

**Sociology of Gender
Sociology 7006
University of Colorado Boulder
Spring 2017**

Rachel Rinaldo, Department of Sociology (Rachel.Rinaldo@Colorado.Edu)
Location: Chemistry 131, Tuesdays 3:30 p.m – 6.00 pm
Office Hours: Thursday 2-4 (Ketchum 266)

COURSE OVERVIEW

This seminar explores both classic and current scholarship in the sociology of gender. Some sociologists see gender as a variable akin to race or class, others see it as produced through performance and interaction, while still others understand it as a social structure. Gender is also inflected by other dimensions of difference and inequality. This course grapples with how best to theorize, conceptualize, and analyze gender. We will examine classic feminist theories of sex and gender; the critiques of those frameworks that have emerged from intersectional, poststructuralist, and postcolonial feminists; and recent sociological theories of gender. We will pay close attention to themes of inequality, agency, politics, and the global.

The sociology of gender is one of the largest and most dynamic subfields in the discipline. A truly comprehensive overview is not possible in one semester. But this course is designed to help you build a gender prelim reading list and it will expose you to some of the richest substantive areas – including recent literature on work and family, transgender issues, masculinity, religion, and globalization. The study of gender is also very interdisciplinary. The texts included on this syllabus are mostly by sociologists, but I also include readings from other disciplinary perspectives that have become part of the sociological canon. The aim is to give you a strong foundation that will allow you to branch off into your own areas of inquiry.

This class is a seminar, meaning that you are expected to come to class prepared to actively discuss the readings. The goal is for students to develop a critical and sophisticated understanding of gender, to be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of various theoretical conceptions of gender, and to develop an informed understanding of how gender is intertwined with social structures.

REQUIREMENTS

1. **Class participation:** 10% of your grade. You are expected to do all of the readings, come to class ready to discuss them, ask questions, and engage the material in relevant and constructive ways.
2. **Discussion Leading:** 10% of the grade. You will be in charge of leading a discussion of the course material for one class session during the semester. Organizing the class discussion involves presenting a brief (5 minute) orientation of the required readings for

the week, raising specific questions and issues, and relating the material to previous class readings and discussions. You may bring in material that is not on the syllabus if it is highly relevant. Your role as discussion leader will not be to lecture on the material but to facilitate a thoughtful and active discussion of the materials. You will sign up for a date on the first day of class.

3. **Reading Questions:** 10% of the grade. You are expected to post questions and/or topics for class discussion every week. These will be posted on the Discussion Board on D2L. You are encouraged to make this into another arena for discussions by reading and responding to your classmates' posts. You do not have to post reading questions for the week you lead discussion. Questions should be posted by Mondays at 5 pm in order to give everyone time to read the posts before class. These will not be graded individually, but to get full credit for this assignment you need to complete at least 12 posts (and they should be equally thoughtful and insightful).
4. **Book Review Paper:** 30% of the grade. You will write a book review on one of the books that we read for class. You should not write the review on a book for which you lead discussion. The book review will be due on the day we discuss that book in class. For this assignment, you need to read the entire book. In your essay, you will briefly describe the major arguments of the book and then critically evaluate it, noting its strengths and weaknesses. You should discuss the significance of its theoretical and empirical contributions to the sociology of gender. You may discuss methodological issues as well. You are strongly encouraged to read book reviews in *Contemporary Sociology* or *Gender & Society* to give you a sense of the format for the review. The review should be around 1000 words. You should turn in a hard copy in the beginning of class.
5. **Final Paper:** 40% of the grade. You will write a research paper that examines a topic in the sociology of gender. You should apply theoretical perspectives from the class to a substantive area that interests you. This paper can take the form of a literature review, a research proposal, or an empirical project. The paper should draw on readings from the class, as well as peer reviewed sociological readings that were not read in class. For this project, students may not collaborate, and papers must be original (ie not the same topic as a paper for another class). You must provide a brief proposal and preliminary list of sources by **February 14** (bring hard copy to class). The final draft is due on **Friday, May 5 by 5 pm** (hard copy delivered to my office). The final paper is worth 50% of your grade. If you do not submit the proposal and list of sources to me on time, 10% will be deducted from the grade of the final paper.

