

**SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER**  
**SOC SPRING 2007**  
**Fridays 9-11:45am**

Instructor: Chantal Krcmar  
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Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9-10:30am, and by appointment  
Office location: Activity Room 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, classroom bldg.)  
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**Course Description**

This course will introduce you to the study of gender by focusing on a number of discrete but overlapping topics, such as gender and intimate relationships, women and work, images of gender, and gender and violence. Throughout the semester we will be examining the ways in which the social construction of gender serves to structure our lives and guide our behavior. We will be focusing on the meaning of gender for men, women and transgendered individuals, as well as the ways in which gender intersects with race/ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation. In examining these topics we will be critiquing various theories that seek to explain the gendered organization of our world. In this way, students should leave this course with a greater understanding of gender issues, as well as the ability to evaluate social scientific theory.

**Required Texts:**

Kimmel, Michael. The Gendered Society (GS)  
Kimmel, Michael. The Gendered Society Reader (R)

\*\*\* I will give you any additional readings you may need.

**Course Requirements**

**Class Attendance & Participation (20%)**

Attendance is not simply physical presence. It means being attentive. The course will only work if everyone comes to class prepared: (i) sharing insights from the texts and videos, and from one's lived experiences; and (ii) raising critical questions, and responding to questions and comments raised by students and instructor. You will be given in-class assignments and pop quizzes that will count toward your participation grade.

Attendance will be strictly observed. Attendance means coming to class on time, and not leaving until the session is over. Exceptions will be made for illness or family emergencies. Refer to #3 under "Important Miscellaneous" for further details.

**Research Paper (30%)**

You will write a 6-8 page research paper using academic resources. Citations are required. Details about paper topics and expectations to follow.

**PLEASE print your research papers on scrap paper or double-sided (if your printers have that option).**

**Class Presentations (20%)**

You will present (in small groups) information on topics of gender violence in a cross-cultural context (i.e. female genital mutilation, sex trafficking, etc.). We should all come away from your presentations with information on what it is, how prevalent it actually is, where it is practiced, how it is similar or different from other violent practices in the USA, etc. In addition to the presentation, you must turn in a two-three page paper about your topic and a Works Cited list. More details to follow, of course.

**Exams (30%)**

There will be two in-class exams that will consist of short essays.

**Plagiarism:** No plagiarism will be allowed in student papers, and the corresponding work will be dismissed with no grade percentage (and no make-up possibility). Any ideas or texts you borrow from must be clearly referenced, and supplied with an accurate bibliography. Each and every citation and passage quoted must be meaningful and relevant to the context of the essay/paper, and the reason for the use must be clearly elaborated in your own words before and/or after the quotation. NO PARAPHRASING is acceptable, and will be treated as plagiarism; a passage in your text is EITHER borrowed from someone else, which then should be in quotes and clearly referenced with page numbers, OR are your own ideas and expressed in your own words without any "floating" citations.

### **IMPORTANT MISCELLANEOUS:**

1. This syllabus is to act as a rough guide for the semester, but it is not set in stone. The dates may shift a bit. I also may slightly alter some of the readings or the assignments we do. Each group of students moves at a different pace and gets fascinated by certain topics. I want to honor this particular group's dynamic. If you are the type of student that gets frustrated by syllabus changes, please do not take this class. Having fun with this class requires flexibility!
2. There will be guest speakers during some classes. I have not put them on the syllabus because they often have to change their engagement with us at the last minute. I will alert you about up-coming guest speakers when they have confirmed.
3. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting class notes, articles, and any assignments I give during class from a fellow student. I will not re-teach a class that you have missed.
4. Excused absences: Only a signed doctor's note (for you, your child or an elderly or disabled person for whom you are responsible) or proof of family emergency will be acceptable. Those are the only reasons you may reschedule the exam or hand in a paper or project late. **Otherwise, I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK. It is unfair to other students who have worked hard to complete assignments on time. If you have a valid reason to turn in an assignment late or take an exam at a different time, you MUST TALK TO ME BEFORE THE DUE DATE.**
5. You must silence all cell phones, pagers and beepers during class. I will confiscate them for the class period if they go off.
6. This class is very interactive. That does not mean it is a free-for-all. Common courtesy is expected of all of us (that includes me!). All side conversations must cease during class and we must give attention to those who speak during class discussion. I will ask students to leave the classroom if they cannot conduct themselves in a respectful manner.
7. If you require certain accommodations for test-taking, please see me before the exam.
8. There will be extra credit opportunities during the course of the semester.

