

St. Francis Xavier University
Sociology of Gender/Women and Gender Studies 203
Soci/Wmgs 203 - Fall 2017
(Abbreviated syllabus - see detailed syllabus on Moodle)

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Office Hours: Tues 11-12 & Thursday 10-12

Course Objectives:

From a sociological perspective we will examine the way sex and gender relations influence patterns of behaviour in society. Part of this examination includes questioning the assumptions of sociology and other disciplines that study the social world. We will address recent research and theory that sociologists and feminists have produced. Gender is one of the most salient characteristics in our society. Gender is the first thing you notice about another person and your assessment of a person's gender shapes your expectations of that person. These expectations place very real constraints and limitations on individuals. The sociology of gender focuses on the social construction of gender. Other theories of gender such as biological explanations will be discussed in comparison to a sociological approach. The course will begin with an examination of key theoretical approaches to the study of gender. Special attention will be paid to how gender is constructed at the level of society as well as how we engage in the re-creation and construction of gender in our everyday lives. This work will also include an examination of the various institutions in our society (e.g. education, work) to explore the ways gender differences and inequalities are perpetuated. We will also consider the effects of our own, and *others*, interactions within these institutions. In addition, since gender does not exist alone, it will be discussed in relation to its intersection with other social locations such as race, ethnicity, class & sexuality.

Throughout the course we will examine current events that highlight the importance of gender, using these examples to illustrate key concepts and theories.

We will address the following questions:

What is gender? What is sex? What are the forces that shape gender? How does gender help us understand issues of race, class, and sexuality? What happens when we don't live up to gender expectations?

One goal of this class is to help you gain a better understanding of gender and its effects, how it pervades all parts of our culture and lives, and also begin to question the assumptions, expectations, and requirements of gender.

Expectations/goals (see full syllabus on Moodle)

Grade breakdown:

Mid- term Quiz	30%
Essay	25%
Final Exam	45%

CLASS SCHEDULE - *articles may change (you will be notified in advance via email) See syllabus on Moodle for details. All Course Readings are available electronically

Week 1 Sept 5 & 7 Biology & Gender

1. *X: A Fabulous Child Story* by L. Gould
2. Can you Really raise a genderless child?
3. *Beyond the Binaries: Depolarizing the Categories of Sex, Sexuality, and Gender*, by Judith Lorber
4. *Believing is seeing: Biology as Ideology* by Judith Lorber

Week 2 Sept 12 & 14 The construction of Gender

5. *Undoing Gender* by Francine M. Deutsch
6. *Recovering the feminine other: masculinity, femininity, and gender hegemony* by Mimi Schipper in *Theory and Society* (2007)
7. *Hybrid masculinities: New Directions in the Sociology of Men and Masculinities* Bridges & Pascoe

Week 3 Sept 19 & 21 Sexuality - Gendered relationships

8. *Coming out and crossing over: Identity Formation and Proclamation in a Transgender Community* P. Gagne, R. Tewksbury & D. McGaughey
9. Doing Gender, Doing Heteronormativity: 'Gender Normals,' Transgender People, and the Social Maintenance of Heterosexuality Kristen Schilt University of Chicago Laurel Westbrook Grand

Week 4 Sept 26 & 28 Gendered relationships

10. *Protecting Emphasized Femininity and Hegemonic Masculinity in the Hookup Culture* by D. Currier 2013
11. The "Sassy Woman" and the "Performing Man": Heterosexual casual sex advice and the (re)constitution of gendered subjectivities by P. Farvid and V. Braunc
12. *It Just Happens: Negotiating Casual Heterosexual Sex* Melani Beres
13. "We want them to be as heterosexual as possible": Fathers talk about their teen children's sexuality. Solebello, Nicholas, Sinikka Elliott. 2011.

Week 5 Oct 3 & 5 Gendered bodies

14. Chapter 2 'Are you my Mother? My Father?' *Gendering Procreation* (2007) by J. Lorber & L. Moore
15. *The Body and the reproduction of Feminity* - Susan Bordo
16. *Health and the social construction of Masculinities in Men's health magazines* by Arran Stibbe
17. *High School Rugby, the Body and the Reproduction of Hegemonic Masculinity* by R. Light & D. Kirk

Week 6 Oct 10 & 12 Theory

18. History of feminist theory
19. *A Peculiar Eclipsing: Women's Exclusion from Man's Culture* by: D. Smith (1978)

Quiz October 17**Week 7 Oct 19 epistemology**

20. *Intersectionality as buzzword: A sociology of science perspective on what makes a feminist theory successful* by Kathy Davis

Week 8 Oct 24 & 26

21. *Feminist theories of knowledge* by Jody Bart, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Women and Gender Studies
22. *The project of feminist epistemology: Perspectives from a Non-Western Feminist* by Uma Narayan,

Week 9 Oct 31 & Nov 2

23. *Race and Gender in Families at work* by R. Glaudier
24. *The Glass Escalator, Revisited* by Christie L. Williams
25. *Gendered Challenge, Gendered Response : Confronting the Ideal Worker Norm in a White-Collar Organization* by Erin L. Kelly, S. K. Ammons, K. Chermack & P. Moen
26. *Wham Bam, am I a Man? Unemployed men talk about masculinities* by S. Willott & C. Griffin
27. Household labour and the routine production of gender by S. Coltrane

Assignment Due IN CLASS: Nov 2 TBA**Week 10 -11 Nov 7, 9, 14 & 16 Global connections**

28. Film: film *Who's counting: M. Waring on Sex, Lies and global economics*
29. *Domestic distinctions: Constructing difference among paid domestic worker in Toronto* by B. Steill and K. England
30. *The causes and characteristics of contemporary slavery: impacts on women and girls* by Nana C. Derby
31. *Migrant female domestic workers: Debating the economic, social, and political impacts in Singapore* by: Brenda S.A. Yeoh. Shirlena Huang.

Weeks 12 Nov 21-28 Violence

32. *The myth of sexual symmetry in Marital Violence* by R. Dobash et. Al.
33. *Intimate male partner violence in the migration process* by S. Guruge, N. Khanlou and D. Gastaldo
34. *Gendered racial violence and spatialized Justice: the murder of Pamela George* by S. Razac
35. *Rape prone vs Rape free campus cultures* by P. Sanday
36. *The rape prone culture of academic contexts* by P. Yancy Martin (2015)
37. *Good guys don't rape* by: C. J. Pascon

Week 13 Nov 30 Resistance

38. *The F Word: College Students' Definitions of a Feminist* by Shannon Houvouras and J. Scott Carter Source: **Sociological Forum**, Vol. 23, No. 2 (Jun., 2008), pp. 234-256