

**The University of Calgary  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Department of Sociology**

**Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>**

**Sociology 677: Graduate Seminar  
Winter, 2008**

## **SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER RELATIONS**

***[DRAFT ONLY]***

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**Office hours:** Mon. and Wed. 1-3 p.m. or by appointment

### **COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES**

This seminar will engage with current theory and research on gender. Theoretically, methodologically and substantively, the field is richly diverse; we will explore this diversity thematically through discussions of the way gender is conceptualized as both structure and process, on a global scale and in interpersonal interactions. Readings from a variety of sources will be supplemented by one short text. R.W. Connell's *Gender* is a wide-ranging introduction to the sociological study of gender by one of its leading theorists.

Because this is a seminar, its success is contingent on the informed and thoughtful participation of all members. Students are expected to do the assigned readings, and to come to the seminar prepared to discuss them. A small proportion of the course grade is allocated to participation. In addition, each student will be responsible for leading the discussion on one of the weekly topics. This will involve some extra reading which will be selected in consultation with the instructor. The discussion leader will write a short paper on the discussion topic, and prepare for the class a brief outline of the supplementary readings, the major themes to be addressed, and a bibliography.

### **TEXT**

Connell, R.W.  
2002 *Gender*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Compilation of weekly readings

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Three short essays (about 1,000 words each), based on the discussions of theory at the start of the course, will be due in class on Feb. 25. The major course requirement is a research paper (of 6,000-8,000 words) in the student's area of interest. A brief proposal, including a select bibliography, will be due on March 17. Papers will be presented in class on April 14, and due on April 21 at 12 noon. (Late assignments will incur a penalty of 5% per day, unless the delay is for medical or other legitimate reasons, which can be documented.) As noted earlier, leadership of one seminar, the writing of a seminar discussion paper, and ongoing participation, will also be graded. *Please note that although the proportion of the mark allocated for participation is small, a pass in this component is required to pass the course.* The grade components are as follows:

Theory essays.....	25%
Paper proposal.....	5%
Seminar leadership.....	5%
Seminar discussion paper .....	10%
Paper presentation.....	10%
Participation.....	5%
Term paper.....	40%

## **INTELLECTUAL HONESTY**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination are regarded as extremely serious academic offences. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which present a Statement of Intellectual Honesty, definitions of plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct, and the penalties associated with these offences.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY LEGISLATION**

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, the department office etc. Term assignments must be returned to 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 the assignment.

## **HANDING IN AND RETURN OF PAPERS, 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 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 (see above) does

not allow this. Students who want their final papers returned by mail may, as noted above, 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 the beginning of the next term.

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online

## **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.**

## **RESEARCH ETHICS**

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.

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### ***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.*

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## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

The following is a tentative schedule of topics for discussion. Please note that the schedule may change if discussions and emerging interests during the term suggest that other topics may be more appropriate. (See separate list for readings.)

Week 1 (Jan. 14)      Administration: introduction to the course

### **Explorations in theory**

- Week 2 (Jan. 21) Getting started (Connell)  
Week 3 (Jan. 28) 1950s to 1970s  
Week 4 (Feb. 4) 1970s to 1990s  
Week 5 (Feb. 11) 1990s and beyond  
Week 6 (Feb. 18) READING WEEK

### **Possible substantive topics**

- Week 7 (Feb. 25) Families (*Theory essays due*)  
Week 8 (Mar. 3) Work and the economy  
Week 9 (Mar. 10) Bodies and sexualities  
Week 10 (Mar. 17) Deviance and social control (*Proposals due*)  
Week 11 (Mar. 24) Sport and leisure  
Week 12 (Mar. 31) Religion and culture  
Week 13 (April 7) **Theory and politics**  
Week 14 (April 14) *Presentation of student papers*  
  
*April 21: Papers due.*

## **READINGS**

The following is a tentative list of readings to accompany seminar topics. Please note that, as with course topics, these readings may change if class discussion suggests that other material may be more appropriate.

