

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Soci303-01: Sociology of Gender**

University of Calgary – Department of Sociology

Spring 2013

Lecture: TR 8:30 – 11:15 AM in EEEL161

Instructor: Dr. Annette Tézli

Office: SS950

Phone: 403-220-6513 (during office hours only)

Email: atezli@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: M 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM,

T 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM; or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Kate Hickey

### **Course Description**

While the term “sex” encompasses physiological and anatomical (i.e. biological) differences between females and males, the concept of “gender” refers to socially constructed understandings of femininity and masculinity. The study of gender directs our attention to the social processes through which biological differences are transformed into socially relevant distinctions. Across time and cultural contexts, gender has been and remains one of the central organizing principles of social life. This course offers an introduction to the sociology of gender and gender relations. We will explore how gender differences are created, maintained, transformed and represented on the individual, interactional, institutional and socio-cultural level. Furthermore, we will examine how notions of gender produce observable patterns of constraints and opportunities, which in turn differentially shape women’s and men’s day-to-day experiences and their access to valuable societal resources.

This course will provide you the opportunity to:

- examine gender as a social construction rather than as something we ‘naturally acquire’;
- consider the ways we “do gender” in everyday interactions with other social actors and/or various institutions, and recognize the diversity of femininities and masculinities created out of those interactions;
- critically examine and evaluate the impact of gender in your own life;
- retrieve, read and discuss a collection of sociological material, that takes different approaches to gender issues;
- develop your written skills through informal and formal writing assignments;
- be part of a class in which participation in discussions and group exercises is encouraged.

### **Course Format**

I view class time as an opportunity for us to talk with each other about gender and gendered experiences. I will enter each class period assuming that every student has read all of the assigned texts. I will begin each class with a short lecture to cover key concepts and other pertinent information that will complement but not summarize the assigned readings. The remainder of the class will be interactive and devoted to hands-on exercises, group work, class discussions, and films. After each activity, we will reflect on insights gained through discussions and various formal and informal writing assignments.

## Required Texts

(available through the UofC bookstore)

Matthews, Beverly, & Beaman, Lori. (2007). *Exploring Gender in Canada: A Multi-Dimensional Approach*. Toronto: Pearson.

**One copy of the book is on reserve at the Taylor Family Digital Library (TDFL).**

## Methods of Evaluation

### *Assignment Schedule and Outline*

Please note that all written assignments have to be submitted at the beginning of class on the day they are due.

	<b>Due date</b>	<b>Chapters</b>	<b>% of final grade</b>
Gender Observation Journal	semester-long	all	10
Midterm I	May 27	1-4	15
Reflection paper	June 5	1-4, 11, 12, 14	20
Midterm II	June 17	4, 10-14	25
Final paper	June 26	all	30

\* Please note that there are no extra-credit options available in this course.

2 Midterms (40%, 15% and 25% respectively)

There will be two mid-term exams, which might include multiple-choice, true/false, short answer, and short essay questions. Questions cover the assigned readings (irrespective of whether they were discussed in lecture), lectures, in-class exercises, discussions, and films. Please refer to the assignment schedule above for chapters covered in each exam.

### Gender Observation Journal

Throughout the semester, you will keep a journal of your observations of gender in everyday life. Since gendered expectations and practices have become normalized and naturalized in our lives, they remain largely invisible when left unquestioned. Thus, your journal will assist you in becoming more aware of how gendered expectations affect you and others on a day-to-day basis. Your observation journal will be evaluated as follows:

#### *1. Journal Entries (10%)*

You should start your gender observation journal no later than May 20 and write at least 4 entries per week until the last week of class (June 24). Observations each week should pertain to the topic covered in class that week as indicated in the course outline and should be illustrative of concepts, debates, ideas, controversies, etc. discussed in class. Observations can include the behaviour of others, but should also take into account your own gendered practices. Each week you will submit two of your observations, one per class, on D2L. Detailed instructions for the observation journal have been posted on D2L and will be discussed during the first day of class.

#### *2. Reflection Paper - 4 pages (20%)*

Your journal entries are the basis for this written assignment, which will give you the opportunity to connect your personal observations to course material. You will type up all observations you have recorded in your journal thus far and then briefly analyze two of them using course material. It is up to you which topics to focus on, anything covered in class so far can be the theme of your paper. Chapters relevant for this paper are specified in the course schedule. Detailed instructions for the reflection paper will be provided in class and on D2L.

### 3. Final Paper – 8 pages (30%)

You will type up your remaining observations and then briefly analyze four of them using course material. It is up to you which topics to focus on, anything covered in class so far can be the theme of your paper. Chapters relevant for this paper are specified in the course schedule. Detailed instructions for the final paper will be provided in class and on D2L.