### **Attendance**

In addition to knowing your attendance practices from in-class assignments that you complete, I will also take attendance every class period. As you know, attendance figures prominently in your final class grade.

### **Course Evaluation**

<b><u>Grades</u></b>	<b><u>Equivalent</u></b>		<b><u>Quality Points</u></b>
A	94-	100	4.0
A-	90-	93	3.7
B+	87-	89	3.3
B	83-	86	3.0
B-	80-	82	2.7

C+	77-	79	2.3
C	73-	76	2.0
C-	70-	72	1.7
D+	67-	69	1.3
D	63-	66	1.0
D-	60-62		0.7
F			0.0

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; **clearly document the sources of the material you use from others**; and act at all times with honor. **If you ever present someone else's work as your own** (This comes in the form of cheating on assignments or exams and/or plagiarizing when writing essays and papers.), you will **automatically fail** that particular assignment.

### **College Withdrawal Policy**

Students may withdraw, in writing at the Registrar's Office, for any reason until the end of the 10th week of classes. From the 11th week through the end of the 13th week, a student may withdraw with the signature of the instructor or advisor.

### **Disabilities Statement**

In addition to contacting me, if you have a disability which may affect your work in this course, please contact Chris Scarborough (892-5751) if you have a learning disability or ADD. Please contact Judy Hilburger (892-5744) or Matt Liscum (383-5240) if you have a physical, visual, hearing, or psychiatric disability.

### **Cellular Phones and Beepers**

Students are notified that cellular phones and beepers are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource Center **only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode**. Vibrating mode is not allowed, as it can sometimes be heard! **Under no circumstances are you to answer your phone or text message in class. If I see you answering your phone or text messaging, I will take your phone til the end of class.**

When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class, so that together they can arrive at an agreement.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

**1/19**

Class introduction

film: *Billy Elliott*

**1/26**

Gender and Biology

GS, chapters 1 & 2; R, Sapolsky

**2/2**

Cultural Constructions of Gender GS, chapter 3; R, Sanday

<b>2/9</b> Psychological Perspectives	GS, chapter 4; R, Deaux and Major; film: <i>But I'm a Cheerleader</i>
<b>2/16</b> Social Constructivist Approaches	GS, chapter 5; R, West and Zimmerman; additional reading: "What it Means to be Gendered Me"
<b>2/23</b> Gender and Education Gender and Family	GS, chapter 7; R, Sadker, et.al GS, chapter 6; R, Coltrane <b>class trip to Toys R Us</b>
<b>3/2</b> Gender and Work	GS, chapter 8; R, Williams; R, Reskin; Film: <i>Fast Food Women</i> ; <b>class presentation topics due</b>
<b>3/9</b> Friendship and Love	GS, chapter 9; R, Cancian; R, Swain
<b>3/16</b>	<b>EXAM #1</b>
<b>3/23</b>	<b>NO CLASSES (Spring Break)</b>
<b>3/30</b> Sexualities	GS, chapter 10; Film: <i>The Brandon Teena Story</i> or <i>Body Image for Boys</i>
<b>4/6</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b>
<b>4/13</b> Gender and Violence	GS, chapter 11; Film: <i>Not a Love Story</i> ; R, Dobash, et.al; R: Cohn
<b>4/20</b>	<b>Class presentations</b>
<b>4/27</b>	<b>Class presentations (cont'd)</b>
<b>5/4</b>	<b>EXAM #2; Research paper due</b>