

COURSE OUTLINE

Soci303.01: Sociology of Gender

University of Calgary – Department of Sociology
Spring 2016

Lecture: TR 9:00 – 11:45AM, in ICT121 (Information Communication Technology)

Instructor: Dr. Annette Tézli

Office: SS950

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Office hours: Tuesdays 12:00 – 1:00 PM,
Wednesdays 12:00 – 1:00 PM; and by appointment

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;
- 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.

Please note: 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.

Required Texts

(available through the UofC Bookstore)

Kimmel, M. S. & Holler J. (2011). *The gendered society*. Canadian ed. Toronto: Pearson.

*You can rent the ebook here:

<http://www.coursesmart.com/the-gendered-society-1e-cdn/kimmel-holler/dp/9780195449778>

Recommended Readings:

Yellin, L.L. (2009). *A sociology writer's guide*. Boston: Pearson.

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

Methods of Evaluation

Assignment Schedule and Outline

	Due date	Chapters	% of final grade
Gender Observation Journal	see D2L	2-12	15
Assessment I: midterm	May 19	1-4	20
Assessment II: in-class midterm OR take-home essay	June 16	5-8	30
Final exam	TBA	9-12	35

* Please note that I do **NOT** offer extra-credit options for this course.

Gender Observations (15%)

Since gendered expectations and practices have become normalized and naturalized in our lives, they remain largely invisible when left unquestioned. Weekly gender observation entries will assist you in reflecting on how gender affects you and others around you on a day-to-day basis. Observations should focus on your gendered practices rather than the behaviors of others.

Starting in week 2, you will submit one written observation via D2L Dropbox each class. You have to submit a total of 10 observations over the semester. Each observation is worth a maximum of 5 points. The first dropbox is called “observation #1” and will become available on May 17, after class (11:45AM). You then have until the beginning of next class (May 19, 9:00AM) to submit your observation before the folder becomes unavailable. The next folder will become available after class on May 19. Observations each class should pertain to the topics covered in class that week and should be illustrative of concepts, debates, ideas, controversies, etc. discussed in class. More specific instruction will be provided in each week’s dropbox. You find more detailed instructions and each weeks’ dropbox on D2L → Content → Gender Observations.

Assessment I: Midterm Exam (20%)

You will all write the first 75-minute exam, which might include multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blanks, 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 the exam.

Assessment II: Midterm Exam OR Take-Home Essay (30%)

For the second assessment, you can choose whether you want to write a 75-minute in-class exam or write a take-home essay. Please indicate which assignment you will choose no later than Tuesday, June 7, 12PM through the survey provided on D2L. Anyone who has not made a selected at that point, will automatically assigned the in-class exam option.

The exam might include multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blanks, 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 the exam.

One of the most important skills you can acquire in university is to express yourself in written form. The best way to do this is to practice as much as possible. Therefore, you will be given the opportunity to write a take-home essay instead of the in-class exam. One week prior to the deadline, you will receive three questions, one of which you will answer in an argumentative essay, no more than 5 pages in length. For those of you who choose the take-home assignment, I will provide a writing workshop to cover some writing conventions relevant to the discipline. The workshop will take place outside regular class time and attendance will be voluntary.

Final Exam (35%)

The 2-hour final exam will consist of 100 multiple choice questions. Questions cover the assigned readings (irrespective of whether they were discussed in lecture), lectures, in-class exercises, discussions, and films. More detailed information will be provided in class prior to the exam. Please refer to the assignment schedule above for chapters covered in the final exam.

Please note that the registrar-scheduled final exam period is July 2-4. Do not make travel arrangements until you know when the final for this class has been scheduled.

Grading Scale

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

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84%	3.3	
B	75 – 79%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69%	2.3	
C	63 – 66%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58%	1.3	
D	50 – 54%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

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 Social Science – Food Court.

Course Policies

Technology Use

Please note that the use of laptops, tablets, cell phones or other electronic devices is **NOT** permitted during lectures. I provided some helpful note-taking resources on D2L for those of you not used to taking notes by hand. Students who require the use of electronic devices for academic accommodation purposes are exempt from this policy, but must provide documentation from Student Accessibility Services to the instructor. 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

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line. Also, it is courteous to include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All emails violating customary email conventions will be ignored. All other emails will be answered within one business day. I do not answer emails over the weekend. 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.

Written 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/f13w14-dfe-application.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 D2L, 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 2016-17 Students' Union VP Academic is Alicia Lunz; email: 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, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and 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 (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>) and follow the procedures outlined therein.

Tentative Course Schedule

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

Date	Topic	Reading
I. Introduction		
May 10	Introduction: Sex & Gender	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 1
II. Explanations of Gender & Gender Relations		
May 12	Gendered Lives	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 4
May 17	Biological, Psychological and Sociological Approaches	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 2, 3
May 19	Midterm #1 (first half of class) Feminist Frameworks	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 5
May 24	Feminist Frameworks, cont'd.	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 5
May 26-June5	CONGRESS – NO CLASS	
III. Gendered & Gendering Institutions		
June 7	Family	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 6
June 9	Education	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 7
June 14	Paid Work	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 8
June 16	Midterm #2 (first half of class) OR Take-Home Essay due Media	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 9
IV. Gendered Interactions		
June 21	Gendered Bodies	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 11
June 23	Gendered Intimacies	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 10
June 28	Gendered Violence	Kimmel&Holler, Ch. 12
V. Conclusion		
June 30	The Future of Gender & Gender Relations	Epilogue
Final Exam Period: July 2-4		