

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 303.01**  
**(Prerequisite: Sociology 201 or permission of the department)**

**SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER RELATIONS**  
**Winter 2009**  
**Tuesdays, 6:00 – 8:50 p.m.**

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**Instructor: Carol Berenson**  
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**Office Hours: TBA**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

While biological sex is an important marker of difference, sociologists are typically interested in ‘gender’, or the socially constructed and mediated meanings attached to maleness and femaleness. This course begins from the assumption that “gender is not a property of the individual, but the product of ongoing, multilevel processes of social construction and reconstruction” (Nelson, 2006: 66). Utilizing sociological research and theory, we will examine the various social processes and players that shape and reshape gender and sexuality norms and their practical implications for men and women’s lived experiences.

This course combines lectures with facilitated classroom discussion and informal small group work. Students will be assessed based on readings, lecture and video material, and class participation content, so you will benefit from attending all classes with assigned readings complete and a participatory attitude.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Explain key concepts and theories in the sociology of gender relations and apply them to examples in the social environment.
- Describe general historical trends in the gender literature.
- Critically examine how gender informs our everyday lives and how we embrace, shift or resist gender and sexuality norms.
- Demonstrate an ability to recognize and analyse gender stratification.
- Begin to consider issues to do with intersectionality.

## REQUIRED TEXT

Nelson, Adie (2006). *Gender in Canada*. Third Edition. Toronto: Prentice Hall.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Quiz #1	20%	February 10
Quiz #2	30%	March 24
Written Assignment	15%	April 7
Final Exam	35%	TBA

**Exams:** The quizzes and final exam will involve multiple choice, true/false, short answer and/or short essay questions. The quizzes will cover only new material up until the test date (they are not cumulative), however, major concepts will flow throughout the entire course and could appear on more than one quiz. The final exam is cumulative. Material for quizzes and exams will be drawn from readings, lectures, guest speakers, class discussions and films. Study ideas and more information regarding the content of the tests will be provided in class.

**Writing Assignment:** You will complete a short written assignment (maximum 4 pages) using concepts from the course to analyse an observation or experience outside of the classroom. This assignment is intended to give you an opportunity to connect class content to the social environment. You will be able to choose from a few different topics; further details for this assignment will be provided in writing in class. Writing competence (including clarity, organization grammar, spelling and punctuation) will be considered in the grading of this assignment.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** Yes

### Deferrals:

You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a quiz. All requests for deferral of a quiz 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. Deferred quizzes may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed a quiz for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a “make-up” exam as close to the original quiz as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred quiz. Deferred quizzes will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

Deferral requests for final examinations go through the Dean's office and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U. of C. Calendar. If you wish make such a request you should go to the Faculty of Social Sciences Office (SS209) where you can get the appropriate paperwork for completion. The Dean then needs to approve your request. The instructor is not involved in this decision.

The writing assignment must be submitted on time unless an extension has been granted prior to the due date (with appropriate documentation). At the discretion of the instructor, assignments submitted after the deadline (without approval) will be penalized with the loss of one half mark out of 15 for each day late.

All components of this course must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.

### **Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

### **Grading System:**

**A+** (95-100); **A** (90-94); **A-** (85-89); **B+** (80-84); **B** (75-79); **B-** (70-74);  
**C+** (67-69); **C** (63-66); **C-** (60-62); **D+** (55-59); **D** (50-54); **F** (0-49)

### **COURSE STANDARDS**

#### **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.

**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.

**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 the instructor's office, from the department office, etc. Term assignments must be returned to the students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of assignments.

**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.

**Academic Accommodation:**

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

**READING SCHEDULE**

Will be posted on Blackboard for the first class.