

SEX, GENDER, AND SOCIETY I SOCY/WMST 1016 SPRING 2018

Instructor: Matthew Brown

Office: 146 Ketchum Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Contact Info: brownmc@colorado.edu

Teaching Assistant: Amanda Barrientez

Office: 482 Ketchum Hall

Office Hours: By appointment, 1/26 3 – 5 p.m., 3/2 3 – 5 p.m., and 4/24 3 – 5 p.m.

Contact Info: amanda.barrientez@colorado.edu

You are responsible for everything in the registration handbook, this syllabus, the text, and material covered in lecture.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course investigates sex, gender, and sexuality using a constructionist framework to critically engage with essentialistic and biologically determinist perspectives, dominant in Western society. Contemporary sex, gender, and sexual identities, will be viewed as outcomes and techniques of social control. We will explore the construction of male, female, femininity, masculinity, heterosexuality, and homosexuality as they inform and limit our cultural and individual understandings of gender. An individual's sex and gender cannot be isolated from their class and race, so readings will explore sex and gender within these systems of social organizations, as well. Since gender is a "moving target," I will spend considerable time discussing the shifting definitions of sex and gender. Throughout the course we will be examining and analyzing our own and others' experiences and identities in a sociological perspective of larger trends and social influences. We will also discuss the consequences of the sex, gender, and sexual stratification systems in place in this society with an emphasis on identifying inequality, injustice, and oppression.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Honor Code

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>

Honor code violations will result in a 0 for the assignment at a minimum and may also result in failing this course, probation, or expulsion.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at

http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

I DO NOT ALLOW ELECTRONIC NOTE TAKING DEVICES.

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>

Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Talk with me to make arrangements that allow you to observe and complete the assignment. Typically, I'll reschedule and exam or extend a paper deadline. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Your participation

Your participation in class discussion is encouraged. You are welcome to ask questions at any time or even take us a bit off-track in discussion. If something is interesting and important to the class, I do not mind exploring it further. In this class, we will most assuredly express strong opinions and argue over some points. ***We critique ideas not people.*** No one should be made to feel as if they are being attacked personally over something they express in class.

You respect other students by listening attentively when they are speaking, not rudely interrupting anyone speaking and by not making hurtful insults and/or comments that may silence other people in the class by declaring whole groups of people wrong/criminal/sinful/sick because of sex, gender, ethnicity, religion, politics, gender, ability, age, appearance, and consensual sexual choices. We will be discussing how those attitudes and the enforcement of those attitudes have operated to deny some people opportunities and resources that many expect *and* demand. You are encouraged to say whatever is there for you to say, being responsible for the effect your words will have on others. As a theme in this class we will also be discussing how words are social actions themselves with the power to enforce power relations and are reflective of existing power and privilege inequities.

My participation (teaching style and language)

The constructionist perspective is founded on the principle that language creates our reality and experience of the world in which we live. This class is about sex, gender, and sexuality as it is experienced in the everyday world in addition to the world of experts and doctors. Because of this, I consciously use language to uncover the implicit meanings about sex, gender, and sexuality and how words are used to create our common understanding of sex, gender, and sexuality. This is a difficult class at multiple levels (level of comprehension and integration of material required for tests as well as dealing with strong emotional reactions to course content and presentation styles). In my opinion, it demonstrates a high level of maturity to recognize your limits of comfort and what you are willing to take on this semester and act appropriately as quickly as possible.

REQUIRED READINGS

Wade, Lisa and Myra Marx Ferree. 2015. *Gender: Ideas, Interactions Institutions*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Articles will be added to the class website as the semester progresses . I will add additional readings not listed on the syllabus to D2L as deemed necessary.

EVALUATION COMPONENTS

Exams: Three 50-question multiple-choice exams. Each exam is worth 50 points. Rescheduling an exam will incur a 10% deduction.

Papers: Three papers will be assigned throughout the semester. First paper is worth 10 points, second and third papers are worth 20 points each.

Save all graded work for this course. If you do not have the original graded copy of your work, challenging your grade will not be considered.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

- Tu 1/16 Course Introduction
Th 1/18 Topic – Basic Sociological Concepts and Social Control
Read – Text Ch. 1 & 2.

WEEK 2

- Tu 1/23 Topic – Sociological Concepts
Read – “Hetero Non-Trans Privilege” & “McIntosh Privilege”
Paper #1 Assigned
Th 1/25 Topic – Cultural Criticism
View – bell hooks

WEEK 3

- Tu 1/30 Topic – Assumptions of Essentialism
Read – Text Ch. 3 & “In the Beginning, Nature”
Paper #1 Due
Th 2/1 Topic – Assumptions of Essentialism

WEEK 4

- Tu 2/6 Topic – Assumptions of Constructionism
Read – Text Ch. 4 & “Doing Gender”
Th 2/8 Topic – Assumptions of Constructionism

WEEK 5

- Tu 2/13 Review
Th 2/15 **EXAM ONE**

WEEK 6

- Tu 2/20 Topic – Hegemonic Gender/Sexual Scripts
Read – Text Ch. 6 & 7
Th 2/22 Topic – Hegemonic Gender/Sexual Scripts
Read - “Big Freaky-Looking Women” & “Fixing the Broken Male Body”

WEEK 7

- Tu 2/27 Topic – Feminist Frameworks
Read – Text Ch. 13 & 5
Paper #2 Assigned
Th 3/1 Topic – Feminist Frameworks

WEEK 8

- Tu 3/6 Feminist Frameworks
View: *She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry*
Paper #2 Due
Th 3/8 Gender & Race
View – *Ethnic Notions*
Read – “Hottentot 2000”

WEEK 9

Tu 3/13 Topic – Gender & Race
Read – “Climbing the Hierarchy of Masculinity”
Th 3/15 Topic – Expanding Feminism: Transgender Theorizing
Read – “O Au No Keia” and “Transgender History”

WEEK 10

Tu 3/20 Review
Th 3/22 **EXAM TWO**

WEEK 11 SPRING BREAK

WEEK 12

Tu 4/3 Topic – Gender & Violence
Read – Text Ch. 10 & “Doing Gender Inappropriately”
Th 4/5 View – *The Brandon Teena Story* 90 minutes

WEEK 13

Tu 4/10 View – *The Brandon Teena Story*
Th 4/12 Topic – Sexual Assault
Read – “A Recipe for Sexual Assault”

WEEK 14

Tu 4/17 Topic – Consequences of Rape Culture
Th 4/19 Topic – Consent
Paper #3 Assigned

WEEK 15

Tu 4/24 Topic – Gender & Family
Read – Text Ch. 11 & “Lesbigay Division of Labor”
Th 4/26 Topic – Gender & Family
Paper #3 Due

WEEK 16

Tu 5/1 Topic – Gender & Work
Read – Text Ch. 12 & “Glass Escalator”
Th 5/3 Review

Our final exam is Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 7:30 – 10 p.m.