

Gender and Society

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Office Hours: MW 3-5pm; T 1:30-2:30

ANSO 310
Fall 2003
TTH 2:40-4:10pm
Class: Clough 100

Course Description and Course Objective:

Have you ever heard someone say “that’s not very ladylike” or “boys will be boys”? In this course, we will examine *how* and *why* society prescribes different gender expectations to girls and boys and to men and women. In turn, we will discuss how those expectations affect the experiences, attitudes, and opportunities of women and men in society. The lectures and readings will reflect a number of different perspectives, and we will attempt to provide an equal emphasis on the gender expectations for women and men. Specifically, we will discuss the meanings of sex and gender; different theories about the appropriate roles for men and women; gender and culture (deviance, language, media, beauty/attractiveness, and childhood); gender and institutions (science, medicine, education, family, and work); sexuality, violence, and sexual politics; cross-cultural, racial/ethnic, historical, and sexuality-based variations in gender and proposed social change.

The purpose of this course is to help you better understand how gender is socially constructed and to see how gender stratification works in your everyday lives. You will gain the conceptual and theoretical tools to analyze the personal and institutional consequences of different social constructions of gender.

Readings and Films

1. This reading packet includes some fairly old and some fairly recent articles. In class, I will specify the theoretical and empirical issues I want you to focus on while reading the articles. One question that I want you to think about when reading these articles, especially the older ones, is whether the patterns reported would occur today. That is, how much has (or hasn’t) changed? Consequently, following several articles, I have included some relevant and recent newspaper clips/notes. In addition, in class I will mention current research related to the articles in this packet.

Most of the material covered in lectures will not be in the readings, so you will be responsible for covering the readings (articles, newspaper clips/notes, etc.) on your own. I will ask you to prepare ahead of time for the readings that will be specifically discussed in class, but I expect you always to be prepared to discuss the weekly readings. Since lectures usually will not cover the readings, this also means that if you miss class, you should get the notes from a classmate, as information from lectures will be essential for the exams.

2. A few short films will be shown in class. If you miss the viewing of a film in class, you

must watch the film on your own time. You may be required to view at least one film outside of class, at a time convenient for the majority of the students in the class. If your schedule prevents you from seeing the film at the scheduled time, you may rent and view the film at your convenience (you are expected to see the film before we discuss it in class). The films are part of the course requirements, and they will be included on the exams.

Grading

Leading Discussion	10%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Research Paper	30%
Presentation	10%

Grading Scale

A+ 98-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 59 or lower
A 93-97	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance:** Class attendance is required. You may miss up to **two** classes for any reason with no penalty. Regardless of the reasons for absences: *For every class missed after two absences, students will have 3 points subtracted from their final grade.*
2. **Class Participation:** Class discussions are an important element in this course. What you get out of the course is as much dependent upon the participation and preparation of you and your classmates as it is upon my instruction. What you learn from one another can be as valuable as the lecture and reading materials. Thus, everyone is encouraged to actively participate in class.
3. **Leading Discussion:** In pairs, students will choose a topic from the second part of the course (after the first exam). By **September 16th**, you must choose a partner and a topic. On the last day the topic is covered, each pair will lead discussion on the readings and additional materials they bring in to connect to the topic. Guidelines for leading discussion will be handed out in class
4. **Exams:** Exams will mostly consist of multiple choice questions, short-answer completion, and short essays. Lectures, films, and readings will all be covered on the exams. Each exam will cover only those materials covered since the last exam. Review sessions, which will be held outside of class, will be scheduled the week before each exam. These sessions are optional and students who attend must come fully prepared.
5. **Research Paper and Presentation:** Each student will research a social or public policy issue related to gender; you choose the topic and get it approved by me. At the end of the

semester, each student will turn in a research paper and do a presentation in class. The details for this assignment will be discussed more fully in class. All students will meet with me several times during the semester and will be required to turn in progress reports periodically. Students must have their topics chosen and approved by **September 23rd**. By that date, each student will turn in a one page description of their topic and the gender issues you plan to research. The final papers will be due on **December 4th**, the first day of presentations.

