

SOCIOLOGY 450 (LEC 03-01)
GENDER ROLES IN MODERN SOCIETY

Fall 2007

Tuesday & Thursday 4:30-5:45

Recitation 317

Professor Loftus

Office: Stone Hall 326B

e-mail:

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00-4:00

Or by appointment

In an emergency you can call the Sociology & Anthropology main office, they will take a message. Their number is: 494-4668.

You can leave a message for me, or drop off assignments in the Sociology & Anthropology main office, which is located at 301 Stone Hall.

Please feel free to stop by my office hours and talk with me about course materials, or issues that are of interest to you. Those hours are times that I have set aside exclusively for you as students - please make use of them.

Talking about gender for most people is the equivalent of fish talking about water. Gender is so much the routine ground of everyday activities that questioning its taken-for-granted assumptions and presuppositions is like thinking about whether the sun will come up.

--Judith Lorber

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We are born male or female. We become masculine or feminine. This course will explore the social and cultural construction of gender differences, focusing on contemporary issues.

GOALS:

The task this semester is to become more aware of the ways gender affects girls', boys', women's, and men's lives. Lisa Marie Hogeland¹ calls this awareness of gender differences a "gender consciousness." Someone pursuing a gender consciousness might learn more about famous women in history, beauty standards for women, and divisions of household labor.

CLASS DISCUSSIONS:

I believe that each of you has something important and unique to contribute to our understandings of sex and gender. Thus in addition to my lectures, we will discuss together issues and questions raised by each day's assignment. A respectful, tolerant, and actively questioning attitude is crucial to a successful discussion. The issues we'll address are challenging, and it is important that we are able to make mistakes, try out new understandings, and ask questions. We need also to learn how to

hold each other and ourselves accountable for the things we say; we need to respect others' feelings and consider the implications of all that we offer classmates.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Michael S. Kimmel. 2004. *The Gendered Society Reader*, second edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

Readings available on WebCT.

I expect students to complete all readings assigned *before* the lecture for which they are listed. Anticipate spending 3 to 4 hours in study for *every* hour spent in class meetings. This is the standard ratio for college work nationally. If you have any questions on the readings, please bring your questions to class on the day the readings are due for in-class discussion or contact me outside of class.

When doing the readings, keep in mind the following three questions, and make sure that you can answer them:

- 1) What is the author's main point or argument?
- 2) What are the strengths and weaknesses of this argument?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Exams: There will be **three** equally weighted, non-cumulative exams consisting of True/False, Multiple-choice and Short Essay questions. All material from the readings, lecture and discussion is subject to inclusion on the exam! Exams one will be on **September 20th**, Exam two will be on **October 30th**. Exam three will be split over two class periods. Part one of exam three will be on **November 15th** and cover the topics of family and sexuality. Part two of exam three will be on **December 4th** and cover body and popular culture.

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams will be offered at my convenience. Speak with me prior to the exam date if you expect to miss the exam. Make-up exams will be entirely **essay** exams.

Written assignments: There will be **two** equally weighted written assignments. They are designed to allow you to connect sociological perspectives on gender with your life. All assignments should be word processed and stapled and turned in at the beginning of class on the day which they are due. Late assignments will be penalized one grade interval for each day they are late. The first late day begins that day after class. For example, an assignment with an A grade would be marked down to A- were it one day late, B+ were it two days late, etc. See attached for information on assignments and due dates.

Class Participation: These are points based on your preparation for the class period. From time to time I will require you to participate more actively in class. This may be group work in class, this may be asking you to bring something from home to use in class (such as magazines), etc. .

Attendance: Attendance is **required** in this course. Class and group discussion are important components of this course. I expect you to be present and prepared to discuss the assigned readings. You are allowed *four* absences, although missing class is not recommended, as we will be covering a great deal of material everyday for which you will be held responsible on the exams. These four days include any illnesses, funerals, emergencies, etc. You will *not* be given further excused absences. Further absences will not be excused and will result in a **10 point deduction** (per absence) from your final grade. You are responsible for getting any notes you miss from a classmate. I will not provide lecture notes to students who have missed a class.

GRADES:

Three exams	63%	(3 at 21% – each exam is worth 210 points)
Two assignments	30%	(2 at 15% - each assignment is worth 150 points)
Class participation	7%	(70 points)
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Total	100%	1000 points

There is no extra credit in this class.

Grades will be determined on the following breakdown:

FINAL GRADES:

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F less than 60

Grades will not be curved.

Incompletes (I) will only be given under **extreme** circumstances.

WEBCT:

There is a WebCT website for this course. You can also get access to your grades, which will be updated regularly (approximately once a week). You may also get copies of any handouts from class on the WebCT website, should you lose the copy given to you in class. There is a course message board also available on the WebCT site where you may discuss anything class related. However, keep in mind that common courtesy and etiquette are expected on this message board and inappropriate behavior or language will not be tolerated.

POLICIES CONCERNING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Students are responsible for knowing about campus policies regarding academic honesty and plagiarism. The Academic Procedure Manual states the following about dishonesty: "The commitment of the acts of cheating, lying, stealing, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of ghostwritten papers, the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest. Existing portions of the Regulations Governing Student Conduct, Disciplinary Proceedings and Appeals (Section III-B-2), should be interpreted as including the above acts and should be exercised in cases where the weight of evidence warrants such actions." (See Academic Procedure Manual, page O-47.)

Note: I reserve the right to make adjustments to this syllabus as needed throughout the semester. Any changes will be announced in class as early as possible.

