

MEN'S STUDIES AND FATHERHOOD CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

AKAMAI UNIVERSITY

The information necessary to create a male is encoded in our DNA, but it takes all the institution of a culture to produce a man. The male body is the biologically given "hardware," the myth of manhood is the "software" inserted by society through a series of formal and informal rites of passage. - - - Sandor McNab



The Women's Movement, the Peace Movement, and the Industrial Revolution, all have made sweeping cultural changes that have gravely affected the lives of men, generally redefining "male" identity. Some men have welcomed these changes and made the adjustment. Others have actively resisted the forces intent upon redefining them. In the wake of this cultural evolution, many men find themselves lost and confused, angry and alienated. Most of the changes have come about so rapidly that orderly social adjustment has been impossible. Cultures forced to abandon a tradition must replace it with a new tradition of equal value, or find expression of such loss in violent substitutes. It is not surprising then, at a time

when many men experience a loss of power, identity, self-worth and purpose, that we are witnessing an upsurge of crime, addiction, divorce, and chronic illness. Proactive solutions are few, in part, because men are under organized, confused about what is happening, uninformed about their rights and their situation, or just resistant to change. Even major men's organizations established to effect change, such as, Promise Keepers, The national Organization for Men Against Sexism, and New Warriors, receive little ongoing attention from the media, and have been ineffective at rallying many constituencies of the wider society.

The Men's Studies Program is designed to investigate, in a gender-specific manner, the many forces and issues affecting men in today's society. The mission of the program is to prepare and empower graduates to make far-reaching contributions in a variety of professional settings. The program will explore the spiritual, cultural, social, familial, tonic, political, economic, historical, philosophical, medical and psychological aspects of "being male" in modern society. This program will undertake to fill the knowledge gap in these areas by engaging students through course work, research, fieldwork, and self-examination. We will strive to empower our students with the knowledge and capabilities needed to effectively manage the resulting changes in men's roles and responsibilities. This program will help develop leaders and mentors who can work effectively and responsibly within the diversity of the men's movement, affecting social policy, and building a broader base of knowledge for the study and research of both genders.



The program is designed to serve the professional needs of social and political advocates, public and private policy makers, educators, therapists, personnel directors, ministers, human right's advocates and EAP counselors. This program focuses on the spiritual, cultural, social, familial, ethnic, political, economic, historical, philosophical, medical and psychological aspects of "being male" in our modern society. Our aim is to develop leaders and mentors who can

work effectively and responsibly within the diversity of the men's movement, affecting social policy, and building a broader base of knowledge for the study and research of both genders.

Studies include male psychology, men's and father's rights, masculine spirituality, models and roles of masculinity, contemporary issues facing men, early childhood development, new roles for fathers, the modern family, gender and power, the challenge of marriage, issues in men's physical health, gender and politics, ancient and modern rites of passage, life stages, Jung's contributions to male psychology, family violence, men in literature, war and trauma, the men's movement, new models of male leadership, and issues in male sexuality. In addition, students will be engaged in a local Practicum that brings together learning with action, research with practice.

Regards,
John L. Laughlin, Ph.D.
[Initial Author and Director of Program]

PROGRAM AUDIENCE

The Men's Studies Program seeks participants from policy and lobbying organizations, human rights organizations, social services, environmental and consumer groups, business and industry, governmental and nonprofit sectors, research centers, unions and trade associations, think tanks, and advocacy groups, communications, education, law enforcement, corrections, employee training, international rights, ministry, reproductive rights, research, health care, counseling and the helping professions.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This program undertakes to fill the knowledge gap in these areas by engaging students through course work, research, fieldwork, and self-examination. Through its Men's Studies and Fatherhood Program, Akamai empowers its students with the knowledge and capabilities needed to effectively manage the resulting changes in men's roles and responsibilities. Akamai's Men's Studies and Fatherhood Program is committed to developing leaders and mentors who can work effectively and responsibly within the diversity of the men's movement, affecting social policy, and building a broader base of knowledge for the study and research of both genders.