### **Explorations in theory**

- Week 1 (Jan. 14) Introduction  
Week 2 (Jan. 21) Connell Chs. 1-7  
Week 3 (Jan. 28) *(i) 1950s to 1970s: a focus on structure*

Parsons, Talcott, and Robert F. Bales

1955 "The American family: its relation to personality and to the social structure", in Talcott Parsons and Robert F. Bales, *Family, Socialization and Interaction Process*, Glencoe: The Free Press, pp. 3-26

Bernard, Jessie

1972 *The Future of Marriage*, New Haven: Yale University Press. Chs 1-3, pp3-53.

Acker, Joan, and Donald R. Van Houten

1974 "Differential recruitment and control: The sex structuring of organizations", *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 19, 2: 152-163.

Smith, Dorothy E.

1974 "Women's perspective as a radical critique of sociology", *Sociological Inquiry*, 44 (1): 7-13

Hartmann, Heidi

1976 "Capitalism, patriarchy and job segregation by sex", *Signs*, 1, 3: 137-169.

Week 4 (Feb. 4)      **(ii) 1970s to 1990s: turning to process**

Goffman, Erving

1977 "The arrangement between the sexes", *Theory and Society*, 4: 301-336.

Kessler, Suzanne and Wendy McKenna

1978 *Gender: An Ethnological Approach*, New York: John Wiley and Sons. Ch. 1, pp 1-20.

West, Candace and Don Zimmerman

1987 "Doing gender", *Gender & Society*, 1, 2: 125-151

Collinson, David and Jeff Hearn

1994 "Naming men as men: Implications for work, organization and management", *Gender, Work and Organization*, 1, 1: 2-22.

Connell, R.W.

1995 *Masculinities*, Berkeley: University of California Press. pp 76-81.

Collins, Patricia Hill

1998 "The social construction of Black feminist thought," in Kristen A. Myers, Cynthia D. Anderson and Barbara J. Risman (eds.) *Feminist Foundations*, Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Week 5 (Feb. 11)      **(iii) 1990s and beyond: Mainstreaming and destabilizing "gender"**

Marshall, Barbara

2000 *Configuring Gender: Explorations in Theory and Politics*. Peterborough: Broadview Press. Chs. 1 and 2.

Flax, Jane

1990 "Postmodernism and gender relations in feminist theory", in Linda J. Nicholson (ed.) *Feminism/Postmodernism*, New York: Routledge. pp 39-62.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade

1991 "Under Western eyes: feminist scholarship and colonial discourses", in Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Ann Russo and Lourdes Torres (eds.) *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press. pp 51-80

Seidman, Steven

1995 "Deconstructing queer theory or the under-theorization of the social and ethical", in Linda Nicholson and Steven Seidman (eds.) *Social Postmodernism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp 116-141

Week 6 (Feb. 18)      **READING WEEK**

### **Substantive topics**

Week 7 (Feb. 25)      ***Families***

Johnson, Michael P.

1995 "Patriarchal terrorism and common couple violence: two forms of violence against women", *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 57: 283-294

Hays, Sharon

1996 *The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood*, New Haven: Yale University Press. Ch. 5.

Dunne, Gillian

2000 "Opting into motherhood: Lesbians blurring the boundaries and transforming the meaning of parenthood and kinship", *Gender & Society*, 14, 1: 11-35.

Christiansen, S. and R. Palkowitz

2001 "Why the 'good provider' role still matters: providing as a form of paternal engagement", *Journal of Family Issues*, 22, 1: 84-106.

Bergman, Helena and Barbara Hobson

2002 "Compulsory fatherhood: the coding of fatherhood in Swedish welfare law", in Barbara Hobson (ed.) *Making Men into Fathers: Men, Masculinities and the Social Politics of Fatherhood*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 8 (March 3)      ***Work and the economy***

Cabezas, Amalia L.

2004 "Between love and money: Sex, tourism and citizenship in Cuba and the Dominican Republic", *Signs*, 29, 4: 987-1015

Mills, Albert J.

1998 "Cockpits, hangars, boys and galleys: corporate masculinities and the development of British Airways", *Gender, Work and Organization*, 5, 3: 172-188.

Ranson, Gillian

2005 "No longer 'one of the boys': negotiations with motherhood, as prospect or reality, among women in engineering", *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*, 42, 2: 145-166.

