Course n° 20209:920:337:6
Sociology of Gender
Fall 2020
Wednesday 6-8.40pm, ONLINE
Zoom link will be provided on Blackboard for each class

Zahra Ali
Email: z.ali@rutgers.edu
Phone #: 973 353 2955
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:

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

WEEK 3: Wednesday September 16
Doing Gender

WEEK 4: Wednesday September 23
On Sex and Gender

WEEK 5: Wednesday September 30
Patriarchy(ies)

WEEK 6: Wednesday October 7
Sex, Gender and Power

No class Wednesday October 14

WEEK 7: Wednesday October 21
Intersectionality: Race, Class and Gender

WEEK 8: Wednesday October 28
Embodying Gender

WEEK 9: Wednesday November 4
Masculinities and Femininities

WEEK 10: Wednesday November 11
Gendered Family

WEEK 11: Wednesday November 18
Sexualities

Thanksgiving Break: No class Wednesday 25 of November 😊

WEEK 12: Wednesday December 2
Feminisms: Black, Chicana and Native/Indigenous

WEEK 13: Wednesday December 9
Feminist futures
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