Sex and Gender
SOCIOLOGY 250
Online Course Summer 2015

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Pronouns: he/his/him or ze/zir//zim

About the Course
In this course we will examine sex and gender from a sociological perspective. My goals are, first, to challenge you to think deeply and critically about the subject matter of gender, and second, to interest you in the sociological perspective and social theorizing. Sociologists look to social factors to explain gender phenomena. This distinguishes us from psychologists, who look to individual mental processes, and biologists, who look to the physical realm of genes and hormones.

We will begin by addressing the social construction of sex and gender, and examining what is “natural” about the presumed differences between women and men. We will then look at gender from the perspective of cultural history, examining the evolution of the gender identities and practices that are familiar to us today. We will also examine how gender is enacted through sexuality, divisions of domestic and paid labor, and bodily projects.

This is an online course, which will allow you to work at times of the day convenient to you. Be aware that as a summer course, it is intensive, and there will be work due on most days.

Course Requirements
Please read this requirements section of the syllabus carefully, because the instructions may at first seem complex. This is because I am attempting to give you flexibility and to use multiple methods of assessment—quizzes and a variety of discussion exercises—so that people with different learning styles will all be able to flourish in the course.

Assignments in this course are listed in this syllabus by date. There are four components to your regular work: (1) to complete course readings, (2) to read my associated lectures, (3) to take quizzes on the readings and lectures, and (4) to participate in a variety of discussion board exercises. In a typical week you will cover four topics, taking two quizzes and making four discussion forum posts. Your lowest quiz and two lowest discussion exercise grades will be dropped, so that the inevitable bumps in the road (illness, computer issues) need not panic you.

If you wish, it is possible to do some of the work ahead of time to give you more flexibility in your schedule. Readings, PowerPoint lectures, and quizzes can all be done before the listed deadlines. Initial exercise posts can be written early as well, but be aware that many of the exercises require you to respond to a classmate’s post. Thus, your ability to complete the exercises early depends on there being at least one other classmate also working ahead.
A bit about each course component:

**Readings**
The required readings have been placed on D2L in the Content section for your convenience. You do not need to purchase any books for this course—all the readings are available on D2L. This syllabus will tell you when the readings are due. In doing your readings for the week, just look for the main points—don't get bogged down in all the details. I will point out in the lectures what I consider to be the central points from the readings. If you try to read everything as if you need to memorize it all, you will feel overwhelmed.

**PowerPoint Lectures**
After doing the reading, you should read the associated lecture material as noted in this syllabus. These lectures are the core of the course and should be read carefully. The quizzes will be based directly on the PowerPoint lectures.

**Quizzes**
Your comprehension of the course material will be tested by two regular weekly quizzes based on the PowerPoint lectures. The quizzes must be taken before 10 PM on Mondays and Thursdays. Each quiz will cover two lectures. Full instructions for taking the quizzes are in the Quiz Guide document, which you should read prior to taking your first quiz. There will be 11 quizzes, each 12 questions long. You will have two chances to take each quiz. If you are not satisfied with your score on the first try, you may take it again and the higher of your two scores will be your quiz grade. Be aware that each time you take a quiz, you will get a random 12 questions from a larger pool I've written, so you will not see all the same questions each time. Your top 10 final quiz scores will be included in your course grade, for a maximum of 12 points each or 120 total. Since your lowest quiz grade will be dropped, there is no need to panic if you miss a quiz. Read the Quizzes document for more information.

**Exercises**
You will participate in regular exercises via the course discussion boards, with postings due before 10 PM on the dates listed in this syllabus. You will find descriptions of the exercises in the Discussions section of the D2L site. The exercises are varied, and will give you a chance to apply the course concepts. A full description of what is required is in the Online Exercise Guide, but basically, to do well on the exercises you should:

1. Make sure you cite at least two concepts from the relevant readings or lecture when writing your posts. Cite the author and page number, or lecture letter and slide number.
2. Make sure you answer the question posed in the description of the exercise.
3. Compose thoughtful, substantial, well-written postings.

There will be 12 exercises; each is worth 12 points. Your two lowest exercise grades will be dropped, so your maximum total will be 10 x 12, or 120 points.
Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

10 top quiz scores (of 11), 12 points each → 120 maximum points
10 top exercise scores (of 12), 12 points each → 120 maximum points

Course Total = 240 maximum points

Course Communication

This may seem a very basic point, but bear in mind that this is an academic course when you are communicating with your peers and with me. You undoubtedly visit different sorts of online environments, which employ a variety of styles of communication. In an academic environment like this one, you are expected to write with proper English grammar, in full sentences, avoiding any texting conventions (ur, 2, btw, etc.). Posts to the course discussions should be respectful and pertinent to the topic. I do want you to be able to enjoy class community, so I have created an Off-Topic discussion forum where you can exchange messages with peers about movies, current events, your favorite cat video of the week, or whatever you like.

