

SOC 555: GENDER AND SOCIETY
Spring 2012

PROFESSOR:

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Social Sciences 433

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Wednesday 9:00-11:30

Social Sciences 415

Office hours: Mon 3:00-4:30 ABA

Course Description

Sex and gender are pervasive principles of social organization in all known societies. This course surveys the growing body of theoretical and empirical research in the sociology of gender with the goal of providing students with a theoretical grounding for studying gender sociologically. The field of gender is vast and growing every day. In this course, you will be reading work that defines the contemporary field and is important for scholars who define gender as one of their areas of expertise. The readings for the course have been drawn from the current Gender Comprehensive Exam reading list for sociology doctoral students. Students are expected to always come to class prepared to participate in a discussion of the readings.

By semester's end, you will have some solid theoretical and analytical tools for studying the large and growing topics in the sociology of gender. Gender is intrinsic to almost every area in sociology, and theories of gender are commonly a component of research in a wide variety of specific topics such as sexuality, media, reproduction, family, pay inequality, organizations, the state, law, deviance, and globalization. The syllabus is based on the comprehensive exam reading list, including some changes that I expect to make at the end of the semester.

Non-Sociology Graduate Students: You must have permission from the instructor to take this course.

Requirements

- (1) Submit two discussion questions each week. These questions can address conceptual ambiguities in the readings, interesting similarities or differences across readings, or the relevance of readings for other research. Questions are due by email by 2pm on Tuesday (the day before class). These questions will be an important part of the agenda for each class meeting; come prepared to explain your question, why it is worth asking, and how you have begun to think of an answer. Discussion questions will be part of your class participation grade. You may also submit clarification questions with your discussion questions.
- (2) Each student will lead one week's discussion with an analysis of one of the week's readings.
- (3) Two 4-6 page conceptual papers, due in weeks 6 and 9. I will issue the questions to address in weeks 5 and 8.

- (4) Final project, due during exam period. You have three choices:
1. You may write a proposal in which you design a research study that you could execute in the future, ideally as a Masters paper or dissertation proposal. After choosing a topic, you will need to find a data source or design a data collection procedure. You may find a statistical source or your question may require some type of data collection. Regardless of which methodology you use, the data should fit the question and you should describe the data or data collection thoroughly. Also be sure to explain how you will analyze the data.
 2. You may use a research proposal that you have designed for another class that involves a gender-related topic, and use the semester to refine the topic, sharpen its gender focus, execute the research and write it up as an empirical paper. Students working on a gender-related MA topic may submit a draft of their MA paper as their final paper.
 3. You may *substantially* revise a paper that you have written in another class in order to submit it for publication. The original paper must either involve a gender-related topic, or you may add a gender-related dimension if this will strengthen the central argument of the paper. You may also introduce empirical data analysis to a paper that was formerly only a literature review. If you choose this option, you should have a paper suitable for journal submission by the end of the semester.

Choosing one of the second two options means that you will be writing a paper that analyzes empirical data.

A 1-2 page description of your intentions for the final assignment and the data source you plan to use or how you will collect data will be due in Week 4. The final proposal or paper is due on the Wednesday of the exam period. The last two class sessions will be devoted to assisting each other with your proposals or papers.

Grade

30%	Two 4-6 page conceptual papers (15% each)
15%	Class participation (includes submitted questions)
5%	Description of final project
50%	Final project

Books

Babcock, Linda and Sarah Laschever. 2003. *Women Don't Ask: Negotiation and the Gender Divide*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 2000. *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*.

Sandra Harding (ed.). *Feminism & Methodology*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn. 2009. *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. New York: Vintage Books.

Majors, Richard, and Janet Mancini Billson. *Cool Pose: The Dilemmas of Black Manhood in America*.

Roth, Louise Marie. 2006. *Selling Women Short: Gender and Money on Wall Street*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Valian, Virginia. 1998. *Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press.

All articles and other book excerpts will be available as .pdf files on d2l.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Introduction

Jan. 11

WEEK 2: Classic Approaches to Gender Inequality

Jan. 18

Engels, Friedrich. "The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State." Pp. 734-759 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd Edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 1978.

MacKinnon, Catherine A. 1987. "Difference and Dominance: On Sex Discrimination." Ch. 2 in *Feminism Unmodified*.

WEEK 3: Classics Approaches to Gender in Sociology

January 25

Lopata, Helena Z., and Barrie Thorne. 1978. "On the Term 'Sex Roles.'" *Signs* 3, 3 (Spring): 718-721.

Stacey, Judith, and Barrie Thorne. 1985. "The Missing Feminist Revolution in Sociology." *Social Problems* 32, 4 (April): 301-316.

Williams, Christine. 2006. "Still Missing? Comments on the Twentieth Anniversary of 'The Missing Feminist Revolution in Sociology.'" *Social Problems* 53, 4 (Nov): 454-458.

Risman, Barbara. 2004. "Gender as a Social Structure: Theory Wrestling with Activism." *Gender & Society* 18, 4.

