

SOC 225/WS 231 -- Sociology of Gender and Sexuality
Spring 2006, MWF 12:50-1:40pm
Tarbutton 218

Instructor: Prof. M. Carry
Office: Tarbutton 234
Office Hours: M 2:00-3:00pm, or by appointment
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Course Description

The following course will introduce students to the study of gender and sexuality from a sociological perspective. The general focus of the course will be to understand how gender and sexuality are connected through major areas of everyday life. Emphasis will be placed on understanding how race/ethnic/cultural variation, gender variation, and sexual orientation and identity all intersect. The course is broken into three major parts including how sociologists study gender and sexuality, how we learn gender and sexuality, and how gender and sexuality affects our everyday lives.

Course Goals

The goals of the course are;

1. To understand how your own individual views, choices, and behavior are shaped by socialization and culture.
2. To develop a deeper understanding of how gender and sexuality have also impacted your choices and the opportunities around you.
3. To use major theoretical perspectives on gender as guiding principals to identify author perspectives. You will consistently be asked to read material, identify author perspectives and connect them with one (or more) of the sociological perspectives.
4. To examine how race, class and sexual orientation interact with gender and identify interconnecting social mechanisms. Meaning, that as students you will be required to not think of concepts in isolation, but rather more sociological, by examining how concepts work together and reinforce one another.
5. To connect gender and sexuality influence with class materials but to also connect material with current events and discuss these aspects in class discussions.

Required Text

Colapinto, John. (2001). As Nature Made Him: The Boy who was raised as a Girl
New York: Harper Perennial
ISBN: 0060929596

ELECTRONIC RESERVES: In addition students will have a selection of readings from both journal articles, and media to supplement text readings on each week's discussions. These articles will be placed on electronic reserves.

<https://ereserves.library.emory.edu/reserves2/index.php>

BlackBoard

All course materials and copies of handouts will be available on blackboard. I will also use blackboard to communicate any changes in dates, or other class revisions. Any last minute class changes, including cancellations, will be posted here along with assignments, grades, events, etc. You will be responsible for checking your email regularly to obtain these updates.

You can buy the book at the university bookstore or check them out via 2-hr reserve at the Woodruff Library

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation in class is both expected and encouraged. Your grade will be based on your attendance and contribution to class discussions. Participation in class should show that you have read and have formulated some opinion or questions regarding the material. Although formal attendance will not be taken everyday, your attendance (or lack thereof) will reflect in both your ability to participate in the discussions, and assignments and exam grades. If you miss more than three classes unexcused, I reserve the right to lower your grade accordingly.

2. Readings and Reflections

You are expected to complete all readings on your own prior to the class for which they will be discussed. Please read all material for content and their theoretical perspective. Occasionally, you will be asked to use class time to write on a question related to certain aspects of course lectures or readings. Reflections should be 1-2 pages in length, no more. Evaluation will be based on completion and thoughtfulness of response. Each reflection assignment will be completed in class and explained in detail. Reflections will be collected periodically. If you do not have your reflection on a collection day, your assignment will be considered late, and your grade will be lowered accordingly. If you are absent on collection day you are responsible for making up that question in your own time.

3. Debates

You will be divided into teams & asked to debate one side of an issue. Your “side” will need to work together to create a cohesive and clear argument for your position; to defend that position against the other team’s questions; and to pose questions for the opposing viewpoint. As an incentive, each member of the winning team (determined by class vote) will receive 1 percentage point to their lowest exam grade. 50% of your grade on this assignment will be based on your independent work; and 50% will be based on the collective work of your team. You will be asked to submit a brief evaluation of the work of yourself and your teammates which will be taken into account when grades are assigned. Debates are scheduled as following: Debate 1: 02/XX Debate 2: 03/XX, Debate 3: 04/XX,

4. Midterm

The Midterm will cover the first half of course materials. **DATE: TBA**

5. Final

The Final will cover the second half of course materials, and will not be cumulative. **DATE: TBA**

Summary of Grading

Participation and Reflections	15%
Debates	25%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
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Total	100%

Please Note:

We will be addressing some controversial issues, which may or may not have personal meaning for you (e.g. pornography, rape, "alternative" sexual expression). Regardless of your relationship to the topic, however, the grading requirements will not change. If you feel there is a reason, be it personal, religious, social, psychological, philosophical, etc., that you cannot complete the assignments and/or participate in class, it will be hard for you to do well. I will try to ensure a safe environment, but please consider your own comfort when deciding whether or not to drop this class. If you decide to stay in the course, please see me ahead of time to discuss potential problems. For example, if you believe talking about pornography in class will be difficult or painful for you, it may be possible for you to do an out-of-class assignment instead of attending the discussion. However, I must know ahead of time.

