

Syllabus

Sociology 225/WS 231
"Sociology of Sex and Gender"
Spring 2001
Professor Irene Browne

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of gender. The central themes of the course will be changes and continuities in gender roles within the U.S., the social processes that influence our lives and our gender identities, and the connections between gender, power, and inequality. As we explore these themes, we will study how culture, the economy, and the family have been pivotal sites for the maintenance, reproduction, and change in gender roles in the U.S. We will pay special attention to the ways in which race, class and sexual orientation intersect processes of gender relations and social change.

The goals of the course are:

- 1) To understand the sociological perspective as it relates to gender. That is, to understand how gender-related behavior and definitions of gender are shaped by particular social processes. You should be able to draw upon sociological theory and research to discuss the debates within sociology about how the social environment influences the behavior and experiences of men and women. You should also be familiar with debates regarding the relation between gender, power, and social inequality.
- 2) To understand how gender is related to race and class in the U.S. By the end of this course, you should articulate why the study of gender is incomplete without a consideration of race and class. You should be able to illustrate this claim with examples, and show how experiences, opportunities, and social power within the economy and the family vary by the combination of gender, race, and class.
- 3) To comprehend the relationship between gender and social change. You should be able to give a sociological account of why individual women and men fall into different places along the spectrum of feminist beliefs and social activism --- from pro-feminist to anti-feminist. That is, how do differences in individuals' positions in the economy and the family explain why some women (and men) are pro-feminist, some are anti-feminist, and some women are sympathetic to feminist goals but do not label themselves as feminist?
- 4) To develop a deeper understanding how your own experience, views, choices and behavior have been shaped by the relationship between your gender/race/class, the cultural environments you inhabit, and the structure of opportunities you encounter.

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OFFICE HOURS:

Irene Browne
Social Sciences 208
727-7508
Fridays 10-12

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Kimmel, Michael, and Michael Messner. 1998. *Men's Lives*. MacMillan. (K&M)

Hochschild, Arlie. 1989. *The Second Shift: Working Parents and the Revolution at Home*. NY: Viking.

Electronic reserve (available in through EUCLID)

LEARNLINK:

Course materials will be available on a Learnlink conference for the class. As part of the class, you will be expected to check your email regularly, as I will be sending you information about any changes or issues regarding the class via Learnlink.

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REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments: (10 points)

You will be required to complete 5 assignments. Each assignment is worth 2 points. Assignments are described in a separate handout.

Participation: (10 points)

Your participation grade will be based on attendance and your contributions to class discussion. Attendance is worth a total of 8 points. Participation is worth an additional two points. (That is, if you always attend class but never participate, you do not receive the points for "participation." If you miss a few classes but are an active and constructive participant, you receive the two points for participation.) Your attendance will be graded as follows:

- 0-3 classes missed: 8 points
- 4 classes missed: 7 points
- 5 classes missed: 6 points
- 6 classes missed: 5 points
- 7 classes missed: 4 points
- 8 classes missed: 3 points
- 9 classes missed: 2 points
- 10 classes missed: 1 point
- 11+ classes missed: 0 points

MIDTERM: (35 points)

FINAL: (35 points)

The final exam will cover the third part of the course.

Socialization Project: (10 points)

You will participate in a project to understand the processes of gender socialization. This will involve making observations in a local toy store, and applying the Social Learning perspective to those observations as well as to your own childhood experiences. A detailed description of the assignment will be distributed in class.

Summary of Grading:

Short Assignments:	10%
Participation:	10%
Socialization Project:	10%
Midterm:	30%

Final: 40%
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COURSE OUTLINE

PART I: DEFINING GENDER.

