

Course n°20209:920:337:62

Sociology of Gender

Fall 2020

Wednesday 6-8.40pm, ONLINE

Zoom link will be provided on Blackboard for each class

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Office hours (online): Wednesdays 4-5.30pm and by appointment

Course description

What is gender and why do we need it? How is it shaped and constructed? Does gender rely solely on the dichotomy masculinities/femininities? How does gender help us understand issues of race, class, sexuality etc.? This course explores gender and feminisms from a sociological perspective. It looks at the ways in which gender norms, roles, relations and practices are shaped through social structures, institutions and power relations. It also analyses how gender and sexualities are related to race, class, religion, ethnicity etc. We will also explore feminist theories and concepts such as patriarchy, sexism and intersectionality. The course encourages students to investigate central themes in sociology such as violence, family, education, health, work, state, nation, religion etc.

How the course works

The course consists of lectures, seminars and workshops using texts, images and videos. We use Blackboard (BB) to access course documents, and the power-point of the course will be accessible after the session. **No need to buy the books, all the course material will be made available on BB.** We use BB to exchange relevant information, resources and links. **The Zoom link to attend each class will be posted on Blackboard (BB) at the beginning of each class. You must check BB regularly since readings on the syllabus are subject to change.**

Course goals

The general aim of this course is to **provide context, history, and complexity to the understanding of gender norms, relations and practices.** At the end of the term, students should be able to:

- demonstrate how gender relations, norms and practices are thought, built and shaped through social, political, economic realities and their imbricated dynamics.
- understand essential conceptual ideas and theories related to gender, feminisms and sexualities.
- be equipped with a sociological lens that can be used to broaden an understanding of the world from everyday interactions to transnational realities.
- be able to identify and explain several main theoretical perspectives about gender, feminisms and sexualities and their interactions with concepts of race, class, ethnicity, religion etc.
- discuss different ways to think about gender and formulate theoretical questions.
- begin exploring research horizons and relating research questions to broader sociological concerns.

Course Requirements

Learning is a collaborative experience of mutual sharing and learning, it is important to come to class prepared, having read all texts before class. Again, **no need to buy the books, all the course material will be made available on Blackboard.** You must check it regularly since readings on the syllabus are subject to change.

SPECIAL ONLINE REQUIREMENTS: Your camera has to be ON during the full duration of the class (exceptions can be discussed prior to class).

Grading

25 % class participation: your active presence and your participation to the class dynamic and discussion.

20 % oral presentation: you will give a 10-15 mn max presentation on a weekly reading

20% reaction paper: you will write a short paper of around 500 words reflecting on a text or a video. The deadline will be the following Monday at midnight.

35% essay: you will write an essay of around 850 words answering one question in the list of questions available on BB. **Deadline : Friday December 18, Midnight.**

Grading scale

A : 100-90

B+ :89.9 – 84.5

B : 84.49-79.5

C+ : 79.49-74.5

C : 74.49-69.5

D :69.49-59.5

F : 59.49-0

Schedule FALL 2020

Important note: Readings are subject to change, please rely mainly on Blackboard postings. No need to buy the books, the readings will all be made available on Blackboard.

Reading list that you can use for your personal research and your essay:

-Bilge, Sirma and Collins, Patricia Hill. 2016. *Intersectionality*. Wiley.

-Collins, Patricia Hill. 2000. *Black Feminist Thought. Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*. Routledge.

-Disch, Estelle. 2009. *Reconstructing Gender: A Multicultural Anthology*. McGraw-Hill.

-Holmes, Mary. 2007. *What is Gender? Sociological Approaches*. Sage Publications.

-hooks, bell. 2000. *Feminism is for everybody: passionate politics*. South End Press.

-Kimmel, Michael, Kaler, Amy and Aronson, Amy (eds). 2015. *The Gendered Society Reader*. Oxford University Press.

-Linda, Lindsay L. 2005. *Gender roles: a sociological perspective*. Pearson Education.

-Lorde, Audre. 1984. *Sister Outsider. Essays and Speeches*. Ten Speed Press.

-Moraga, Cherríe & Anzaldúa, Gloria (eds). (1981) 2002. *This Bridge Called my Back. Writings by Radical Women of Color*. (Persephone Press) Third Women Press.

WEEK 1: Wednesday September 2

General introduction to the course

No preparation or readings required

WEEK 2: Wednesday September 9

What is Sociology? What is Gender? What is Sociology of Gender?

-Holmes, Mary. 2007. Introduction to the sociology of gender. In *What is Gender? Sociological Approaches*, pp 1-15.

-In *An Introduction to Sociology*, 2013. Chapter 1.

WEEK 3: Wednesday September 16

Doing Gender

-West, Candace and Zimmerman, Don H. Doing Gender. Chapter 5. *The Gendered Society Reader*.

-Martin, Emily. 1991. The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles. *Signs*, 16 (3), 485-501.

WEEK 4: Wednesday September 23

On Sex and Gender

-Lorber, Judith. 1994. "Night to his Day":The Social Construction of Gender. Excerpts from: *Paradoxes of Gender* (Chapter 1) by Judith Lorber. Yale University Press.