Studies include male psychology, men's and father's rights, masculine spirituality, models and roles of masculinity, contemporary issues facing men, early childhood development, new roles for fathers, the modern family, gender and power, the challenge of marriage, issues in men's physical health, gender and politics, ancient and modern rites of passage, life stages, Jung's contributions to male psychology, family violence, men in literature, war and trauma, the men's movement, new models of male leadership, and issues in male sexuality. In addition, students will be engaged in a local Practicum that brings together learning with action, research with practice.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE

All students must complete the following three courses:

MSP 531: Rites of Passage: Ancient and Modern (3 credits)

MSP 532: Developmental Male Psychology (3 credits)

MSP 533: Issues in Male Sexuality (3 credits)

MSP 530: Men's Studies and Fatherhood Practicum

Plus nine additional credits selected from the following courses, under the direction of the assigned mentor:

MSP 534: Men in Literature (3 credits)

MSP 535: Issues Facing Men (3 credits)

MSP 536: Models of Masculinity (3 credits)

MSP 537: Marriage and Fatherhood (3 credits)

MSP 538: Male Victimization (3 credits)

MPS 539: Male Archetypes (3 credits)

MSP 540: Men's/Fathers' Rights (3 credits)

MSP 541: Patriarchy (3 credits)

MSP 542: Male Spirituality (3 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MSP 530: Men's Studies and Fatherhood Practicum (3 credits)

Participants investigate core aspects of men's studies and fatherhood within the real world environment through close contact with real world situations. Students may pursue practicum through a supervised practice, apprenticeship, professional practice, advanced field study or other external exploration under the direction of a qualified instructor and an approved field site sponsor. Students participate in the practicum for a minimum of 50 contact hours. The field placement is expected to afford students appropriate practical hands on experience and in-depth knowledge of a specific area of men's studies and fatherhood. Students complete a journal and prepare a brief scholarly paper summarizing their findings for the field experience.

MSP 531: Rites of Passage: Ancient and Modern (3 credits)

This course focuses on the rights of passage from boyhood to manhood as seen in Native or Contemporary societies. Students may choose, for example, three Native or Ancient cultures and present a paper on: the difference and similarity in the ritualization from boyhood to

manhood; symbols and ceremonies used; tasks required for this transition to be successful. Students can examine this issue in our modern culture for the view: of its rituals and ceremonies; their effectiveness and failures in assisting boys become men; the role of fathers in the process; the place of men's groups in introducing new rites of passage; how rites of passage tie into the broader issue of alienation community.

MSP 532: Developmental Male Psychology (3 credits)

All humans are born with a biological identity and socialized into different roles and genders. How is male gender defined? How do we come to adopt ways of being male? This course examines these and other issues throughout the stages in a man's life. To succeed each phase, one must complete definable tasks. Incomplete tasks influence the developing male psyche as much as completed one. Other issues that can be explored are: 1) the validity of Robert Bly's "naive male," 2) the place of Jung's concepts of "Anima" and "Shadow," in male development, and 3) the issue of "father wounding." A journal should be kept of insights gained by the student while applying this knowledge to his own life. A major paper is required that shows the student's grasp of the major theories of developmental psychology.

MSP 533: Issues in Male Sexuality (3 credits)

In this course one can explore a number of areas that affect and shape men's sexual experiences such as sex and marriage, the connection between sex and violence, sex crimes, the physical aspects of sex, sex therapy, homophobia, homosexuality, addictions, incest, male friendships, sexuality and spirituality, sexual dreams, the archetypes of phallos and lover, and the mother-son relationship. Students may write a paper on an area they select for deeper study.

MSP 534: Men in Literature (3 credits)

This course examines the role of literature and journalism in shaping the lives of men over the last three centuries. Students can focus on the literature of a period of time, a culture or race, a single author, a particular genre, or a specific issue they wish to explore through fiction or journalism. How are men represented in the literature of different times, through the eyes of different writers of different sexual orientation or different races? Is there a masculinist literature to compare with feminist literature? Students will submit a scholarly paper on the area they select for study.

