

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**
Departmental Website: www.soci.ucalgary.ca

**Sociology 303: Sociology of Gender Relations
Summer, 2009
Lecture 60**

Class Time and Location: TR, 8:00 AM – 10:50 AM, ST 130

Instructor: Rebecca J. Carter
Office hours: TR, 11 AM-12 PM, SS 903, or by appointment
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Course Overview

This course offers an introduction to the sociology of gender relations. This field of sociological inquiry is underpinned by a central notion: while *biological sex* constitutes the physiological and/or anatomical differences between females and males, *gender* refers to socially constructed notions of what it means to be ‘feminine’ or ‘masculine’ across various socio-cultural contexts. Utilizing this notion as a starting point, course material will explore how and why the social construction of gender differentially structures women and men’s experiences in multiple spheres of social life.

The course will consist of two overarching sections: the first will offer an overview of how gender has been understood by sociologists throughout the discipline’s development. The intersection of these developments with the feminist movement will also be examined. The second section will apply this sociological perspective to the examination of multiple social arenas, exploring the gendering of the classroom, workplace, family, media, body, intimacies and violence. The confluence of gender with race/ethnicity, class and ability will be emphasized throughout the course. Through diligent attendance, completion of required readings and class participation, students will develop a critical understanding of how gender inequalities, assumptions and practices are subject to constant production and reproduction in social life.

Required Reading

1. Kimmel, Michael S. 2008. *The Gendered Society, 3rd Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Kimmel, Michael S. 2008. *The Gendered Society Reader, Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
 - Both the text and reader are available for purchase at the University of Calgary Bookstore.

Course Organization

Course sessions will consist of lecture material, class-based discussions, videos and guest lectures. Attendance and participation in all of these activities is expected and will be noted throughout the term.

Blackboard (visit blackboard.ucalgary.ca or my.ucalgary.ca and follow the login instructions) will be utilized as a teaching tool for this course. Power-Point presentations used for lectures and additional documents (such as articles of interest) will be posted on this site. Please note that posted Power-Points provide only an outline of lecture material, and as such, are not a replacement for class attendance.

Evaluation

There are four components of the student's grade:

1. A first mid-term examination, to be held in class on Tuesday, July 21, 2009: **30% of final grade.**
 - The mid-term will be comprised of lecture and reading material from the July 2-July 14 sessions.
2. A second mid-term examination, to be held in class on Thursday, August 6, 2009: **30% of final grade.**
 - The mid-term will be comprised of lecture and reading material from the July 16-August 4 sessions.
 - A study guide will be posted on Blackboard one week before each midterm. Midterms 1 and 2 will be comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions.
3. A short paper, due Monday, August 17, 2009: **30% of final grade.**
 - Papers will require each student to reflect on a personal, gendered experience, and interpret this experience using course material.
 - Papers must be a maximum of 5 pages (12-point, Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins all around).
 - Detailed instructions for the paper will be posted on Blackboard and discussed during the first class.
 - Office hours for the drop off of papers will be arranged and communicated.
4. Class participation: **10% of final grade.**
 - Students are expected to complete all readings *in advance* and participate in class discussions and film viewing. Engagement in these activities will be noted throughout the term.

Grading

The following grading scale will be used to convert percentage grades to letter grades:

A+ (96-100); A (90-95); A- (85-89); B+ (80-84); B (75-79); B- (70-74);
C+ (66-69); C (63-66); C- (60-63); D+ (55-59); D (50-54); F (0-49)

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings
July 2	Course Introduction and Overview	
July 7	Biological, Psychoanalytic and Developmental Understandings of Gender	1.Kimmell (text), chapters 2 and 4 2.Kimmell (reader), Robert M. Sapolsky, "Testosterone Rules."
July 9	The Feminist Movement: Historical Overview and Implications for the Sociology of Gender Relations The Cultural and Social Construction of Gender Relations	1.Kimmell (text), chapters 3 and 5 2. Kimmell (reader): Judith M. Gerson and Kathy Peiss, "Boundaries, Negotiation and Consciousness: Reconceptualizing Gender Relations."
July 14	The Cultural and Social Construction of Gender Relations, continued Midterm Study Guide Posted on Blackboard	1.Kimmell (reader): Nancy Theberge, "It's Part of the Game": Physicality and the Production of Gender in Women's Hockey." 2.Kimmell (reader): Gilbert Herdt: "Coming of Age and Coming-Out Ceremonies Across Cultures." 3. In-class film: "Gender Tango"
July 16	The Gendered Classroom & Workplace	1.Kimmell (text), chapters 7 & 8 2.Kimmell (reader): Joan A. Evans, "Cautious Caregivers: Gender Stereotypes and the Sexualization of Men Nurses' Touch."
July 21	Midterm Examination #1 The Gendered Family	1.Kimmell (text), chapter 6 2. Kimmell (reader): Gillian Ranson, "No Longer "One of the Boys": Negotiations with Motherhood, as Prospect or Reality, Among Women in Engineering."
July 23	Midterm Break: No Class	
July 28	The Gendered Body	1.Kimmell (text), chapter 11 2. Kimmell (reader): Anne Fausto-Sterling, "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female are Not Enough." 3. Kimmell (reader): Pamela Wakewich, "Contours of Everyday Life: Women's Reflections on Embodiment and Health Over Time." (Continued, over)

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings
July 30	The Gendered Body, continued Midterm Study Guide Posted on Blackboard	1.Kimmel (reader), Patricia Gagné, Richard Tewksbury, and Deanna McGaughey, “Coming Out and Crossing Over: Identity Formation and Proclamation in a Transgender Community.” 2. Guest speaker
August 4	The Gendered Media	1. Kimmel (text), chapter 9 2. In class-film: “Killing Us Softly”
August 6	Midterm Examination #2 Gender and Violence	1.Kimmel (text), Chapter 12 2.Kimmel (reader): Russell P. Dobash, R. Emerson Dobash, Margo Wilson and Martin Daly, “The Myth of Sexual Symmetry in Marital Violence.” 3.Kimmel (reader): Christie Barron and Dany Lacombe, “Moral Panic and the Nasty Girl.”
August 11	Gendered Intimacies	1.Kimmel (text), Chapter 10 2.Kimmel (text): Ritch C Savin-Williams, “Dating and Romantic Relationships Among Gay and Bisexual Youth.”
August 13	The Future of Gender & Course Conclusion	1.Kimmel (text), Epilogue

Important Conventions

- 1) **Deadlines and Submission of Course Components:** Graded course components submitted late will be penalized by a deduction of 5% per day, except in the case of documented illness and/or extenuating circumstances brought to the instructor’s notice in advance of the due date and time.
- 2) **Deferrals:** 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 or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has 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 and misreading of the syllabus 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.
- 3) **Missed Examinations:** If a mid-term examination is missed due to documented illness and/or extenuating circumstances brought to the instructor’s notice in advance of the exam, the student may either ‘make-up’ the exam as close in time as possible to the original test OR transfer the percentage weight of the exam to the other midterm examination. If the student chooses to ‘make up’ an examination, its date and location will be determined by the Department of Sociology.

- 4) **Ethics Research:** Students are advised that any research with 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, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.
- 5) **Academic Misconduct:** cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are 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.
- 6) **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 main office. Written assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
- 7) **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. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.
- 8) **Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades:**
 - When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
 - Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of 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 only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
 - Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

9) **Academic Accommodation:**

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 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 the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**