

Gender in a Changing Society

SOC 260
Spring 2006

General Information:

Classroom: 224 Hurtig

Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 1:35-2:40

Instructor: Patricia Morris (Department of Sociology)

Office: 516 Holmes Hall

Office Phone: (617) 373-4992 (Please do *not* leave messages on the phone.)

E-mail: morris.p@neu.edu (E-mail is the preferred method of communication.)

Office Hours: Tues. 12:30-2pm, Wed. 3-4:30pm

Teaching Assistant: Amy Lubitow

Office: 566 Holmes Hall (Department of Sociology)

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Office Hours: Weds. 3:30-5 and Thurs. 2:45-4:15

Course Description:

In this course we will examine gender from a sociological perspective. Thinking about women and men from a sociological perspective asks us to look beyond taken-for-granted ways of seeing the world and, instead, to ask how social structures generate the patterns we see around us in everyday life. Recognizing individual's experiences vary by gender, race, class, age and other factors, the class will examine the ways in which changing social structures shape individual behavior and attitudes. This course considers why and how gender is constructed in American society, and looks at different theories of gender. It will include topics such as the expression of gender in everyday life; its development in childhood; its centrality in the traditional family, the workplace, and sexuality; its role in violence against women; and its relationship to other topics such as crime, stratification, health, politics, and social movements.

Required Text:

The text consists of a reading list compiled specifically for this course published by Pearson Publishing. You may obtain a copy of it from the Northeastern Bookstore.

Class Policies:

In order to ensure a fair academic environment, please note that ***no*** exceptions will be made regarding the course guidelines as well as the methods of student evaluation. Assignment due dates are listed on the schedule below. Late assignments will be graded one grade down with each day that it is late. Make-up exams will not be granted except in cases of *emergency* (with documentation).

University rules on academic misconduct will be strictly enforced. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty please consult the student handbook. Papers may be subject to SafeAssignment anti-plagiarism review. As part of this process, your paper will be placed in a permanent electronic database whose only purpose will be to act as a reference point in the SafeAssignment software.

Attendance: Regular class attendance is expected and will be a small part of your overall grade. Students are permitted two unexcused absences during the semester. Starting with the third absence, half a point will be taken off of your total possible of 7 attendance points. *Please note it is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each class meeting.* The student is responsible for all materials covered during class time including lecture material (class notes) and media presentations. Handouts, study guides, and exam grades will be posted on blackboard. Some films shown during class may be available for viewing in the library. Missed lecture notes must be obtained from fellow students. The instructor does not provide copies of lecture notes or outlines, or boil down and repeat an entire lecture during office hours. Of course, specific questions are always welcomed.

Student Evaluation: Students are expected to actively participate in classes. The students in this course will be arranged in such a way as to maximize class participation. Success in this class will be dependent on *both* class attendance and reading the assigned articles. Reading the articles before the scheduled lecture is preferred. Although I utilize similar concepts, the majority of the class lectures will not directly replicate the required reading. There will be three in-class exams covering the readings and class discussions as well as three paper projects assigned throughout the semester. Exam and paper dates are listed on the schedule below. Exam questions draw from readings and lectures. There will be *no* opportunity for extra credit in this class.

Grading: Grades will be determined based on the following outline.

Attendance and Participation: 7%
 Three Take-Home Projects: 39% (13% Each)
 Three In-Class Exams: 54% (18% Each)

Final letter grades will be determined on the following scale:

93-100 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-
87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	59 > = F

Tentative Schedule:

I reserve the right to make changes to the schedule as necessary during the semester.

	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>
Week One:	<i>January 9</i> <u>Course Introduction</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 1 “Gender and Sexualities.”	<i>January 11</i> <u>The Sociological Perspective</u> Read: Volume 2 Pg. 266 “How History and Sociology can Help Today’s Families.”	<i>January 12</i> <u>The Social Construction of Gender</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 267 “Night to His Day: The Social Construction of Gender.”
Week Two:	<i>January 16</i> Martin Luther King Jr.	<i>January 18</i> <u>The Social Construction of</u>	<i>January 19</i> <u>Socialization</u>