A. How do Sociologists study gender?

1/17 Introduction to the Course:

B. What is gender and how is gender related to behavior?

1/19 Biological perspectives: Sex and gender

READINGS: Fausto-Sterling. "Myths of Gender: The Biological Connection." (reserve)

Gilder, George. "The Glass Ceiling Is Not What Limits Women at Work." (reserve)

1/22 Socialization perspectives: Gender roles

READINGS: Tan, Amy. *The Joy Luck Club*. (reserve)

Herd, Gilbert. "Rituals of Manhood: Male Initiation in Papua, New Guinea." (reserve)

1/24 Organizational perspectives: Status and situations

READINGS: Michener, and DeLamater. "Status Characteristics and Social Interaction" (reserve)

Katz. "The Importance of Being Beautiful." (reserve)

Organizational perspectives, cont.: Gender stereotypes and situations

1/26 READINGS: Kanter, Rosabeth. 1977. "Numbers: Minorities and Majorities." Chapter 8 in *Men and Women of the Corporation*. (reserve)

1/29- Stratification perspectives: Gender inequality

READINGS: Anderson and Moore. "The Burden of Womanhood." (reserve)

Palley, Grace. "Women's Rights as Human Rights" (reserve)

1/31 Stratification assignment due

2/2- Feminist perspectives: The intersection of gender, race, and class

READINGS: hooks, bell. "Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory." (reserve)

Collins, Patricia Hill. "Mammies, Matriarchs, and Other Controlling Images." (reserve)

2/5 McIntosh, Peggy. "White Privilege, Male Privilege" (reserve)

Espiritu, Yen. "All Men are *Not* Created Equal: Asian Men in U.S. History." (K & M)
(Bring McIntosh article to class and be prepared to discuss it).

PART II: "DOING" GENDER: GENDER AND CULTURE

A. What are Cultural Definitions of Femininity and Masculinity?

- 2/7- The Social Construction of Gender
2/9 READINGS: Lucal, Betsy. "What It Means to Be a Gendered Me." (reserve)
West and Zimmerman, "Doing Gender" (reserve)
Chan, Sucheng. "You're Short, Besides!" (reserve)
Almaguer, Tomas. "Chicano Men: A Cartography of Homosexual Identity and Behavior" (K & M)
- 2/12 Definitions of Femininity
READINGS: Wood, pp. 182-197
LeBlanc, Lauraine. *Pretty in Punk*, Chaps. 1 and 5. (reserve)
LeEspiritu, Yen. "Americans Have a Different Attitude...". (reserve)
- 2/14- Definitions of Masculinity
2/16 READINGS: McGuffy and Rich. "Playing in the Gender Transgression Zone." (K & M)
Nonn, Timothy. "Hitting Bottom: Homelessness, Poverty, and Masculinity" (K & M)
Chen. "Lives at the Center of the Periphery, Lives at the Periphery of the Center: Chinese American Masculinities and Bargaining with Hegemony." (reserve)
Reading response due

B. How Do We Learn These Definitions and Incorporate Them Into our Identity?

- 2/19 Gender and Educational Institutions
READINGS: Orenstein, Peggy. *School Girls*, Introduction and Chapter 1.
- 2/21 READINGS: Orenstein, Peggy. *School Girls*, Chapters 7 and 8.
- 2/23 Gender and the Media
READINGS: Coltrane and Messineo. "The Perpetuation of Subtle Prejudice: Race and Gender Imagery in 1990s Television Advertising." (reserve)
Hollander, Jocelyn. "Doing *Studs*: The Performance of Gender and Sexuality on Late-Night Television." (K & M)
- 2/26 Gillespie, M. "Mirror, Mirror." (reserve)
Lehman, Peter. "In an Imperfect World, Men with Small Penises are Unforgiven." (K & M)
- 2/28 Midterm review
- 3/2 ***** MIDTERM *****

PART III: MONEY AND POWER: GENDER AND THE ECONOMY

A. How are Gender and the Economy Related?

- 3/5 “Women’s Work and Men’s Work” in The Changing U.S. Economy: WWII
FILM: ROSIE THE RIVETER
- 3/7 READINGS: Le Espiritu, “Changing Lives and the Postwar Years.” Pp. 42-49 in *Asian American Women and Men* (reserve)
Ambrose, Stephen. “Winter War: January 1945” (reserve)
- 3/9 Gender and Race in a Slave Economy
READINGS: Jones, J. “My Mother Was Much of a Woman: Slavery”
Reading response due
- 3/12- ***** SPRING BREAK *****
3/16