COURSE POLICIES:

1. This class meets once a week. Be sure to arrive on time and stay until the end of class. Although I will not take attendance, in such a small class I do notice absences. If you need to miss a class, send me an email so I know why. More than 1 or 2 absences may result in a reduction of your final grade.
2. You must do all assignments and readings before each class meeting and come to class prepared to contribute to class discussions. Active participation in discussions is expected in this class.

3. You are responsible for keeping track of all announcements and syllabus changes. I may add readings, and will try to give you a week's notice if I do so. Announcements are usually made in the beginning of the class or will be posted on D2L. Make sure to check D2L regularly for announcements and updates. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting lecture materials, handouts, etc. from one of your classmates.
4. Laptops are allowed for note-taking only. Please switch off phones during class. Text messaging, emailing, etc. during class time is inappropriate and I may ask you to leave the room if you are violating this policy.
5. Please do your best to meet with me during office hours. I am also happy to respond to questions via email, but emails sent after 5 pm or on weekends may not receive a reply until the next day.
6. You are responsible for turning assignments in on time. I do occasionally give extensions, but you must discuss it with me at least 24 hours before the assignment is due. Late work will be penalized by 10 points per 24 hour period. I do not accept work more than a week late unless you can prove to me that there was a major emergency such as serious illness or death in the family.
7. Grades are awarded on the basis of the quality of your work, not effort. This means written work which demonstrates good organization, sophisticated and sociologically informed content, correct grammar, and clear writing. In class discussions, this means thoughtful questions and comments that reflect your having read the assignments. Please see me right away if you are concerned about your grades. I will be using the Sociology Department's standard grading rubric:

A	Consistently performs well above expectations for the course
A-	Performs above expectations for the course
B+	Meets expectations
B	Occasionally performs below expectations
B-	Consistently performs below expectations
C range	Unsatisfactory work for a doctoral student (not completing work, not attending class, poor performance on writing assignments, etc.) Grades in the C range indicate that I have serious concerns about your suitability for the graduate program.

Note: This grading system means grades that consistently fall in the "B range" are cause for concern. Grading in graduate courses is significantly different from grading in undergraduate courses.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Accommodation for Disabilities:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by email at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Injuries guidelines](#) under the Quick Links at the [Disability Services website](#) and discuss your needs with your professor.

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. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the student code.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation:

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder's Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the [OIEC website](#).

Academic Integrity:

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [academic integrity policy](#) of the institution. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>. Please make sure you understand what constitutes plagiarism. For example, summarizing ideas without attribution can be considered plagiarism.

READINGS

You are strongly encouraged to purchase the books listed here, as we will read most or all of the chapters. Journal articles will be posted on D2L. Book chapters may or may not be posted – if they are not on D2L you will need to seek them out at the library. You may also want to consider buying the books which have one or two chapters listed.

You are not required to read recommended readings, but I will often try to incorporate them into our class discussions and I strongly encourage you to read at least a few of them over the course of the semester.

Butler, Judith. 1990. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. Routledge.

Davis, Kathy. 2007. *The Making of Our Bodies Ourselves*. Duke University Press.

Collins, Patricia Hill. 1990. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Politics, and the Politics of Empowerment*.

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 2002. *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*. Basic Books

Gerson, Kathleen. 2010. *The Unfinished Revolution: Coming of Age in a New Era of Gender, Work, and Family*. Oxford University Press.

Halberstam, Judith. 1998. *Female Masculinity*. Duke University Press

Mahmood, Saba. 2005. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*. Princeton University Press.

Ngai, Pun. 2005. *Made in China. Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace*. Duke University Press.

Parrenas, Rhacel. 2011. *Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration, and Sex Trafficking in Tokyo*. Stanford University Press.

Ridgeway, Cecilia. 2011. *Framed by Gender*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Schilt, Kristen. 2010. *Just One of the Guys*. University of Chicago Press.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Introduction

Tuesday, January 17

Smith, Dorothy E. 1974. "Women's Perspective as a Radical Critique of Sociology." *Sociological Inquiry* 44.1: 7-13.

Judith Stacey and Barrie Thorne. 1985. "The missing feminist revolution in sociology." *Social Problems*: 301-316.

Judith Stacey. 2006. "Feminism and sociology in 2005: What are we missing?" *Social Problems* 53.4: 479-482.

Rosenberg, Karen Esther and Judith A. Howard. 2008. "Finding Feminist Sociology: A Review Essay." *Signs* 33(3): 675-696.