Social construction of gender

Tuesday, August 21st

Thursday, August 23rd

Kimmel: "Introduction" pgs 1-6
Kimmel: "Anatomy and Destiny" Michael Kimmel pgs 7-8

Tuesday, August 28th

Kimmel: "Believing is Seeing: Biology as Ideology" Judith Lorber pgs 14-26
Kimmel: "Testosterone Rules" Robert M. Sapolsky pgs 26-32

Thursday, August 30th

Kimmel: "Cultural Constructions of Gender" Michael Kimmel pg 33
Kimmel: "Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies" Margaret Mead, pgs 34-39

Tuesday, September 4th

WebCT: Califia "The Future of Gender and Transgenderism"
WebCT: Bornstein "Naming All the Parts"
Written Assignment One Due

Social construction of sex

Thursday, September 6th

Kimmel: "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough" Anne Fausto-Sterling, pgs 344-350

Tuesday, September 11th

WebCT: Kessler: "Rethinking Genitals and Gender"

Sexual orientation

Thursday, September 13th Kimmel: "Coming of Age and Coming Out Ceremonies Across Cultures" Gilbert Herdt, pgs 39-57

Tuesday, September 18th Kimmel: "The Exotic-Becomes-Erotic Theory of Sexual Orientation" Daryl J. Bem, pgs 82-94

Thursday, September 20th – *Exam One*

Doing Gender

Tuesday, September 25th Kimmel: "Doing Gender" Candace West and Don H. Zimmerman, pgs 150-168
Kimmel: "The Psychology of Sex Roles" Michael Kimmel, pgs 71-72
Kimmel: "A Social-Psychological Model of Gender" Kay Deaux and Brenda Major, pgs 72-81

Socialization

Thursday, September 27th WebCT: Gould "X: A Fabulous Child's Story"
WebCT: Sheldon "Kings Are Royaler Than Queens"
Kimmel: "A Boy's Code of Honor: Frustrated Justice and Fractured Morality" James Garbarino, pgs 94-112
Written Assignment Two Due

Tuesday, October 2nd Kimmel: "Covert Intimacy: Closeness in Men's Friendships" Scott Swain, pgs 364-382

Education

Thursday, October 4th Kimmel: "The Gendered Classroom" Michael Kimmel, pg 219
Kimmel: "Gender Equity in the Classroom: The Unfinished Agenda" Myra Sadker, David Sadker, Lynn Fox and Melinda Salata, pgs 220-226
Kimmel: "Warrior Narratives in the Kindergarten Classroom: Renegotiating the Social Contract" pgs 227-243
Kimmel: "'What About the Boys?' What the Current Debates Tell Us – and Don't Tell Us – About Boys in School" Michael Kimmel, pgs 243-262

Tuesday, October 9th *Fall break – no classes*

Work

- Thursday, October 11th Kimmel: "The Gendered Workplace" Michael Kimmel, pg 263
Kimmel: "Hierarchies, Jobs, Bodies: A Theory of Gendered Organizations" Joan Acker, pgs 264-277
- Tuesday, October 16th Kimmel: "Bringing the Men Back In: Sex Differentiation and the Devaluation of Women's Work" Barbara F. Reskin, pgs 277-291
Kimmel: "The Glass Escalator: Hidden Advantages for Men in the 'Female' Professions" Christine Williams, pgs 291-307
Written Assignment Three Due

Marriage/partnerships

- Thursday, October 18th Kimmel: "Gendered Intimacies" Michael Kimmel, pg 351
WebCT: Bailey, "The Economy of Dating"
- Tuesday, October 23rd Kimmel: "The Feminization of Love" Francesca M. Cancian, pgs 352-363
- Thursday, October 25th Kimmel: "Dating and Romantic Relationships Among Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youths" Ritch C. Savin-Williams, pgs 382-395
Written Assignment Four Due

Tuesday, October 30th – ***Exam Two***

Family

- Thursday, November 1st Kimmel: "The Gendered Family" Michael Kimmel, pg 169
WebCT: di Leonardo "The Female World of Cards and Holidays: Women, Families, and the Work of Kinship"
- Tuesday, November 6th Kimmel: "Household Labor and the Routine Production of Gender" Scott Coltrane, pgs 186-206
- Thursday, November 8th Kimmel: "The Transformation of Family Life" Lillian Rubin, pgs 206-218
Written Assignment Five Due

Sexuality/Pornography

Tuesday, November 13th Webct: “Should Pornography Be Banned as a Threat to Women?”
WebCT: Tiefer “Feminisms and Pornographies” and “Some Harms to Women of Restrictions on Sexually Related Expression”

Thursday, November 15th – *Exam Three Part One* (Family and Sexuality)

Body

Tuesday, November 20th Kimmel: “The Gendered Body” Michael Kimmel, pg 308
Kimmel: “The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity” Susan Bordo, pgs 309-326
Kimmel: “Masculinities and Men’s Health: Moving Toward Post-Superman Era Prevention” Don Sabo, pgs 327-344

Thursday, November 22nd *Thanksgiving break – no classes*

Popular culture

Tuesday, November 27th WebCT: Hollander, “Doing Studs: The Performance of Gender and Sexuality on Late-Night Television”

Thursday, November 29th WebCT: Strate, “Beer Commercials: A Manual on Masculinity”

Tuesday, December 4th – *Exam Three Part Two* (Body and Popular Culture)

Thursday, December 6th