-Delphy, Christine. 1993. Rethinking Sex and Gender. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 16 (1) pp. 1-9.

WEEK 5: Wednesday September 30

Patriarchy(ies)

-Walby, Sylvia. 1990. *Theorizing Patriarchy*, Basil Blackwell, 1990: "Introduction" pp. 1-24,

-hooks, bell. 2004. *Feminism is for everybody: passionate politics* (South End Press). From the introduction p.vii to p36 and from p67 to p104.

WEEK 6: Wednesday October 7

Sex, Gender and Power

-Butler, Judith. 1990. "Subjects of Sex/Gender/desire" pp1-34. In *Gender Trouble. Feminism and the subversion of identity*, Routledge.

-Foucault, Michel. "Bio-power" pp257-273 and "Sex and Truth" pp291-300. In *The Foucault Reader*.

No class Wednesday October 14

WEEK 7: Wednesday October 21

Intersectionality: Race, Class and Gender

-Crenshaw, Kimberlé W. 1993. Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color. *Stanford Law review*, 43.

-McIntosh, Peggy. White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack. *Reconstructing Gender: A Multicultural Anthology*, pp. 71-76.

WEEK 8: Wednesday October 28

Embodying Gender

- Jordan Ellen and Cowan, Angela. 1995. Warrior Narratives in the Kindergarten Classroom: Renegotiating the Social Contract? *Gender and Society*, 9 (6) pp. 727-743.
- Martin, Karin A. 1998. Becoming a Gendered Body: Practices of Preschools. *American Sociological Review*, 63 (4) pp. 494-511.

WEEK 9: Wednesday November 4

Masculinities and Femininities

- Messner, Michael. Boyhood, Organized Sports, and the Construction of Masculinities. *Reconstructing Gender: A Multicultural Anthology*.
- Bordo, Susan. The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity. Chapter 13. *The Gendered Society Reader*.

WEEK 10: Wednesday November 11

Gendered Family

- Collins, Patricia Hill. 2009. Bloodmothers, other mothers, and women-centered networks. *Reconstructing Gender: A Multicultural Anthology*. Pp. 318-324.
- Coltrane, Scott. 2015. Household Labour and the Routine Production of Gender. Chapter 23. *The Gendered Society Reader*.

WEEK 11: Wednesday November 18

Sexualities

- Callis, April S., 2014. Bisexual, pansexual, queer: Non-binary identities and the sexual borderlands. *Sexualities*, 17(1-2) pp.63-80.
- Clay, Andra. 2008. "Like an Old Soul Record": Black Feminism, Queer Sexuality, and the Hip-Hop Generation, *Meridians*, 8(1) pp. 53-73.

Thanksgiving Break: No class Wednesday 25 of November ☺

WEEK 12: Wednesday December 2

Feminisms: Black, Chicana and Native/Indigenous

- Lorde, Audre. The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House. *Sister Outsider. Essays and Speeches*. Pp. 110-113.
- Smith, Andra. Indigenous Feminism without Apology. *Unsettling America. Decolonization in Theory and Practice*. Sept. 8, 2011.
- Anzaldúa, Gloria. 1987. *Borderlands/La Frontera. The New Mestiza* (aunt lute books) Excerpts pp.1-23.

WEEK 13: Wednesday December 9

Feminist futures

- hooks, bell. 1994. Theory as a Liberatory Practice. *Teaching to Transgress. Education as the Practice of Freedom*. pp. 59-76.
- Choose an excerpt from Moraga, Cherríe & Anzaldúa, Gloria. Eds (1981) 2002. *This Bridge Called my Back. Writings by Radical Women of Color*, and explain why you picked it.

Additional important information

Academic integrity

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. The Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy will apply to all course work. If you have any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, ask me and/or consult the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>. Take precautions by always referencing the materials you have read by adding a footnote, endnote, or citing your source text in parenthesis. Referencing shows you have done serious research, and that you have acknowledged the work of other scholars and engage critically with their work and ideas.

Policy on late submission of course work

Papers submitted late will be marked down 3% percent for each day past the deadline, and will not be accepted after ten days past the deadline. Please contact me in advance if you have difficulty meeting a deadline for health or personal reasons.

Important semester dates

Please check these important dates (last day to drop a class, last day to add class etc.) to avoid any penalty: <https://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu/office-registrar-academic-calendar>

Learning resources available

Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)

Room 140, Bradley Hall

973 353 5608

<http://ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc>

Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshop)

Room 126, Conklin Hall

973 353 5847

nwc@newark.rutgers.edu

<http://ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>

Disability services

We welcome students with disabilities, in order to receive consideration you can complete and submit the Registration Form, schedule and complete an intake meeting. If you request for reasonable accommodations is approved, you will receive a Letter of Accommodations (LOA), which you should present privately to me as early in the semester as possible. You can begin the process through the following links:

Applying for Services: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services>

Documentation Guidelines: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>

Letter of Accommodations (LOA) : <https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/Forms/LOA>

Office of Disability services (ODS):

Suite 219, Paul Robeson Campus Center

973 353 5375

odsnewark@rutgers.edu