	Holiday <i>University Closed</i>	<u>Gender</u> Read: Volume 2 Pg. 209 “Doing Gender.”	Read: Volume 1 Pg. 326 “Boyhood, Organized Sports and the Construction of Masculinities.” Read: Volume 1 Pg. 388 “Accepting the Risks of Pain and Injury in Sport.”
Week 3:	<i>January 23</i> <u>Socialization</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 351 “Social Comparisons, Reflected Appraisals, and Mass Media: The Impact of Pervasive Beauty Images on Black and White Girls’ Self-Concepts.”	<i>January 25</i> <u>Gender and Popular Culture</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 57 “Urban Legends.” Read: Volume 1 Pg. 101 “Men as Success Objects and Women as Sex Objects: A Study of Personal Advertisements.”	<i>January 26</i> <u>Gender and Popular Culture</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 185 “The Portrayal of Men’s Family Roles in Television Commercials.”
Week Four:	<i>January 30</i> Research/Writing Day <i>No Class Meeting</i>	<i>February 1</i> <u>Gender And Families</u> Housework 24 Read: Volume 2 Pg. 381 “Thinking About the Baby: Gender and Divisions of Infant Care.” Read: Volume 2 Pg. 334 “Men who Do and Men who Don’t.”	<i>February 2</i> <u>Gender and Families</u> Read: Volume 2 Pg 355 “Living Poor: Family Life Among Single Parent, African-American Women.” Assignment #1 Due!!!
Week Five:	<i>February 6</i> <u>Gender and Education</u> Read: Volume 2 Pg. 182 “Girls and Boys Together...But Mostly Apart: Gender Arrangements in Elementary Schools.”	<i>February 8</i> <u>Gender and Education</u> Read: Volume 2 Pg. 95 “How America’s Schools Cheat Girls.” Read: Volume 1 Pg. 15 “Access to and Opportunity in Post-Secondary Education in the United States: A Review.”	<i>February 9</i> <u>Gender and Education</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 307 “Why Does Jane Read and Write so Well?: The Anomaly of Women’s Achievement.”
Week Six:	<i>February 13</i> Exam 1	<i>February 15</i> <u>Gender and Stigma</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 6 “He Defines You Still: The Memoirs of a Sissy.” Read: Volume 1 Pg. 40 “Women Athletes as Falsely Accused Deviants: Managing the Lesbian Stigma.”	<i>February 16</i> <u>Gender and Stigma</u> Read: Volume 2 Pg. 286 “Topless Dancers: Managing Stigma in a Deviant Occupation.” Read: Volume 1 Pg. 247 “Attacking Nicely: Car Saleswomen Adapt to an Incompatible Role.”
Week 7:	<i>February 20</i> Presidents’ Day	<i>February 22</i> <u>Embodiment</u>	<i>February 23</i> <u>Embodiment</u>

	<i>University Closed</i>	Read: Volume 2 Pg. 160 “A Way Outa No Way: Eating Problems Among African-American, Latina, and White Women.” Read: Volume 1 Pg. 145 “Coming to Terms: Masculinity and Physical Disability.”	Read: Volume 2 Pg. 259 “Female Sexuality and the Beauty Myth.” Read: Volume 2 Pg. 236 “Doing Desire: Adolescent Girls’ Struggles for/with Sexuality.”
Week 8:	<i>February 27</i> <u>Gender and Relationships</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 405 “A Comparison of Marriages and Cohabiting Relationships.”	<i>March 1</i> <u>Crime and Deviance</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 180 “The National Conversation in the Wake of Littleton is Missing the Mark.”	<i>March 2</i> <u>Crime and Deviance</u> Assignment #2 Due!!!
Week Nine:	<i>March 6</i> Spring Break <i>University Closed</i>	<i>March 8</i> Spring Break <i>University Closed</i>	<i>March 9</i> Spring Break <i>University Closed</i>
Week Ten:	<i>March 13</i> <u>Gender Violence</u> Read: Volume 2 Pg. 314 “Through a Sociological Lens: Social Structure and Family Violence.”	<i>March 15</i> <u>Gender Violence</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 286 “Wife Battering and Ambiguities of Rights.” Read: Volume 2 Pg. 119 “Convicted Rapists Describe the Rewards of Rape.”	<i>March 16</i> <u>Gender Violence</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 377 “Violence Against Women.”
Week 11:	<i>March 20</i> Exam 2	<i>March 22</i> <u>Work and the Economy</u> Read: Volume 2 pg. 24 “Bringing the Men Back In: Sex Differentiation and the Devaluation of Women’s Work.”	<i>March 23</i> <u>Gender and Work</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 158 “The Impact of Hierarchical Structures and the Work Behavior of Men and Women.”
Week 12:	<i>March 27</i> <u>Gender and Work</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 69 “Gender, Work, Who Cares?! Production, Reproduction, Deindustrialization.”	<i>March 29</i> <u>Gender and Stratification</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 137 “Women in the Global Factory”	<i>March 30</i> <u>Gender and Stratification</u> Read: Volume 2 Pg. 304 “The Nanny Chain.”
Week 13:	<i>April 3</i> <u>Women and Religion</u> Read: Volume 2 pg. 1 “The Power, but Not the	<i>April 5</i> <u>Women and Religion</u> Read: Volume 2 Pg. 142 “Women and Islam.”	<i>April 6</i> <u>Gender and Health</u> Read: Volume 2 Pg. 53 “Sociological Explanations

	Glory: How Women Empower Themselves Through Religion.”		of Gender Differences in Mental and Physical Health.”
Week 14:	<i>April 10</i> <u>Power and Politics</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 241 “Why Sexist Language Matters.” Assignment #3 Due!!!	<i>April 12</i> <u>Social Change, Collective Behavior, and Social Movements</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 113 “On the Origins of Social Movements.” Read: Volume 2 Pg. 85 “Recreating Motherhood.”	<i>April 13</i> <u>Social Change, Collective Behavior, and Social Movements</u> Read: Volume 2 Pg. 409 “Prostitutes’ Rights in the United States: The Failure of a Movement.”
Week 15:	<i>April 17</i> Patriot’s Day University Closed	<i>April 19</i> <u>Social Change, Collective Behavior, and Social Movements</u> Read: Volume 1 Pg. 207 “Weekend Warriors: The New Men’s Movement.”	<i>April 20</i> Reading Day No Class Meeting Note: The date, location, and time of exam three will be announced by the University.