

SOCI 3280: SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER

Maymester 2009

Daily, 12:30pm – 3:15pm in Baldwin 307

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Info

Overview

We are born male or female; we become masculine or feminine. This course will examine the social and cultural construction of gender differences, focusing on the status of women and men in U.S. society. We will be looking at how gender affects the lives and choices of both women and men. We examine gender as a major organizing principle of contemporary social life and explore the ways that gender intersects with other important lines of social differentiation, such as race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, and nationality. We explore diverse theories that address issues of gender differentiation and gender inequality, and we explore the ways in which gender influences social life and social organization within major social institutions such as media, family, the workplace, schools, religion, politics, and popular culture. Although the primary emphasis will be on contemporary American society, we will be attentive to ways in which contemporary gender relations in the US are similar to, and different from, those in other locales and eras.

Required Texts

1. Kimmel, Michael S. 2008. *The Gendered Society*. 3rd Edition. Oxford University Press.
2. Additional readings will be posted on WebCT.

Note: It is important to get the third edition of this book as it has been substantially revised since the second edition.

WebCT

I have set up a WebCT page for this course, located at webct.uga.edu. I will periodically post relevant material on this page including syllabus or schedule changes, readings, interesting websites, etc. To access WebCT, you must have a UGA MyID. (If you do not have one, go to www.arches.uga.edu/myid and follow the instructions.) Students will need to keep abreast of announcements made in class and/or via WebCT about any changes in schedules and assignments

Women's Studies Certificate Status

This is a Primary Course for the Women's Studies Undergraduate Certificate Program. If you would like more information on the certificate program, please contact the Women's Studies Advisor and Assistant Director, Dr. Cecilia Herles. She can be contacted via e-mail (cherles@uga.edu) or phone (706-542-2846).

Course Format

This course will use a variety of formats, including lectures, video presentations, discussions, and written assignments. On examinations, students will be responsible for all materials assigned to be read and/or covered in class. Since not all readings will be discussed explicitly in class, you should be certain to ask questions, in or out of class, about these materials. I encourage in-class questions, as often others in class will have the same questions that you do about these materials.

Attendance

Regular attendance is critical to doing well in the course since there is no effective way to make up certain sessions relying on discussion, films, etc. It is your responsibility to make certain you have signed the attendance sheet. If you are not in class at the point that the sheet is passed around, you will be marked absent for that day. Additionally, you are responsible for keeping track of your own attendance throughout the semester. I do not tally attendance until the end of the semester. If you come in late, wait to sign the attendance sheet at the end of the class.

Students are allowed to miss 1.5 days for whatever reason (no explanations needed; no excused/unexcused), however each subsequent absence from a class session will see 4 points per class deducted from your final grade (½ class = 2 points). Since Maymester is such an abbreviated semester, I strongly discourage missing partial classes. We meet from 12:30pm to 3:15pm daily based on official US time – so set your clocks accordingly. Students will be considered late as of 12:35pm. Missing more than **20 minutes** of any one class equates to missing ½ a class (either coming late or leaving early).

0-1 classes missed = 3 bonus points added to your final grade
1.5 – 2 class missed = 2 bonus points
2.5 - 3 classes missed = 0 bonus points

You are responsible for missed material and should consult other students for notes as well as WebCT for assignment or reading updates. It is your responsibility to get notes from another student for any materials missed. I'm happy to help clarify any notes obtained, but am not available to rehash an entire lecture.

PLEASE NOTE my policy that attendance begins on the day you are enrolled in the course. In other words, if you are on my class roster the morning of the 12th but attend for the first time on the 13th, understand that you have already racked-up one absence. Per University regulations, drops coming after the midpoint withdrawal deadline are recorded as “WF,” regardless of a student’s grade average in the course.

Participation:

This class will include extensive in-class discussions AND application of course concepts. Class meetings are an opportunity to engage with the material beyond simply clarifying “what do I need to know for the exam” for any particular reading. This focus of this course is NOT on memorization and regurgitation of facts, but, rather, continuously building upon (i.e. learning) and making connections between readings and the larger theoretical concepts that frame each section as well as the entire course. As such, I will incorporate a variety of materials and activities during our class meetings to help facilitate this learning process. At times, you will be required to break off into small groups to work on an “application” assignment during class. The focus is not on the overall accuracy of the assignment, but the effort and the knowledge produced. Keeping up with the readings and regularly attending classes is of critical importance in order to pull your own weight as a group member. Finally, contributing to the ongoing class discussion can take place on WebCT as well as during class meetings. My only request is that questions/comments/postings be relevant to the material/course concepts.

E-mail

While e-mail is the best way to get in touch with me, I expect that you will use this method of communication wisely. Be sure that e-mail messages are well thought-out, respectful, and intelligently written. Remember that you are not instant messaging a friend, you are writing to your professor. A greeting line, message body, and a closing that includes your full name are the minimum requirements in a professional environment. In other words, it’s a good habit to get into for your academic career and beyond.

