Sociology of Sex and Gender

Sociology 21:920:337

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Dept of Sociology and Anthropology
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Office Hours: Wednesday 11:30-12:30 and by appointment
Office: Hill Hall, Room 631

Fall 2011
MW, 10-11:20
CPS-104

Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to the sociology of sex and gender. It seeks to develop a critical understanding of sexuality and gender in relation to social and institutional processes. We will address how and why categories of gender, sex and sexuality are constructed and used in everyday life. We will answer questions regarding how institutions such as the family, economy, and political structures are critical sites for examining sex and gender constructs, as well as examine how gender categories influence and are influenced by cultural organization of sexuality and its individual expression. We will also investigate the ways that sex and gender interact with, and are influenced by such factors of identity as race and class. In this way we will address issues of power, privilege and inequality. While this course mainly pertains to US culture, we will situate variance in gender construction across time and place by examining gender constructions in other cultures.

Course Objectives:

1. Explain and utilize the concepts and theories in sociology of sex and gender
2. Describe the relationship between sex, sexuality and gender.
3. Recognize the importance of culture, socialization and social structure to human sexual behavior, as well as the power structures implicit in varied constructions of gender.
4. Identify the role of institutions (i.e, the family, economy, political structures, medical field) in developing and maintaining sex and gender constructs
5. Describe the way sex and gender are intimately connected with other social markers such as race and class

Course Requirements: It is recommended that students complete an Introduction to Sociology course prior to taking this course. Students should be familiar with the course requirements and the schedule detailed in the syllabus. It is expected that students will come to class prepared, having read the assigned material and ready to discuss the topic of the day. Participation will be dependent on student involvement in the classroom as well as completion of assignments. At times this can be a very sensitive subject matter. All students are expected to treat others with respect and to listen to the views of their peers with an open mind. Debate and discussion is very much encouraged but this must
be conducted with decorum. In addition, please be considerate of your classmates and put away cell phones upon the start of class. Points will be deducted from your final grade if you are using your cell phone in any way during our sessions.

Please feel free to come to my office hours or talk to me if there are any questions, comments, concerns, etc that you have with the course or with your semester. I’m happy to talk and help.

**Student Observations/Short Papers:** (2) This is an opportunity for you to take what you are learning in the classroom and apply it to the real world. Each observation paper should be 4-5 pages. Details for each paper will be discussed in class.

**Blackboard Posts:** (3) Each student will be responsible for posting discussion questions based upon the reading. These should be substantial and critical points that show you have engaged with the reading. This will be done three times over the course of the semester. Posts are due two days before the assigned reading is supposed to be discussed. Students will be assigned posting dates on the first day of class.

**Quizzes:** (5) Quizzes will be on the assigned material for the day.

**Participation:** Class participation will count towards your final grade. Our class will have a large discussion component and I hope that all students will engage with the material in the classroom. Your grade will be based upon attendance and participation while in class. You may miss no more than three classes before you start to be penalized for low attendance.

**Final Exam:** There will be one in class final exam on the last day. The exam will consist of multiple choice and essay questions.

*Late work will be subject to penalty. 10% will be deducted from the assignment for everyday it is late. No make up exams allowed.*

**Grading Criteria:**

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<tr>
<td>Student Observations</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Blackboard Posts</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Grading Scale:**
184-200 points: A
176-183 points: B+
166-175 points: B
158-165 points: C+
145-157 points: C
136-144 points: D+
124-135 points: D
123 points or below: F

**Academic Honesty and Cheating:** Students submitting plagiarized material or cheating on exams in class will fail the course and be subject to disciplinary proceedings. What is plagiarism? Handing in someone else’s work with your name on it. Cutting and pasting work by someone else into your own work, and handing it in as your own work, or helping someone else to cheat. See “Academic Integrity” guidelines for Rutgers if you would like more information, or speak with me. [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/)

**Text:** Please purchase the reader assigned for the course. Any additional material used in the course will be posted on blackboard.

**Course Schedule:**

9/7: Intro to course, Sexual Life Now

9/12: Lecture on Research and Theory; reading posted on BB

Gender and Selected Topics:

9/14: Lecture on Gender; readings posted on BB


**QUIZ 1**


10/5: Stephen R. Wester; Tracy A. McDonough; Maureen White; David L. Vogel; Lareena Taylor, "Using Gender Role Conflict Theory in Counseling Male-to-Female Transgender Individuals," American Counseling Association, 2010

STUDENT OBSERVATION #1 DUE

10/10 and 10/12: Film Screening in Class: Transamerica

QUIZ 2


Sexuality:

10/24: Introduction to Sexual Development and Sexuality, reading on BB


QUIZ 3

11/2: Film Screening: Middle Sexes: Redefining He and She

Sex Work and Violence

11/7: Introduction to Issues of sex work and violence, reading on BB

QUIZ 4

11/14 and 11/16: Film Screening: Very Young Girls

STUDENT OBSERVATION #2 DUE ON THE 16th

Press, 2008

11/23: NO CLASS


Sexual Expression and Sexual Health

11/30: CDC report on Sexual Health, posted on BB

12/5: Variations in Sexual Expression, on BB

QUIZ 5

12/7: Film Screening: All of Us

12/12: Review

**Please note our final exam is scheduled for 12/21 from 8:30-11:30.