Late Assignment(s) and Make-Up Exam Policy

All assignments and projects are expected to be handed in, in class, on the day they are due. Written assignments and projects not handed in, in class, on the day they are due are late. Assignments handed in after the class period on due date are also considered late. Late assignments will be lowered by one letter grade for each day after due date that they are late.

Exams are expected to be taken in class on the days on which they are scheduled. Make-up exams will only be provided to students with excused absences who present a written note.

If students have an excused reason for being absent on a(n) exam or due date, they should contact me *prior* to class period.

Extra Credit

Opportunities for Extra Credit will be posted on Blackboard.

Student Ethics

Violations of the student honor code of ethics will result in a failing grade for the class and may have further disciplinary consequences. This applies to all components of the course: Attendance, quizzes exams, papers. For further details please consult the Emory College honor code at:
[Http://www.college.emory.edu?students/honor.html](http://www.college.emory.edu?students/honor.html)

Course Outline

PART I. HOW DO SOCIOLOGIST STUDY GENDER & SEXUALITY?

Week 1 : Introduction to Gender and Sexuality

This first section will focus on the differences between sex and gender and a brief introduction to the course. What is the difference between sex and gender? How do sociologists study gender?

01/17- Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Course

01/19- Gender and Sexuality

Week 2 : Theoretical Orientations & Methodologies

This next section will provide students with the tools they need to analyze and digest future sections in the course; it will introduce the four major theoretical perspectives for understanding gender.

01/22- Biological/ Socialization Perspectives

01/24- Stratification Perspectives /Feminist Perspectives

01/26- Feminist Perspectives cont.

PART II. HOW DO WE LEARN GENDER & SEXUALITY?

Week 3: Gender Role Socialization

1/29 “As Nature Made Him” Introduction

1/31 Discussion “As Nature Made Him”
(Kinsey showing tonight)

2/2 Discussion and Conclusion “As Nature Made Him”

Week 4: Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities

02/05 Gay, Straight or Bi? Him, Her, Me and Between...

02/07 Heterosexual Privilege

***02/09 Debate 1: Gender Reassignment**

Week 5: Gender & Education

02/12 Discussion: Kinsey Movie

02/14 Sex Ed

02/16 Gender Differences in School

Week 6: Family & Marriage

02/19 Gender in the Family

02/ 21 Types of Families

02/23 Review Day

PART III. HOW DOES GENDER & SEXUALITY SHAPE OUR LIVES?

Week 7: Exam and Media Representations of Gender & Sexuality

02/26 MIDTERM EXAM

03/28 Media Representations of Sexuality

3/02 Pornography and the Feminist Debate

Week 8: Gender & the Labor Market

03/05 Gender and Labor: Human Capital vs. Discrimination theories

03/07 Occupational Segregation

03/09 Occupational Segregation

03/12-03/16 *Spring Break- Enjoy !*

Week 9: Gender, Sexuality, and the Labor Market

03/19 Sex for Sale

03/21 & Sexual Tourism

***03/23 Debate 2: Should Prostitution be legalized?**

Week 10: Sexual Violence

03/26 Rape

03/28 Hurt from within: Domestic Violence

03/30 Sexual Harassment- Sex in the Workplace

Week 11: Sexual Deviance/Variation and the Law

04/02 Variations in Sexual Behavior

04/04 Crusaders against Vice

***04/06 Debate #3 Sexual Offender Rights**

Week 12: Gender, Sexuality, Health and Morality

04/09 Religion & Sex

04/11 Contemporary issues in Sexual Ethics

04/13 *Discussion: Toward an Ethics of Human Sexuality*

Week 13: Gender, Sexuality, Health and Medicine

04/16 Gender Differences in Health

04/18 Health and Sexuality

04/20 Sexual Disorders to STDS

Week 14: Sex Positive

04/23 Understanding Sex Positive

04/25 Final Presentations

04/27 Final Presentations

Week 15:

4/30 Last Day of Class

Review and Wrap Up

5/3 Final Exam, 8:30-11:00 am