

SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER
SOC 211 SPRING 2009
Tuesdays 6-8:45pm

Instructor: Chantal Krmar
ckrmar@trcc.comnet.edu
Office phone: 892-5788

Office Hours: by appointment
Office location: C-162

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, 3rd ed. (GS)
Kimmel, Michael. The Gendered Society Reader, 3rd ed. (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 and engaged! The course will only work if everyone comes to class prepared. You will each be assigned certain readings to orally summarize for the class. In addition, 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 (Arriving late or leaving early by 20 minutes + counts as an absence.). Exceptions will be made for illness or family emergencies. Refer to #3 under "Important Miscellaneous" for further details.

Research Paper or Service Learning Paper (30%)

Analyze media depictions of men or women, or perform community service and analyze the experience sociologically. Guidelines on Blackboard.

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, Honor Killings, Sex Trafficking, etc.). Guidelines posted on Blackboard.

Exams (30%)

There will be three 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. Often, they have to change their engagement with us at the last minute so I will alert you about any changes in the dates of their appearance.
- 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. If you attend any three activities on campus and write a one-page essay describing the event and applying at least three sociological concepts to it, you'll get an additional half-letter grade on your final grade.

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

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>		<u>Quality Points</u>
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.

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 until 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.

Email Communication

Email to my TRCC account—not through Blackboard!

When and if you ever send me an email, you must send it from an email account that looks legitimate. I will not open emails from accounts such as hotbabe@yahoo.com or pimpmaster@hotmail.com or any other email address that reads suspiciously like a pornography address. I highly suggest that you get an email account for school communication that includes your name or some other respectable words.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1/27 Introduction & Ordained by Nature: GS, chapters 1 & 2; in-class assignment: gender continuum

2/3 Spanning the World: GS, chapter 3; R, Lorber, Sapolsky, Herdt, West & Fenstermaker; in-class assignment: What if you had been born a different gender?

2/10 "So That Explains It": GS, chapter 4; R, Hyde, Pascoe

2/17 Social Construction of Gender Relations: GS, chapter 5; R, West & Zimmerman, Dozier

2/24 Toys R Us trip

3/3 Gendered Family: GS, chapter 6; R, Popenoe, Coltrane; **EXAM #1 DUE**

3/10 Gender of Violence: GS, chapter 12; R, Cohn, Dobash, et.al, Sanday; guest speaker: Darcy Fulsom of the Southeastern CT Women's Center

3/17 No class...Spring break!

3/24 Gendered Classroom: GS, chapter 7; R, Zittleman, Reay, Ferguson; **Toys R Us essay due**

3/31 Gendered Work: GS, chapter 8; R, Williams, Reskin, Erickson & Pierce; class presentation prep time;
EXAM #2 DUE

4/7 Gendered Media: GS, chapter 9; R, Milkie, Jenkins, Kimmel; film: *Killing Us Softly*

4/14 Gendered Intimacies: GS, chapter 10; R, Cancian, Lamb, Sprecher & Toro-Morn, England, et.al; film: *But I'm a Cheerleader*

4/21 Gendered Body: GS, chapter 11; R, Sabo, Sen, McKenna & Kessler

4/28 class debates

5/5 class presentations

5/12 class presentations

NOTE: EXAM #3 and Research paper or Service Learning Paper due by 4pm on 5/15 in my office or in my mailbox.