Course Guidelines

1. Please avoid disrupting class by arriving late or leaving early.
2. You are responsible for all announcements and assignments made in class.
3. You are required to check your e-mail once a day for any updates from me.
4. If anyone has special needs that require modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements, please contact me in the beginning of the semester and provide documentation from disability services, so that suitable accommodations can be made.
5. Make-up exams will only be allowed in the event of a documented emergency. If you cannot take the exam for any reason, you must contact me prior to the exam. Failure to do so may mean that you will not be able to take a make-up exam.
6. Academic misconduct and dishonesty (such as cheating or plagiarism) will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to the Honor Code.
7. The following reading and lecture schedules are subject to revisions, however, the exam dates and the assignment due dates will remain the same.
8. This class will require you to look at your life and the lives of others through many different perspectives. This can be a very challenging experience. Although I want you to feel free to share your ideas, I expect you to respect one another when listening to other viewpoints.

Class Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	
August 28	Introduction	
September 2, 4, 9, 11	Sex, Gender, and Roles	Gould, "X: A Fabulous Child's Story" Thorne, "Girls and Boys Together...But Mostly Apart: Gender Arrangements in Elementary

Maybe: Family”		School” Spade and Reese, “We’ve Come a Long Way, College Students’ Plans for Work and
September 16, 18, 23, 25, 30	Theoretical orientations	Lewis, “Emotional Intimacy among Men” Williams, “The Glass Escalator. . .Men in the ‘Female’ Professions” Gilder, “Suicide of the Sexes” Trebilcot, “Sex Roles: The Argument from Nature” Faludi, “Backlash: Introduction: Blame it on Feminism” Reed, “Women: Caste, Class, or Oppressed Sex?” Firestone, “The Dialectic of Sex” Frye, “Oppression” National Organization for Men Against Sexism, “Statement of Principles” Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”
October 2, 7, 9		Popenoe, “Parental Androgyny” LaRossa, “Fatherhood and Social Change” Gerson, “Dilemmas of Involved Fatherhood” Albeda and Tilly, “It’s a Family Affair: Women, Poverty, and Welfare” Lorde, “Man Child: A Black Lesbian Feminist’s Response”
October 14	Exam 1	
October 16, 23	Masculinities	Espiritu, “All Men Are <i>Not</i> Created Equal: Asian Men in U.S. History.” Clatterbaugh, “A View from Outside: Gay and Black Men Respond”
October 28, 30, November 4, 6	Culture: Deviance, Media, Beauty/ Attractiveness/Body, and Language	Levinson, Powell, and Steelman, “Social Location, Significant Others, and Body Image among Adolescents” (Note: Read the following magazine clipping “The Body of the Beholder”) Gillespie, “Mirror Mirror” Kaw, “Medicalization of Racial Features: Asian- American Women and Cosmetic Surgery” Thompson, “A Way Outa No Way: Eating Problems Among African American, Latina, and White Women” Hall, “The Bully in the Mirror: The Troubled Life of Boys” (Note: Read the following two cartoons.)
November 11, 13	Institutions: Science, Medicine, and Education	Keller, Introduction to <u>Gender and Science</u> Freedman, “The Aggressive Egg” Giacomini, Rozee-Koker, and Pepitone,

		<p>“Gender Bias in Human Anatomy Textbook Illustrations”</p> <p>Shakeshaft, “Reforming Science Education to Include Girls”</p> <p>Steinhauer, “For Women in Medicine, A Road of Compromise, Not Perks”</p>
November 18, 20	Violence and and Sexual Politics	<p>Ferraro and Johnson, “How Women Experience Battering”</p> <p>Scully and Marolla, “Convicted Rapists’ Vocabulary of Motive: Excuses and Justifications” (Note: Read the following newspaper clipping “Ruling on Tight Jeans and Rape Sets Off Anger in Italy.”)</p> <p>Roiphe, “Date Rape’s Other Victim” (Note: Read the following letter to the editor “The Date-Rape Debate”; the article “Article’s Attack on ‘Hype’ Surrounding Date Rape Stirs Debate Among Researchers, Campus Counselors”)</p> <p>Thornhill and Palmer, “Why Men Rape”</p>
November 25	Exam 2	
November 27, December 2	Cross-cultural, Ethnic/ Racial, Historical, and Sexuality-based Variations in Gender & Social Change	<p>Kaufman, “Behind the Veil: For Afghan Women, Harsh Circumstances Mask Surprising Realities”</p> <p>Christian, “Summary and Conclusions: The Making of Anti-Sexist Men”</p> <p>hooks, “Men: Comrades in Struggle”</p>
December 4	Research Paper due at the beginning of class.	
	Presentations	
December 9	Presentations	
December 15	Presentations	Monday, 1-3:30pm