MSP 535: Issues Facing Men (3 credits)

In today's rapidly changing world men are confronted with similar and also different issues, and even the same issues are often filtered through a male or female perspective. This course allows students the opportunity to explore one or more crucial issues facing men today or in the foreseeable future. Some of these issues include career choices, work setting, success vs. fulfillment, parenting responsibilities, sexism and ageism, relationships and spiritual fulfillment. There are many others to choose from. The student will do an in-depth study of one or more of these issues and prepare a in depth report.

MSP 536: Models of Masculinity (3 credits)

There are many models of masculinity with machismo, the rugged individualist, among the oldest. This style of masculinity is still highly visible in North American society. Students

might examine the historical and sociological roots of this male subculture and preoccupation. How is this image threatened by change and what will be the consequence of such change? Do cultural icons like John Wayne, Rambo, Dirty Harry and Indiana Jones offer models of heroism at the price of isolation? Their message and lifestyle often contain a deep and secret woundedness that drives them into suicidal risks, an emotionally transient lifestyle, and violence. What is the impact on men trying and succeeding or failing in following their idea of "hero?" Students may suggest other male models to explore.

MSP 537: Marriage and Fatherhood (3 credits)

This course examines the many issues confronting men as fathers and spouses. Students can select an area for in-depth study such as the issue of disappearing fathers, father wound, new roles of fathers, divorce, blended families, custody, welfare reform, fathers and daughters or sons, fathers and their father or mother, and the impact of these on children.

MSP 538: Male Victimization (3 credits)

This course will focus on the types of abuse faced by males as children, adolescents and adults. It will examine the role of gender in the cycle of abuse and include an overview of Post-traumatic stress disorder and its treatment, the affects of emotional, sexual and physical abuse. One can focus on the assessment and treatment research in the area of male victimization, or the psychological treatment of sexual perpetrators (including clergy), adult survivors of abuse and rape. One may also write an in-depth report on a visited treatment site.

MPS 539: Male Archetypes (3 credits)

Jung's concept of archetype is synonymous with "primary imprint," patterned responses in ways of thinking and feeling that occur in all cultures, under all conditions. This course examines the recent formulations of male archetypal psychology. Four archetypes are examined in detail as they manifest over time from boyhood to manhood in their positive and negative aspects: King/Shadow King, Warrior/Black Knight, Magician/Evil Sorcerer, Lover/Addict. These are further applied to the student's life as he has come to understand them for reading and journaling. A final paper should explore how these archetypes are affected by one or more of the following: the absent of one or more parent, sexual-physical-emotional abuse, the lack of initiation rituals, patriarchy, feminism, and the men's movement.

MSP 540: Men's/Fathers' Rights (3 credits)

There are nearly 300 men's groups, divided broadly by their main focus. Fathers' rights groups are involved in such things as child custody, child support awards, rights of unmarried fathers and abortion issues, and false memory syndrome. Men's rights advocates fight against male-only draft laws, false accusations of rape, rape of men in institutions, differences in federal funding research for breast vs. prostate cancer, more lenient judicial rulings for female defendants. This course is an introduction to the history of such organizations and the weight of their claims. Students can explore the topic narrowly and focus on one organization or issue or more widely on the issue of men's rights and summarize their research and conclusions in a paper.

MSP 541: Patriarchy (3 credits)

Much that is said and written against men is rooted in a social system of male domination

called patriarchy. Today we are leaning to differentiate patriarchy from masculinity, a non-hierarchical term free of the oppressive connotation of the former. Still, patriarchy is firmly in place in major institutions such as the church and politics. This course examines the history and development of patriarchy. How is patriarchy being challenged by men and women and who are its proponents. What models are likely to replace it and what will be the consequences? How do patriarchy and matriarchy compare? Students can examine this topic from a sociological or anthropological view.

MSP 542: Male Spirituality (3 credits)

One may examine our Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian heritage; the role of organized religion in men's lives; tension between predominant male leadership in organized religion and the larger participation by women; the need for new symbols and metaphors; the modern equivalent of the hero's journey; the impact of male spiritual organizations such as Promise Keepers; feminist theologies' challenge to patriarchal religion; addictions as spiritual alternatives; the connection between male sexuality and spirituality; the role of spirituality in healing male wounds and the influence of Native American spirituality on the Mythopoetic men's movement.