C. Are there Gender Inequities in the U.S. Workplace?

- 3/19 The Sex Gap in Pay and The Sex Segregation of the Labor Market:
Human Capital and Socialization Theories
READINGS: Independent Women’s Forum. “The Economic Progress of Women in America.”
(reserve)
Pollitt, Katha. “Go Figure” (reserve)
- 3/21 Grant, Linda. “Helpers, Enforcers and Go-Betweens: Black Females in Elementary School
Classrooms” (reserve)
Socialization assignment due
- 3/23- Sex Gap in Pay and The Sex Segregation of the Labor Market: Discrimination and Power
Theories
READINGS: Williams, Christine. “The Glass Escalator: Hidden Advantages for Men in the
‘Female’ Professions.” (K&M)
Tallichet, Suzanne. “Gendered Relations in the Mines and the Division of Labor Underground”
(reserve)
- 3/26 READINGS: Giuffre and Williams. “Boundary Lines: Labeling Sexual Harassment in
Restaurants.” (K & M)
Pierce, Jennifer. “Rambo Litigators: Emotional Labor in a Male-Dominated Occupation.”
(K & M)
- 3/28 Sex Gap in Pay and The Sex Segregation of the Labor Market:
Organizational Theories
READINGS: Browne, Irene and Ivy Kennelly. “Stereotypes and Realities: Images of Black
Women in the Labor Market.” (reserve)

Bielby, Denise D; Bielby, William T. "Women and Men in Film: Gender Inequality among Writers in a Culture Industry." (reserve)

3/30 Women and Poverty

READINGS: Perkins, J. "Roots of Violence" AJC 1/12/94 (reserve)

Baca Zinn, M. "Family, Race and Poverty in the 1980s" (reserve)

Poverty assignment due

PART IV: GENDER AND THE FAMILY

A. How Is the Family Changing?

4/2 Single Parent Families

READINGS: Hochschild, Chap. 14

Thompson, Aaron; Lawson, Erma J. African American Men and Fatherhood: A Look from Divorced Fathers. (reserve)

Liazos, Alex. Grieving and Growing: Experiences of Divorced Fathers. (reserve)

4/4-4/6 Changing Relationships and Changing Definitions of "Family"

READINGS: Miller, Brian. "Lifestyles of Gay Husbands and Fathers." (K & M)

Dalton, Susan E; Bielby, Denise D. "That's Our Kind of Constellation": Lesbian Mothers Negotiate Institutionalized Understandings of Gender within the Family. (reserve).

Hequembourg, Amy L; Farrell, Michael P. Lesbian Motherhood: Negotiating Marginal-Mainstream Identities. (reserve)

B. What is the Relationship between Gender and Dynamics among Family and Friends?

4/9 Gender Ideologies and the Division of Labor in the Family

READINGS: Hochschild, A. Preface, Chaps. 1,2,5,6

Reading response due

4/11 Hochschild, A. Chaps. 8,12,13,15

4/13- Gender and Interpersonal Communication

4/16 READINGS: Wood, pp 32-36, Chap. 5 ("Verbal Communication") and Chapter 6 ("Nonverbal Communication.")

PART VI: GENDER AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

How have groups mobilized for change in gender? What changes do they seek?

4/18- The 'Women's Movements'

Guy-Sheftall, Beverly. "Introduction: The Evolution of Feminist Consciousness among African American Women." (reserve)

Buechler, S. "Roots and Origins." (reserve)

article on international women's movements TBA

- 4/20 READINGS: Moraga, C. "La Güera." (reserve)
Chafe, William. "The Revival of Feminism" (reserve)
hooks, bell. "Men: Comrades in Struggle." (K & M)
- 4/23 Anti-feminist Movements
Klatch, R. "The Two Worlds of Women of the New Right." (reserve)
- 4/25 Men's Movements
Farrell, Warren. "From Stage I to Stage II" (reserve)
Allen, Robert. "Racism, Sexism, and a Million Men." (K & M)
The National Organization for Men Against Sexism. "Statement of Principles." (K & M)
- 4/27 Gender and Social Movements: Summary
READINGS: Faludi, Susan. 1991. "Blame It On Feminism." (reserve)
Rupp, Leila J. Feminisms and Internationalism: A View from the Centre. (reserve)
- 4/30 LAST DAY OF CLASS
- 5/3 **FINAL EXAM: 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

ELECTRONIC RESERVE READINGS

(Note: readings that are in edited volumes may be listed under the book title rather than the chapter title.)

