

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 303**  
**(Prerequisite: Sociology 201 or permission of the department)**

**SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER RELATIONS**  
**Winter 2010**  
**Tuesdays, 6:00 – 8:50 p.m.**

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**Instructor: Carol Berenson**  
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**Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. or by appointment**

**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, 2010: 66). In this class students will be introduced to gender at the sociocultural, individual, institutional, interactional, and global levels. Utilizing sociological research and theory, we will consider various processes and players that shape and reshape gender within and across these levels, and what this means for men and women’s day to day lives.

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**

- To demonstrate some of the ways that sociologists think about and research gender.
- To introduce key concepts and theories in the sociology of gender relations and provide ongoing opportunities to apply them to examples in the social environment.
- To offer tools to recognize and analyse gender stratification and begin to consider issues of diversity.
- To encourage students to critically examine and evaluate the impact of gender in their own lives, including why and how they might embrace, resist and/or alter gender and sexuality norms.

## REQUIRED TEXT

Nelson, Adie (2010). *Gender in Canada*. Fourth Edition. Toronto: Pearson Canada.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Exam #1	25%	February 23
Exam #2	30%	March 30
Written Assignment	25%	Due April 13 in class
Registrar Scheduled Final Exam	20%	TBA

**Exams:** Exams include multiple choice, true/false, short answer and/or short essay questions. They are not cumulative; however major concepts will flow throughout the course and could appear on more than one exam. Material will be drawn from readings, lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, and films.

**Written Assignment:** This assignment gives you an opportunity to combine course concepts, academic literature, and personal experience and insights into a written piece. You will choose from a few different topics provided by the instructor; further details for the assignment will be provided in writing in class.

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

### 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)

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

### 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 deferred quiz. Deferred quizzes will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a quiz for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a

“makeup” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

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 mark out of 25 for each day late.

Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U of C Calendar. You can find the forms you need online:

*Deferred Final Exam Application:*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATION.S.pdf>

*Deferred Term Work Form:*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Social Sciences Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, MacEwan Student Centre. Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions. To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

### **Ethics Research:**

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends or 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:**

Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. 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 an instructor’s

office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to the students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours. If a student is unable to pick up his/her assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

### **Emergency Evacuations:**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this class/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the Food Court in the Social Sciences Building.

### **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, telephone 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 the student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

### **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.

## **READING SCHEDULE**

This schedule is subject to revisions and will be updated in class if there are any changes as the

term progresses.

**CLASS #1    JAN. 12                    HOUSEKEEPING AND GETTING STARTED**

- No readings

<b>I. GENDER AT THE SOCIOCULTURAL LEVEL</b>
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**CLASS #2    JAN. 19                    CONSTRUCTING SEX/GENDER/SEXUALITY**

- Chapter 1: p. 1-37
- Chapter 2: p. 38-50; 66-69

**CLASS #3    JAN. 26                    HISTORICAL/ECONOMIC INFLUENCES**

- Chapter 3: p. 70-84

**CLASS #4    FEB. 2                            THEORETICAL RESPONSES**

- Chapter 3: p. 85-107

**CLASS #5    FEB. 9                            THE SYMBOLIC REALM: MEDIA**

- Chapter 5: p. 192-95; 202-11
- Chapter 4: p. 141-46
- Chapter 9: p. 397-98

**NO CLASS    FEB. 17                        READING BREAK**

**CLASS #6    FEB. 23                        EXAM #1 (25%)**

**THE SYMBOLIC REALM: LANGUAGE**

- Chapter 5: p.163-76

## **II. GENDER AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL**

**CLASS #7    MAR. 2                    SOCIALIZATION IN CHILDHOOD &  
ADOLESCENCE**

- Chapter 2: 58-66
- Chapter 4: p. 109-13; 117-34

## **III. GENDER AT THE INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL**

**CLASS #8    MAR. 9                    EDUCATION**

- Chapter 4: p. 146-62

**CLASS #9    MAR. 16                    WORK: PAID AND UNPAID**

- Chapter 6: p. 218-69

**CLASS #10    MAR. 23                    FAMILY: PARENTING**

- Chapter 8: p. 344-64

## **IV. GENDER AT THE INTERACTIONAL LEVEL**

**CLASS #11    MAR. 30                    EXAM #2 (30%)**

**INTIMATE RELATIONS**

- Chapter 7: p. 274-90; 290-311

**CLASS #12    APR. 6                    INTIMATE RELATIONS (CONT'D)**

- Chapter 7: p. 311-22
- Chapter 8: p. 365-68

## **V. GENDER AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL**

**CLASS #13 APRIL 13**

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE (25%)**

**A BIGGER PICTURE: MORTALITY, MORBIDITY  
AND QUALITY OF LIFE**

- Chapter 9: 369-86
- Chapter 10: p. 413-27

**TBA: REGISTRAR SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM (20%)**