Sociology 250: Sociology of Sex and Gender

Bolton B56 – Monday & Wednesday 12:30 – 1:45 PM

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Fall 2016

Instructor: Daniel Bartholomay
Pronouns in Use: He, Him, His
Office: Bolton 722
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30–2:30 PM; Wednesdays 2:00–3:00 PM; Or by appointment
Email: bartho23@uwm.edu

Course Description:

Why can women wear pants, but men can’t wear dresses? Why are the parents expected to assign either a “male” or “female” identity to their child at birth? Why – nearly one hundred years after women gained the right to vote – has our nation STILL not had a female president?

You may have considered questions such as these before, or even engaged with others in conversation regarding similar topics. More often than not, responses such as “it’s just the way it is” are the common retort when discussing inequalities related to sex and gender. In the field of sociology, however, we have much more to offer than “it’s just the way it is.”

This course will examine how gender, sex, and sexuality influence multiple dimensions of social life. This exploration will involve developing an understanding and appreciation for the ways WE as a society produce and reproduce socially shared definitions and expectations of gender, sex, and sexuality. The work we do in this course will involve critically examining scholarly research, academic theories, and contemporary social and political issues through a sociological lens. Through independent study, interactive classroom discussions, and group projects we will tackle complex questions existing within the field of the sociology of gender.

Course Objectives:

Upon completing this course, students will...

1. ... develop a sociological understanding and appreciation for the power and complexities of gender and sexuality in our society.

2. ... be able to use social theories to explain various issues of gender and sexual inequality.

3. ... feel knowledgeable and confident in their abilities to conduct social research.

4. ... think critically when exposed to questions, discussions, or instances of gender and sexual inequality in their own lives and be able to articulate potential social causes and solutions for such injustices.
Course Structure & Requirements:

Come to class Prepared and ready to Participate!

- This course is designed to be very interactive, and it will be difficult to engage in meaningful discussion if assigned readings and other coursework are not completed on time. Students who complete their assigned readings before class will be in a better position to earn full credit on in-class assignments.

We don’t all need to agree, but we do need to treat each other with Respect.

- We will be discussing some complex issues that will likely spur debates and differing points of view. That said, this classroom is a safe space, meaning we will treat each other with respect and integrity. Anyone who speaks or acts in a hostile or disrespectful manner will be asked to leave and will not be eligible to receive any points that may be earned for that class period. This should not discourage students from presenting questions or perspectives that contradict those of others. However, when speaking in class, we all need to present our thoughts, perspectives, and questions in a way that is inquisitive and conducive of learning rather than combative or condescending.

Additional Expectations/Requirements for Classroom Etiquette:

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism:

You may not copy an author’s words or ideas without citation! Plagiarism includes directly quoting or paraphrasing another author without providing proper citation. Give credit where credit is due. We will discuss how to avoid plagiarism and how to appropriately use citations early in the semester. Failure to properly cite your work can result in receiving a failing grade in this course and may be reported to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences for further action.

A Note On Your Expected Time Commitment to This Class:

University Policy on Credit Hours

A 3-credit course such as this one will require a minimum of 144 hours of your time.

- Classroom time: 37.5 hours ≈ 2.5 hours/week
- Outside Preparation: 75 hours ≈ 5 hours/week
- Major Papers/Exams Prep: 31.5 hours ≈ 2 hours/week
**Recommended Text:**


***NOTE: I often only assign portions of the chapter we will be reading. The pages that need to be read will be posted on our course’s D2L website.***

All other assigned readings will also be posted on our course’s D2L website.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework:</th>
<th>Weight:</th>
<th>Point Distribution:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Class Assignments (10)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>150 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender &amp; Sexual Inequality Awareness Project</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>250 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total: 100%</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total: 500 Points</strong></td>
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A: 100-93   A-: 92-90   B+: 89-87   B: 86-83   B-: 82-80   C+: 79-77
C: 76-73   C-: 72-70   D+: 69-67   D: 66-63   D-: 62-60   F: 59 & below

**In-Class Assignments**

Throughout the course of the semester, you will be asked to complete a number of in-class assignments that assess your understanding or address your questions or concerns regarding that day’s discussion/content. These assignments will vary in form, but may include pop quizzes on assigned readings, reflections on class discussions/activities, etc.