Fausto-Sterling. "Myths of Gender: The Biological Connection." Pp. 42-49 in *The Sociology of Gender*, edited by Laura Kramer.

Gilder, George. "The Glass Ceiling Is Not What Limits Women at Work."

Tan, Amy. "The Red Candle." Pp. 49-57 in *The Joy Luck Club*.

Herd, Gilbert. "Rituals of Manhood: Male Initiation in Papua, New Guinea." Pp. 129-133 in Brettell and Sargent, *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*.

Michener, H. Andrew, and John D. DeLamater. "Group Structure and Interaction" pp. 336-348 in *Social Psychology*, 4th Edition.

Katz, Sydney. 1995. "The Importance of Being Beautiful." Pp. 301-307 in *Down to Earth Sociology*, 8th edition, edited by James Heslin. NY: Free Press.

Kanter, Rosabeth Moss. 1977. "Numbers: Minorities and Majorities." Pp. 206-242 in *Men and Women of the Corporation*. NY: Basic Books.

Anderson, John Ward, and Molly Moore. 1996. "The Burden of Womanhood." pp. 271-277 in *Mapping the Social Landscape*, edited by Susan J. Ferguson. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co.

Palley, Marian Lief. 1991. "Women's Rights as Human Rights: An International Perspective." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 515:163-178.

Collins, Patricia Hill. 1990. "Mammies, Matriarchs, and Other Controlling Images." Chap. 4 in *Black Feminist Thought*. Boston: Unwyn Hyman.

hooks, bell. 1995. "Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory." pp. 270-282 in *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American Feminist Thought*, edited by Beverly Guy-Sheftall. NY: New Press.

McIntosh, Peggy. 1998. "White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences Through Work in Women's Studies." Pp. 94-105 in *Race, Class, and Gender: An Anthology*, 3rd edition. Edited by Margaret Andersen and Patricia Hill Collins. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

West, Candace, and Don Zimmerman. 1991. "Doing Gender." Pp. 13-37 in *The Social Construction of Gender*, edited by Judith Lorber and Susan Farrell. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Lucal, Betsy. 1999. "What it Means to be Gendered Me." *Gender & Society* 13(6): 781-797.

Wood, Julia. "The Personal Side of the Gender Drama." Pp. 131-143 in *Gendered Lives*, 2nd Edition.

- Chan, Sucheng. 1989. "You're Short, Besides!" Pp. 421-427 in *Race, Class, and Gender: An Anthology*. 3rd edition, edited by Margaret Anderson and Patricia Hill Collins. Wadsworth.
- West, Candace, and Don Zimmerman. 1987. "Doing Gender." *Gender & Society* 1:125-51.
- Shaffer, D. "Environmental Perspectives: Social Learning Theory and the Ecological Approach."
- Wood, Julia. "The Personal Side of the Gender Drama." Pp. 182-197 in *Gendered Lives: Communication, Gender, and Culture*. Wadsworth.
- LeBlanc, Lauraine. Chaps 1, 5. *Pretty in Punk*. Rutgers.
- Espiritu, Yen Le. 2000. "Americans Have a Different Attitude: Family, Sexuality, and Gender in Filipina American Lives." Pp. 222-231 in *Gender through the Prism of Difference* 2nd edition. Edited by Maxine Baca-Zinn, Pierrette Hondagneu Sotelo, and Michael Messner.
- Chen, Anthony S. 1999. "Lives at the Center of the Periphery, Lives at the Periphery of the Center: Chinese American Masculinities and Bargaining with Hegemony." *Gender & Society* 13(5):584-607.
- Orenstein, Peggy. *School Girls*, Introduction and Chapters 1, 7-8.
- Coltrane, Scott, and Melinda Messineo. 2000. "The Perpetuation of Subtle Prejudice: Race and Gender Imagery in 1990s Television Advertising." *Sex Roles* 42(5/6):363-389.
- Gillespie, M. "Mirror, Mirror." Pp. 184-188 in *The Politics of Women's Bodies: Sexuality, Appearance, and Behavior*, edited by Rose Weitz. NY: Oxford University Press.
- Jones, Jacqueline. 1985. "My Mother Was Much of a Woman: Slavery" Chap. 1 in *Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow*. NY: Vintage Books.
- Le Espiritu, Yen. "Changing Lives and the Postwar Years." Pp. 42-49 in *Asian American Women and Men*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Ambrose, Stephen. 1997. "Winter War: January 1945." Chapter 16 in *Citizen Soldiers: The U.S. Army from the Normandy Beaches to the Bulge to the Surrender of Germany, June 7, 1944-May 7, 1945*.
- Independent Women's Forum. "Women's Figures" pp. 1-27.
- Pollitt, Katha. "Go Figure" *The Nation*.
- Grant, Linda. "Helpers, Enforcers and Go-Betweens: Black Females in Elementary School Classrooms"
- Tallichet, Suzanne. 1995. "Gendered Relations in the Mines and the Division of Labor Underground." *Gender & Society*, 9(6):697-711