Description of final project research question and data due

WEEK 4: Feminist Epistemology

February 1

Harding, Sandra. 1987. "Introduction: Is There a Feminist Method?" and "Conclusion: Epistemological Questions." Pp. 1-14 and 181-190 in *Feminism & Methodology*, Sandra Harding (ed.). Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Smith, Dorothy E. 1987. "Women's Perspective as a Radical Critique of Sociology." Pp. 84-96 in *Feminism & Methodology*, Sandra Harding (ed.). Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Harding, Sandra, and Kathryn Norberg. 2005. "New Feminist Approaches to Social Science Methodologies: An Introduction." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 30, 4: 2009-2015.

WEEK 5: Biology and Society, Sex and Gender

February 8

Lorber, Judith. 1993. "Believing is Seeing: Biology as Ideology." *Gender & Society* 7, 4 (Dec): 568-581.

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 2000. *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*. Ch. 1, 9.

Conceptual Paper #1 Due

WEEK 6: Gender Schemas

February 15

- Ridgeway, Cecelia and Shelley Correll. 2004. "Unpacking the Gender System: A Theoretical Perspective on Gender Beliefs and Social Relations." *Gender & Society*, 18, 4 (August): 510-531.
- Valian, Virginia. 1998. *Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press. Ch. 1, 4-7.

WEEK 7: Gender as an Accomplishment

February 22

- West, Candace and Don Zimmerman. 1987. "Doing Gender." *Gender & Society*, 125-151.
- Risman, Barbara J. 2009. "From Doing to Undoing: Gender as We Know It." *Gender & Society* 23, 1 (Feb): 81-84.

WEEK 8: Masculinity

February 29

- Connell, R. W., and James W. Messerschmidt. 2005. "Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking the Concept." *Gender & Society* 19, 6 (Dec): 829-859.
- Majors, Richard, and Janet Mancini Billson. *Cool Pose: The Dilemmas of Black Manhood in America*. Ch. 1, 3, 9.
- Pascoe, C.J. 2005. "'Dude, You're a Fag': Adolescent Masculinity and the Fag Discourse." *Sexualities* 8 (3): 329-346.

WEEK 9: Gender and Work

March 7

- Reskin, Barbara F. 2000. "The Proximate Causes of Employment Discrimination." *Contemporary Sociology*, 29, 2 (March): 319-328.
- Roth, Louise Marie. 2006. *Selling Women Short: Gender and Money on Wall Street*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Intro, Ch. 2-5.

Conceptual Paper #2 Due

WEEK 10: Gender and Organizations

March 21

- Acker, Joan. 1990. "Hierarchies, Jobs, Bodies: A Theory of Gendered Organizations." *Gender & Society*, 4(2): 139-158.
- Ely, Robin, and Irene Padavic. 2007. "A Feminist Analysis of Organizational Research on Sex Differences." *Academy of Management Review* 32, 4: 1121-1143.
- Kalev, Alexandra. 2009. "Cracking the Glass Cages? Restructuring and Ascriptive Inequality at Work." *American Journal of Sociology* 114, 6 (May): 1591-1643.

WEEK 11: Gender and Negotiation

March 28

- Babcock, Linda and Sarah Laschever. 2003. *Women Don't Ask: Negotiation and the Gender Divide*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Intro and Ch. 1, 3, 4.

WEEK 12: Housework and Carework

April 4

- Bianchi, Suzanne M., Melissa A. Milkie, Liana C. Sayer, and John P. Robinson. 2000. "Is Anyone Doing the Housework? Trends in the Gender Division of Labor." *Social Forces* 79, 1: 191-228.
- Coltrane, Scott. 1989. "Household Labor and the Routine Production of Gender." *Social Problems* 36: 473-490.
- England, Paula. 2005. "Emerging Theories of Care Work." *Annual Review of Sociology* 31: 381-399.

WEEK 13: Gender and Globalization

April 11

- Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn. 2009. *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. New York: Vintage Books. Intro, Ch. 1-2, 4-7, 10, 11.

WEEK 14: Gender and the Law

April 18

- Bagenstos, Samuel R. 2006. "The Structural Turn and the Limits of Antidiscrimination Law." *California Law Review* 94, 1 (January): 1-47.
- Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 1989. "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics." *The University of Chicago Legal Forum*.
- Guthrie, Douglas and Louise Marie Roth. 1999. "The State, Courts, and Maternity Policies in U.S. Organizations: Specifying Institutional Mechanisms." *American Sociological Review* 64 (February): 41-63.
- Smith, Tyson, and Michael Kimmel. 2005. "The Hidden Discourse of Masculinity in Gender Discrimination Law." *Signs* 30, 3 (Spring): 1827-1849.

WEEK 15: WORKSHOP RESEARCH PROJECTS

April 25

WEEK 16: WORKSHOP RESEARCH PROJECTS

May 2

Final Project due Wednesday, May 9 at noon.