- A total of 11 assignments will be collected throughout the semester, each worth 15 points.
- Students will be expected to complete at 10 of the 11 assignments.
  - 10 assignments x 15 possible points apiece = 150 points.
- You will not know which days the assignments will be collected.
- The assignments will be completed/submitted in class, and **no make-up assignments will be given**. I understand that you may get ill or have appointments that prevent you from attending every class, but that is why you only need to complete 10 out of the 11 in-class assignments to attain the full 150 points for this portion of your grade.
- As an incentive to attend every class, students who complete all 11 in-class assignments will earn 10 extra credit points.
**Midterm Exam**

The purpose of the midterm is to assess what you have learned up to that point in this course. The exam will primarily consist of multiple choice and essay questions that will ask you to critically think about and analyze gender and sexuality through developing or critiquing sociological perspectives. In other words, this exam will require you to go beyond the memorization and regurgitation of concepts. To do well on the test, you will need to be able to apply the theories and concepts we covered in class and in the assigned readings to real life scenarios. The exam is worth 100 points.

**Gender & Sexual Inequality Awareness Project**

The purpose of this project is to apply the concepts and theories we cover throughout the semester to an existing or potential social problem relating to gender and/or sexual inequality at UWM. In order to complete this project, you will work in groups of 4-5 to develop and conduct a research project addressing the issue your group is examining. At the end of the semester, your group will create a poster and present the findings of your research with the intent of spreading awareness to others about issues of gender and sexual inequality occurring at UWM.

Your final grade for this project will be the sum of several components that you will complete both individually and as a group throughout the semester. So, although you will be working in groups, each student will receive an individualized grade. Specific requirements for each of these components will be provided throughout the semester.

**Reality Check:**

I acknowledge the fact that group work can be difficult, especially in the college setting. As a class, we will discuss how to overcome the challenges typical of group projects, and I will do my best to help you work effectively and efficiently within your groups.

**Additional Extra Credit**

While I am not opposed to offering additional extra credit opportunities beyond the extra points available through the in-class assignments, I leave it up to YOU to contact me individually if you would like to discuss possibilities for extra credit. I require that we meet one-on-one to discuss the course subject area(s) that would be most beneficial for you to further develop, and we would design a unique extra credit assignment based on our discussion. **All extra cred**

**Late Policy:**

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates provided on the syllabus. Assignments that are turned in late will be deducted points at the rate of 20 percent for each day that it is late. For example, if an assignment is turned in one day late, the highest grade that can be earned on that assignment is 80 percent. If the assignment is two days late, the highest grade that can be earned is 60 percent, and so on. As such, assignments that are MORE than four days late can earn no credit and will receive a score of zero.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Section 1: Sociological Foundations in Gender, Theory, and Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Wednesdays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/07: Course Introduction</td>
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#### Week 2

**09/12: Theorizing Gender**
- Read:
  1. Ryle, Chapter 1 (All)
  2. Ryle, Chapter 2 (Read pgs. posted on D2L)

**09/14: Theorizing Gender, cont.**
- Read:
  1. Risman and Davis: “From Sex Roles to Gender Structure.” (Posted on D2L)
  2. West and Zimmerman: “Doing Gender.” (Posted on D2L)

#### Week 3

**09/19: Theorizing Gender, cont.**
- Read:
  1. Ryle, Chapter 3: (Read pgs. posted on D2L)
  2. Bartholomay: "My Boyfriend’s Beef with My Drag Queen Crush"

**09/21: Conducting Social Research**
- **ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 1: Topic Identification and Sociological Relevance
  - You will complete this assignment in class and turn it in before you leave that day.