- Bielby, Denise D; Bielby, William T. 1996. "Women and Men in Film: Gender Inequality among Writers in a Culture Industry." *Gender & Society* 10(3):248-270.
- Browne, Irene and Ivy Kennelly. 1999. "Stereotypes and Realities: Images of Black Women in the Labor Market." Pp. 302-326 in *Latinas and African American Women at Work*. NY: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Perkins, Anthony. "The Roots of Violence." *AJC* 1/12/94
- Zinn, Maxine Baca. "Family, Race, and Poverty in the 1980s." *Signs*.
- Thompson, Aaron; Lawson, Erma J. 1994. "African American Men and Fatherhood: A Look from Divorced Fathers." *Journal of African American Men*, 4, 1, summer, 37-51.
- Liazos, Alex. 1997. "Grieving and Growing: Experiences of Divorced Fathers." *Humanity & Society*, 21, 4, Nov, 353-376
- Dalton, Susan E; Bielby, Denise D. 2000. "That's Our Kind of Constellation": Lesbian Mothers Negotiate Institutionalized Understandings of Gender within the Family. *Gender & Society*, 2000, 14, 1, Feb, 36-61.
- Hequembourg, Amy L; Farrell, Michael P. 1999. "Lesbian Motherhood: Negotiating Marginal-Mainstream Identities." *Gender & Society*, 13(4). Aug, 540-557
- Wood, Julia. "Gendered Verbal Communication." Chapter 4 in *Gendered Lives: Gender, Communication, and Culture*.
- Wood, Julia. "Gendered Nonverbal Communication." Chapter 5 in *Gendered Lives: Gender, Communication, and Culture*.
- Chafe, William. 1991. "The Revival of Feminism." Chap. 11 in *The Paradox of Change*.
- Moraga, Cherríe. 1981. "La Güera." Pp. 27-34 in *This Bridge Called My Back*.
- Buechler, S. "Roots and Origins." Pp.9-23 in *Women's Movements in the United States*.
- Guy-Sheftall, Beverly. 1995. "Introduction: The Evolution of Feminist Consciousness among African American Women." Pp. 1-22 in *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American Feminist Thought*, edited by Beverly Guy-Sheftall. NY: The New Press.
- hooks, bell. 1981. "Black Women and Feminism." Pp. 159-175 in *Ain't I a Woman?* South End Press.
- Klatch, Rebecca. 1990. "The Two Worlds of Women on the New Right" pp. 529-552 in *Women, Politics, and Change*, edited by Louise Tilly and Patricia Gurin. NY: The Russell Sage Foundation.
- Farrell, Warren. 1993. "From Stage I to Stage II." Chapter 2 in *The Myth of Male Power*.

Faludi, Susan. 1991. "Blame It On Feminism." Chapter 1 in *Backlash*.
Quinn. "Who Killed Feminism?"

Rupp, Leila J. 1998. "Feminisms and Internationalism: A View from the Centre." *Gender & History*, 10,
3, Nov, 535-538