### **Grading Scale**

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

A+	96 – 100%	B+	80 – 84%	C+	67 – 69%	D+	55 – 58%
A	90 – 95%	B	75 – 79%	C	63 – 66%	D	50 – 54%
A-	85 – 89%	B-	70 – 74%	C-	59 – 62%	F	<50%

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

### **Emergency evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the ICT - Food Court (primary).

### **Technology Use**

You are welcome to use your laptop/tablet in class. If you are using a laptop/tablet in class, I would kindly ask you to sit in the back of the class so that other students are not distracted. Please use your laptop/tablet for course-related purposes only (i.e. to access course presentations, take notes). Bear in mind that using your computer/tablet/phone to surf the net, shop, email, check Facebook, update your tweets, etc. is distracting to your classmates. It is also a waste of your tuition fees. Permission to use laptops/tablets may be withdrawn if they are not used appropriately. Please make sure to mute your cell phone and refrain from using it during class.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Reading the assigned material, an open mind, and your active participation is required for this class to reach its fullest potential and to make it a rewarding experience for you and me. Furthermore, attendance is important in any class. If you miss a class, you will miss material relevant to your success in this course. To attend classes regularly is your responsibility. If you have to miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the covered material from one of your class mates. If you need to leave class early, it is courteous to sit somewhere that will allow you to leave without disrupting others.

### **E-mail policy**

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line. I will do my best to answer emails promptly. However, it might take up to one business day for me to respond. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be answered. Also, please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit, if there is something you want to discuss. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

## Assignment Policies and Deferrals

It is your responsibility to complete and submit all assignments outlined in this course outline. If at all possible you must provide **advance** notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment on time. All requests for a deferral of an exam or assignment due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while you have the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. **Travel arrangements, misreading of the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment responsibilities** are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student. There are absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS.

If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, I can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If I schedule a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

Assignments submitted late (as of the beginning of class on the dates indicated in the assignment schedule) without due cause are subject to a **5 percentage points deduction** (i.e. 80% instead of 85%) for **each day** past the due date. Assignments not submitted within 7 calendar days of the due date without approval for extension will automatically receive a grade of 0.

### *Deferred Final Exam Form:*

Please note that requests to defer a Registrar-scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

[http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM\\_0.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf)

### **Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades**

1. When students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor. Electronic submissions via email or Blackboard, papers placed under the instructor’s door, or those submitted to the administrative assistants in the department’s main office will **NOT** be accepted.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor’s office, the department office etc.) Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the instructor’s office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

## **Ethics Research**

Please be advised that any research involving human subjects - including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, you must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing your plans with me, to determine if ethics approval is required.

## **Academic Misconduct**

Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Please be advised to consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

### **The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation**

...disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department's main office. I will return written assignments individually during class, or during my office hours. If you are unable to pick up your assignment, you may provide me with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of your assignment.

### **Student Representation**

The 2013-14 Students' Union VP Academic is Hana Kadri; email: [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@ucalgary.ca). You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

### **Safewalk**

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. You can also contact Campus Security from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

### **Academic Accommodation**

Students who require academic accommodation, must register with Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Disability Resource Centre) at MC 452 (or phone 403-220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with Student Accessibility Services and to request academic accommodation, if required.

### **Reappraisal of Grades and Academic Appeals**

If you chose to challenge a grade you received for an assignment, please refer to the UofC Calendar for more information and follow the procedures outlined therein.

## **Tentative Course Schedule**

Subject to change. Changes will be announced and discussed in class.

The following questions should guide your reading of course material and will help you prepare for class discussions: What are the author's main arguments? What new concepts/ideas/arguments does the author introduce? How do these readings relate to my learning in previous courses and to what I experience as a member of this society? How am I reacting to these findings/arguments? Do they support or challenge my values, beliefs, knowledge? Why and how? How would I respond to the author's arguments? What questions remain unanswered? What is confusing/difficult to understand or brilliant about this reading?

### **I. Introduction**

May 15 – Course Welcome and Introduction to the Gender Perspective Paradigm  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 1

### **II. Gender on the Socio-Cultural Dimension**

May 20 – Gender Stereotypes, Normative Expectations and Language  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 3, 4 (pp.62-73)

May 22 – Lenses of Gender: Making Sense of Difference  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 2

### **III. Gender on the Institutional Dimension**

May 27 – The Family  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 11  
Midterm #1 – 1<sup>st</sup> half of class

May 29 – The Church  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 14

June 3 – Paid Work  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 12

June 5 – The Media  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 4 (pp.72-84)  
Reflection Paper due at the beginning of class

June 10 – The Media, cont.  
Readings: no readings

June 12 – Relations of Power & the Law  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 10, 13

### **IV. Gender and Interaction**

June 17 – Doing Gender  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 8  
Midterm #2 – first half of class

June 19 – Sexualities  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 9

**V. Gender on the Individual Dimension**

June 24 – Being Gendered in a Gendered World  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 5, 6

**VI. Conclusion**

June 26 – Intersectionality & Final Class Discussion  
Readings: Matthews & Beaman, Ch. 7

Final paper due at the beginning of class