#### Week 4

**09/26: Dissecting Research Articles**
- Read:
  1. Pascoe, “Dude You’re a Fag’- Adolescent Masculinity and the Fag Discourse.” (Posted on D2L)

**09/28: Finding Scholarly Sources**
- **ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 2: Gathering Information (Submit in D2L dropbox by 5:00 PM)

**Thursday, 9/29: **
- **ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 2: Gathering Information (Submit in D2L dropbox by 5:00 PM)

### Section 2: Gender Socialization, Identity, & Expression

#### Week 5

**10/03: Gender Socialization**
- Read:
  1. Ryle, Chapter 4: (Read pgs. posted on D2L)
  2. The Truth About Genderless Babies
  3. The Science of Gender-Labeled Toys
  4. These Adults Were Raised in Gender Neutral Homes - Here's What Happened

**10/05: NO CLASS**
- I **STRONGLY** encourage everyone to use our designated class time to meet with your GSIAP groups and work on your Literature Review.

#### Week 6

**10/10: Gender & Sexuality**
- Read:
  1. Ryle, Chapter 5: (Read pgs. posted on D2L)
  2. Bisexuality Not Deemed a 'Legitimate Sexual Orientation'

**10/12: Gender & Sexuality, cont.**
- **ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 3: Literature Review
  - Read:
    1. The Construction of Your Sexuality - Rubin's Charmed Circle
    3. LGBT, Asexual Communities Clash Over Ace Inclusion

#### Week 7

**10/17: Gender & Relationships**
- Read:
  1. Ryle, Chapter 6: (Read pgs. posted on D2L)
  2. What Guys Really Think...of Tinder

**10/19: Gendered Bodies, cont.**
- Read:
  1. Ryle, Chapter 7: (Read pgs. posted on D2L)
### Week 8

**10/24:** Gendered Bodies, cont.
- **ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 4: Research Question & Methodology
  
  **Read**
  1. *Cis Gender, Trans Gender, and Intersex*
  2. *My Brother’s Pregnancy and the Making of a New American Family*
  3. *As Boys Get Fatter, Parents Worry One Body Part is Too Small*

**10/26:** Midterm Exam Review
- **ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 5: Evaluation 1

### Week 9

**10/31:** Midterm Exam Day

**11/02:** Go Over Exam

### Section 3: Gendered Institutions and Inequality

### Week 10

**11/07:** Gender, Marriage, & Family

**Read:**
1. Ryle, Chapter 8: (Read pgs. posted on D2L)
2. *It Turns Out Millennials are Pretty Retro Dads*

**11/09:** Gender, Marriage, & Family, cont.

**Read:**
2. *Same-Sex Couples More Likely to Share Chores*
3. *Same-Sex Couples Follow Gender Norms When it Comes to Household Chores*

### Week 11

**11/14:** Gender & Work

**Read:**
1. Ryle, Chapter 9: (Read pgs. posted on D2L)
2. *Gender Pay Gap Means Female Bosses Work 100 Minutes for Free Each Day*
3. *Transgender Activists See Long Road Ahead for Workplace Inclusion*

**11/16:** Gender & Work, cont.

**Read:**
- **ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 6: Data Collection & Analysis

### Week 12

**11/21:** Gender, Media, & Pop Culture

**Read:**
1. Ryle, Chapter 10. (Read pgs. posted on D2L)

**11/23:** Gender, Power, and Politics

**Read:**
1. Ryle, Chapter 11. (All)

### Week 13

**11/28:** Student-Choice Topic (readings TBD)
- **ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 7: Take-Away Item

**11/30:** NO CLASS

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

### Week 14

**12/05:** Student-Choice Topic (readings TBD)
- **ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 8: Research Poster (Completed poster templates must be submitted in D2L dropbox by 12:30 PM)

**12/07:** In-Class Poster Presentations

### Week 15

**12/12:** Gender & Sexual Inequality Awareness Fair (Location TBD)

**12/14:** Final Class Meeting

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**There is NO final exam.**

One final GSIAP research paper per group must be submitted in the D2L dropbox by Monday, December 19th at 12:30pm.
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://www4.uwm.edu/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://www4.uwm.edu/sac/

**Religious Observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following:  http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/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://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.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://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/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://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/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://www4.uwm.edu/osl/dean/conduct.cfm

**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://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S49.7.htm

**Grade Appeal Procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/upload/grievance_procedure.pdf
Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/policies/

**Final Examination Policy.** Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following:  http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/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.

Update 08/2015