit to memory course material, and (2) to increase students’ self-knowledge about their mastery of course material.

The exam will be held Monday, Sept. 27, at the usual class time and place. Bring pencils with erasers.

Please re-read the course academic honesty policy in the syllabus and speak to me if you have questions or if you consider yourself an academic dishonestly high-risk case.

The exam will cover all of the required readings and everything that happened in class from the first day until Sept. 24. Students should focus on studying the overheads used in class (and available on the course web site), the quizzes, main themes in Kimmel, and the main argument/story line of each of the readings.

The exam will contain the following essay question: “Write an essay arguing that gender is a social construction. Provide at least five convincing arguments, each supported by evidence. Make sure you explain what a social construction is.”

Some good things to know include: sex vs. gender; Kimmel on gender differences and “interplanetary theory”; Barnett & Rivers on differences between men and women; Kimmel on evolutionary psychology, brain research, and hormones; interaction between biology & culture; Kimmel on cross-cultural diversity; androcentric vs. gynecentric archeological interpretations; Freud’s theory of gender development; sex role theory and its problems; all about social constructionism (the guiding principle of the course), including Lorber, Loseke’s idea of the two worlds we live in, the three steps for attaching meaning to things (categorizing, naming, and typifying), and Berger & Luckmann’s three stages in the social construction process (seriously, memorize these terms and their definitions); Stewart’s arguments; Roy’s analysis of the social construction of gender, including changing definitions of manhood and intersections between gender, race and class; Johnson’s analysis of patriarchy; the social construction of feminine beauty, including articles by Saltzberg & Chrisler, Harris and Saul, Ford & Beach’s study; the social construction of sex vs. the social construction of gender; Staple’s account of altering public space; “doing gender”; Lucal’s analysis of being a masculine-looking woman; Davis’ transgendered son (including four waves of gender activism and two goals of the trans liberation movement); the breaching exercise; McIntosh on white and male privilege; Coventry on intersexuality and surgery; Colapinto on John/Joan.