Also, please assume that a reasonable amount of time may pass (at least 1 day) before I am able to respond. Immediate and after-hours responses are not the norm. That said, should you have questions about an exam or assignment, do contact me via email, telephone, or during office hours. Keep in mind that I may request an in-person meeting should your email question necessitate an extensive response. Lastly, I would greatly prefer that you use my University-assigned email address (narnault@uga.edu) as opposed to emailing through WebCT.

Other Policies

Please leave cell phones or pagers at home, or turn them off before class. Cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices must be turned off and packed away (or better yet, not brought to class at all) during all exams.

Available Support Services

Students who may need help with writing assignments, time management issues, reading and studying strategies, or general academic counseling should contact UGA's Learning Center, a division of Academic Enhancement. The Learning Center assists students in developing these skills. More information can be found at www.uga.edu/dae.

A Note about Disabilities and Other Special Needs

If you have a documented disability and need to make special arrangements for class attendance and/or examinations, please speak to me about this during the first two weeks of class. To be fair to everyone, special accommodations can be provided only for students with documented disabilities.

I rarely give grades of incomplete and, then, only in unusual circumstances. If you experience an unexpected emergency, please contact me about it as soon as possible, so that we can make whatever arrangements are needed to help you perform at your highest level in this course or to allow you to drop the course without grade penalties.

Academic Honesty

I take academic honesty very seriously, as do the vast majority of students at UGA, and will file complaints in cases of dishonesty. I expect anything submitted for this class to represent original work, undertaken for this course. Information sources should be clearly documented. To learn more about the UGA policy on academic honesty, please visit: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>.

Human Rights Statement

All students should know that the department of Sociology has a Human Rights Committee for the resolution of student grievances. Any student registered for a sociology course at the University of Georgia who feels that he or she has not been treated in a fair or professional manner by an instructor is advised to follow these procedures:

- 1) The student should discuss his or her problems with the instructor of the course, unless extenuating circumstances prohibit this.
- 2) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance, the student should then discuss the problem with the Head of the Sociology Department.
- 3) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance to the student's satisfaction, the student may request the activation of the Human Rights Committee by submitting a letter to the Chair of the Human Rights Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia.

The Human Rights Committee will have the responsibility of investigating all charges in accordance with the procedures on file in the Sociology office, copies of which are available to students. The Committee will also have the responsibility of making recommendations in writing to the Head, copies of which will be made available to the student complainant and the instructor involved. The Department Head will review the recommendations and make a decision in writing, with copies to the student complainant and the instructor of staff member involved. Any appeal of that decision must be to the Dean of the college of Arts and Sciences.

Evaluation

Open-Notebook Exams: 90 points = [3 x 30 points each]

There will be three examinations that will cover readings, lectures, class discussions, and any videos we watch in class. They will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. In large part, these exams test your overall grasp of the material as opposed to memorization of terms or statistics. I assign a substantial amount of reading for this class. Not only do you have a textbook that describes the basics gender, but I also give you a number of supplemental readings. I will give you a series of questions with each reading assignment that should help to guide your reading and prepare you for class discussion (exam questions will differ slightly, but will cover the same concepts).

To encourage you to take good notes and to keep up with the readings, we will have a total of three open-notebook exams. No photocopied notes and no photocopies of the textbook OR supplemental articles are permitted... all notes must be your own AND will be turned in alongside your exam.

To encourage students to keep up with readings and class discussions, students have the opportunity to answer (typed!) the reading questions accompanying each reading. They are due on the day that the reading is discussed (no email submissions or late submissions). I will give 1 point per reading (to be added onto your exam. This is not an automatic point to be awarded. These will not be graded for accuracy. They can be used during the exam in addition to any supplemental notes taken.

Memos: 30 points = [3 x 10 points]

One of the most important skills you should learn in college is to express yourself in written form. The best way to do this is to practice as much as possible. In this class, you will write a three full-page memos (I will provide you the exact format). In these memos, you will critically discuss a topic we've covered using supplemental readings provided based on course lectures and material. These are academic mini-papers, not personal reflections. Support your claims based on course material, not opinion or hearsay. Writing will be evaluated in three areas: content, organization, and grammar/expression and rubrics will be provided. A description of each will be available on WebCT. No late assignments will be accepted.

Make-up policy

Make-up examinations will be given only to those absent for university-approved reasons and at my discretion. Students requesting a make-up MUST contact me before the day of the exam. No make-ups whatsoever will be permitted on the final exam.

Grading Breakdown

Memo (3)	30 points
<u>Exams (3)</u>	<u>90 points</u>
Total	120 points

With the adoption of the new UGA grading system, the final points obtained are as follows:

100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-84	B
83-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-74	C
73-70	C-
69-60	D
< 60	F

General Caveat

Materials assigned on the syllabus that follows should be read before coming to class each day. The syllabus represents a plan for assignments in the class, but may be altered by the instructor as the course proceeds.

Tentative Schedule

This timetable is subject to change, depending on how the class progresses. I will announce in class any changes and post an updated syllabi on WebCT if need be. The reading listed next to each class meeting is what we will discuss on that day and should be completed BEFORE that class meeting.