If you have questions about an assignment, using the course technology, or a substantive point, you should post it to the Course Questions discussion forum. As members of a learning community, you are all invited to answer your classmates’ questions. I will check the Course Questions forum several times per week to respond to issues, but often you will find that your question is answered by a peer.

Most issues can be addressed in the Course Questions forum. If you need to discuss something more personal, you should contact me via email. Please title your email “Soc 250: [insert topic here]” and write the email like any professional letter. I will check my email once daily on weekdays, and respond to substantive questions within 24 hours. I may not check my email on weekends. Also, please note that if you contact me regarding an issue that can be addressed in the Course Questions forum, I may reply with a message directing you to pose your question there.

If you have technological problems, call the UWM Help Desk at 414-229-4040 or send an email to help@uwm.edu.

Sociology of Sex and Gender: Readings and Assignments

Monday 8 June

Read:

Syllabus, Quizzes document, Group Exercises document

Post a photo to the Off-Topic Discussion Board to introduce yourself

Tuesday 9 June

Read:
Sex and Gender Terminology document

Complete Introductory Discussion Exercise

Wednesday–Thursday 10-11 June

Read:


Read Lectures A and B
Complete Quiz AB
Complete Exercise 2, part 1

Friday 12 June

Complete Exercise 2, part 2

Begin reading:


Saturday 13 June

Complete Exercise 2, part 3
Continue readings listed under 13 June

Sunday-Monday 14-15 June

Complete readings listed under 13 June
Read Lectures C and D
Complete Quiz CD
Complete Exercise 3, part 1

Tuesday 16 June

Complete Exercise 3, part 2

Begin reading:


Wednesday-Thursday 17-18 June

Complete readings listed under 17 June
Read Lectures E and F
Complete Quiz EF
Complete Exercise 4, part 1

Friday 19 June

Complete Exercise 4, part 2

Begin reading:


**Saturday-Monday 20-22 June**

Complete readings listed under 20 June  
Read Lectures G and H  
Complete Quiz GH  
Complete Exercise 5, part 1

**Tuesday 23 June**

Complete Exercise 5, part 2  
Begin Reading:


**Wednesday-Thursday 24-25 June**

Complete readings listed under 24 June  
Read Lectures I and J  
Complete Quiz IJ  
Complete Exercise 6, part 1

**Friday 26 June**

Complete Exercise 6, part 2  
Begin reading:


**Saturday-Monday 27-29 June**
Complete readings listed under 27 June
Read Lectures K and L
Complete Quiz KL

Tuesday 30 June

Complete Exercise 7
Begin reading:


Wednesday 1 July

Complete readings listed under 1 July
Read Lectures M and N
Complete Exercise 8, part 1

Thursday 2 July

Complete Quiz MN
Complete Exercise 8, part 2
Begin reading:


July 4th Holiday—no work Friday July 3rd!

Sunday-Monday 5--6 July

Complete readings listed under 3 July
Read Lectures O and P
Complete Quiz OP
Complete Exercise 9, part 1

Tuesday 7 July

Complete Exercise 9, part 2
Begin reading:


Wednesday–Thursday 8-9 July

Complete readings listed under 8 July
Read Lectures Q and R
Complete Quiz QR
Complete Exercise 10, part A

Friday 10 July

Complete Exercise 10, Part B
Begin reading:


Saturday-Monday 11-13 July

Complete readings listed under 11 July
Read Lectures S and T
Complete Quiz ST
Complete Exercise 11, part 1

Tuesday 14 July

Complete Exercise 11, part 2
Begin reading:


**Wednesday 15 July**

Continue readings listed under 15 July
Begin Reading Lectures U and V

**Thursday 16 July**

Complete readings listed under 15 July
Complete Reading Lectures U and V
Complete Quiz UV

**Friday 17 July-Saturday 18 July**

Read Lectures W and X
Complete Exercise 12

**UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that web page is: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

**Students with Disabilities.** Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf

**Religious Observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm

**Students called to active Military Duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: http://www3.uwm.edu/des/web/registration/militarycallup.cfm
**Incompletes.** You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above.

The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf

**Discriminatory Conduct** (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf

**Academic Misconduct.** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html

**Complaint Procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S49.7.htm

**Grade Appeal Procedures.** Procedures for student grade appeal can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S28.htm

**Final Examination Policy.** Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S22.htm

**Book Royalties.** In accord with Department of Sociology policy, the royalties from the sale of faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities for UWM students in Sociology.