Sociology 250: Sociology of Sex and Gender  
Bolton Hall B60 – M & W 2:00-3:15  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Fall 2015

Instructor: Daniel Bartholomay  
Pronouns in Use: He, Him, His  
Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-1:30, Wednesdays 3:30-4:30, or by Appointment  
Email: bartho23@uwm.edu

Course Description:

Why can women wear pants, but men can't wear dresses? Why are the parents of an intersexed baby 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 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 and sex influence multiple dimensions of social life. This exploration will involve developing an understanding and appreciation for the ways we produce and reproduce socially shared definitions and expectations of gender. Focusing on the themes of the social construction of gender and gender inequality, 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 both independent study and interactive classroom discussions and activities, we will tackle complex questions existing within the field of the sociology of gender.

Course Objectives:

Upon completing this course, students will…

1. … gain a sociological understanding and appreciation for the power and complexities of gender in our society. This understanding will be exemplified through demonstrated knowledge of social theories and research.

2. … think critically when exposed to questions, discussions, or instances of gender inequality and be able to articulate potential social causes and solutions for such injustices.

3. … be able to extend the trajectories of gender beyond the field of sociology and into multifaceted dimensions of lived experiences. This means that students from a diverse array of academic disciplines will walk away from this course being able to
apply their newly attained knowledge of gender and sexuality to their own social lives and occupational endeavors.

4. … have been exposed to and successfully completed several methods of learning and academic work, demonstrating the abilities to study independently, engage in interactive discussions, and collaborate with others in group projects.

**Course Structure & Requirements:**

- I expect students to come to class prepared to participate and engage in discussion. 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 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
**Required Text:**


**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Weight:</th>
<th>Point Distribution:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Class Assignments (10)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequality Term Project</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>300 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong> 100%</td>
<td><strong>Total:</strong> 500 Points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 12 assignments will be collected throughout the semester, each worth 10 points.

- Students will be expected to complete at least 10 of the 12 assignments.
  - 10 assignments x 10 possible points apiece = 100 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 12 in-class assignments to attain the full 100 points for this portion of your grade.

- If students complete more than the required 10 in-class assignments, they will have the opportunity to earn extra credit.
  - Each additional in-class assignment completed beyond the required 10 can earn up to 5 extra credit points. So, if a student completed all 12 in-class assignments, she/he/they has the possibility of earning 110 total points. (100 pts. for the first 10 assignments, 5 pts. for the 11th, and 5 pts. for the 12th)
Midterm Exam

The purpose of the midterm is to assess what you have learned thus far in this course. The exam will primarily consist of short answer and essay questions that will ask you to critically think about and analyze gender issues through developing or critiquing sociological theoretical perspectives. In other words, this exam will require you to go beyond the memorization and regurgitation of concepts. It will require that you are familiar enough with the theories and concepts we discuss in class that you will be able to eloquently synthesize and evaluate the presented inquiries relating to the sociology of gender. The exam is worth 100 points.

Gender & Sexual Inequality Term 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. As a class, we will discuss how to overcome the difficulties of group projects, and I will do my best to help you work effectively and efficiently within your groups.
COURSE SCHEDULE

SECTION 1: SOCIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF GENDER

Week 1: Introduction-Course Overview

W – 09/02

Week 2: Sociology Crash Course: What Is Gender?

M – 09/07: No Class. Happy Labor Day!

W – 09/09

Read:
1. Ryle, Chapter 1: pgs. 3-14.
2. Stolenberg, How Men Have (A) Sex. (on D2L)

Week 3: What’s Sociological About Gender?

M – 09/14

Read:

W – 09/16

Read:
1. “Gender Issues in the College Classroom” (on D2L)
2. Do Sexual Minority Women Make Up in Degree Attainment?
3. Gay, Black, and Male as a High Salary Trifecta

Week 4: Social Research: Studying Gender

M – 09/21

ASSIGNMENT DUE: GSIAP Component 1: Topic Identification and Sociological Relevance

Read:
1. Who Poops and Who Cares?
2. Pascoe, “Dude You’re a Fag’- Adolescent Masculinity and the Fag Discourse.” (on D2L)

W – 09/23

*Class meets in computer lab, location TBD
SECTION 2: GENDER SOCIALIZATION, IDENTITY, & EXPRESSION

Week 5: Gender Socialization

M – 09/28
**ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 2: Gathering Information

*Read:*


W – 09/30

*Read:*

1. [The Truth About Genderless Babies](#)
2. [The Science of Gender-Labeled Toys](#)

Week 6: Gender & Sexuality

M – 10/05

*Read:*

1. Ryle, Chapter 5: pgs. 159-200.

W – 10/07

**ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 3: Literature Review

*Read:*

1. [Is Bisexuality a Real Thing?](#)

Week 7: Gendered Relationships

M – 10/12

*Read:*


W – 10/14

*Read:*

1. [What Guys Think of Tinder](#)
2. [What Women Think of Tinder](#)
3. [Does Tinder Perpetuate Rape Culture?](#)

Week 8: Gendered Bodies

M – 10/19

*Read:*


W – 10/21

**ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 4: Research Question & Methodology

Midterm Review
Week 9: Midterm

**M – 10/26: MIDTERM EXAM DAY**

**W – 10/28**

**ASSIGNMENT DUE: GSIAP Component 5: Evaluation 1**

**Special Topic: Gender & Halloween**

**Read:**

1.  Girls' Halloween Costumes, Then & Now

**SECTION 3: GENDER OPPRESSION & INEQUALITY**

Week 10: Gender, Marriage, & Family

**M -11/02**

**Read:**

1.  Ryle, Chapter 8: pgs. 309-351.

**W – 11/04**

**Read:**

1.  Millennial Dads, Still Pretty Retro
2.  Same-Sex Couples More Likely to Share Chores

**WEEK 11: Gender & Work**

**M – 11/09**

**Read:**


**W – 11/11**

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

**Read:**

1.  Women Work for Free 100 Minutes Each Day
2.  Long Road Ahead for Transgender Rights in the Work Place

**Week 12: Gender, Media, & Pop Culture**

**M – 11/16**

**Read:**


**W – 11/18**
Week 13: Gender, Power & Politics

M – 11/23

**ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 7: Generating Solutions & Application

**Read:**

W – 11/25 – No Class. Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 14: Special Topics In Gender (Readings TBD)

M – 11/30

**ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 8: Takeaway Item

W – 12/02

Week 15: Presentations

M – 12/07

**ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 9: In-Class Poster Presentations

W – 12/09

**ASSIGNMENT DUE:** GSIAP Component 10: Gender Inequality Awareness Fair Poster Presentations

Week 16: Closing Thoughts On Sex & Gender

M – 12/14

**ASSIGNMENT DUE:** Project Component 11: Evaluation 2

FINAL EXAM: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH 3:00 PM

There is NO final exam for this class. Rather, you will have to submit BOTH a hard AND an electric copy of your final project paper **(Component 12)** on or before Friday, December 18th by 5:00pm.

*The topics and readings on this syllabus are subject to change. Any changes will be communicated to the class in a timely manner.*
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