George, Sheba

2000 “‘Dirty nurses’ and ‘men who play’: gender and class in transnational migration”, in Michael Burawoy et al (eds). *Global Ethnography*, Berkeley: University of California Press.

Leidner, Robin

1991 “Serving hamburgers and selling insurance: gender, work and identity in interactive service jobs”, *Gender & Society*, 5, 2: 154-177

#### Week 9 (March 10) *Bodies and sexualities*

Lucal, Betsy

1999 “What it means to be gendered me: life on the boundaries of a dichotomous gender system”, *Gender & Society*, 13, 6: 781-797

Martin, Karin A.

1998 “Becoming a gendered body: practices of preschools”, *American Sociological Review*, 63: 494-511.

Gerschick, Thomas and Adam Miller

2003 “Coming to terms: masculinity and disability”, in Michael A. Kimmel and Michael S. Messner (eds.) *Men’s Lives* (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Gamson, Joshua and Dawne Moon

2004 “The sociology of sexualities: queer and beyond”, *Annual Review of Sociology* 30: 47-64.

Gagne, Patricia and Richard Tewkesbury

1998 “Conformity pressures and gender resistance among transgendered individuals”, *Social Problems*, 45, 1: 81-101.

#### Week 10 (March 17) *Deviance and social control*

Kaplan, Danny and Eyal Ben-Ari

2000 “Brothers and others in arms: managing gay identity in combat units of the Israeli army”, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 29, 4: 396-432

Miller, Jody

1998 “Up it up: gender and the accomplishment of street robbery”, *Criminology*, 36, 1: 37-65.

McCorkel, Jill

2003 “Embodied surveillance and the gendering of punishment”, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 32, 1: 41-76.

Frost, Ginger

2004 “‘She is but a Woman’: Kitty Byron and the English Edwardian criminal justice system”, *Gender & History*, 16, 3: 538-560.

Wilkins, Amy

2004 “‘So full of myself as a chick’: Goth women, sexual independence, and gender egalitarianism”, *Gender & Society*, 18, 3: 328-349

Week 11 (March 24) ***Sport and leisure***

Burstyn, Vada

1999 *The Rites of Men: Manhood, Politics and the Culture of Sport*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press. (Chapter 2: “‘To raise a wolf in a man’s heart: sport and men’s culture in the nineteenth century”).

Messner, Michael A.

2000 “Barbie Girls and Sea Monsters: children constructing gender”, *Gender & Society*, 14, 6: 765-784

Thompson, Shona M.

1999 *Mother’s Taxi: Sport and Women’s Labor*, Albany: State University of New York. (Chapter 1: Introduction, and Chapter 2: being the mother of a sports player).

Kane, Mary Jo

1995 “Resistance/transformation of the oppositional binary: exposing sport as a continuum”, *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, May: 191-218.

Broad, K.L.

2001 “The gendered unapologetic: queer resistance in women’s sport”, *Sociology of Sport Journal*, 18: 181-204

Week 12 (March 31) ***Religion and culture***

Bartkowski, John P.

2000 “Breaking walls, raising fences: masculinity, intimacy and accountability among the Promise Keepers”, *Sociology of Religion*, 61, 1: 33-53

Sered, Susan

1999 “‘Woman’ as symbol and women as agents: gendered religious discourses and practices”, in Myra Marx Ferree, Judith Lorber and Beth B. Hess (eds.) *Revisioning Gender*, Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Sered, Susan

1997 “Women and religious change in Israel: rebellion or revolution”, *Sociology of Religion*, 58, 1: 1-24.

Fiske, Jo-Anne

1996 “Pocahontas’s granddaughters: spiritual transition and tradition of Carrier women of British Columbia”, *Ethnohistory*, 43, 4: 663-681

Bartkowski, John P. and Jen’nan Ghazal Read



2003 “Veiled submission: gender, power and identity among evangelical and Muslim women in the United States”, *Qualitative Sociology*, 26, 1: 71-92.

Week 13 (April 7)    ***Theory and politics***

Connell, Chapter 8.

Lorber, Judith

2005 *Breaking the Bowls: Degendering and Feminist Change*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. Chapters 5 and 6

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade

2002 “‘Under Western Eyes’ revisited: Feminist solidarity through anticapitalist struggles”, *Signs*, 28, 2: 499-535.