WEEK 2: Classic Feminist Theories of Sex and Gender

Tuesday, January 24

Sherry Ortner. 1972. "Is female to male as nature is to culture?" *Feminist Studies* Vol. 1, No. 2: 5-31.

Gayle Rubin. 1975. "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex." In Linda Nicholson, ed. 1997. *The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory*.

Heidi Hartmann. 1976. "Capitalism, Patriarchy, and Job Segregation by Sex." *Signs*, Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 137-169.

Nancy Chodorow. 1978. *The Reproduction of Mothering*. Chapters 11 and 12.

Catherine Mackinnon, 1982. "Feminism, Marxism, method, and the state: An agenda for theory." *Signs* 7, no. 3: 515-544.

WEEK 3: Critiques and Standpoints

Tuesday, January 31

Adrienne Rich. 1980. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence." *Signs*, Vol. 5, No. 4, pp. 631-660.

Haraway, Donna. 1988. "Situated knowledges: The science question in feminism and the privilege of partial perspective." *Feminist studies* 14.3: 575-599.

Patricia Hill Collins. 1990. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Politics, and the Politics of Empowerment*. Chapters TBA

Hartsock, Nancy. 1987. "The Feminist Standpoint: Developing the Ground for a Specifically Feminist Historical Materialism." Pp. 157-180 in *Feminism and Methodology: Social Science Issues*.

Recommended:

Segura, Denise A., and Jennifer L. Pierce. 1993. "Chicana/o family structure and gender personality: Chodorow, familism, and psychoanalytic sociology revisited." *Signs* 19: 62-91.

WEEK 4: Gendered Social Processes and Interactions
Tuesday, February 7

Candace West and Don Zimmerman. 1987. "Doing Gender." *Gender & Society*, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 125-151.

Ridgeway, Cecilia. 2011. *Framed by Gender*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapters TBA

Hollander, Jocelyn. 2013. "I Demand More of People: Accountability, Interaction, and Gender Change." *Gender & Society* 27(1): 5-29.

Recommended:

James W. Messerschmidt. 2009. "Doing Gender: The Impact and Future of a Salient Sociological Concept." *Gender & Society* 23: 72-75.

WEEK 5: Poststructuralism and the Study of Gender
Tuesday, February 14

Judith Butler. 1990. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. Routledge.

Alcoff, Linda. 1988. "Cultural feminism versus post-structuralism: The identity crisis in feminist theory." *Signs* 13.3: 405-436.

Bordo, Susan. 1990. "Feminism, postmodernism, and gender-scepticism." In Linda Nicholson, ed. *Feminism/postmodernism*.

Joan Scott. "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis." In *Gender and the Politics of History*.

Recommended:

Joan Scott. 1991. "The evidence of experience." *Critical Inquiry* 17: 773-797.

WEEK 6: The Biological and the Social
Tuesday, February 21

Martin, Emily. 1991. "The egg and the sperm: How science has constructed a romance based on stereotypical male-female roles." *Signs* 16, no. 3 (1991): 485-501.

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 2002. *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*. Basic Books. Chapters 1-5.

Fujimura, Joan H. 2006. "Sex genes: A critical sociomaterial approach to the politics and molecular genetics of sex determination." *Signs* 32/1: 49-82.

Lane, Riki. 2016. "Reading Trans Biology as a Feminist Sociologist." *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 3.1-2: 185-191.

WEEK 7: Work and Family

Tuesday, February 28

Kathleen Gerson. 2010. *The Unfinished Revolution: Coming of Age in a New Era of Gender, Work, and Family*. Oxford University Press.

Cech, Erin A. 2013. "The Self-Expressive Edge of Occupational Sex Segregation." *American Journal of Sociology* 119/3: 747-789.

Wingfield, Adia Harvey. 2009. "Racializing the Glass Escalator: Reconsidering Men's Experiences with Women's Work." *Gender & Society* 23/1: 5-26.

WEEK 8: Masculinity

Tuesday, March 7

R.W. Connell. 1987. *Gender and Power*. Chapter 8: Sexual Character.

Halberstam, Judith. 1998. *Female Masculinity*. Duke University Press. Chapters 1, 4, and 7.

Kimmel, Michael. 2004. Masculinity as homophobia: Fear, shame, and silence in the construction of gender identity. In Paula Rothenberg, ed. *Race, Class, and Gender in the United States: An Integrated Study*. Worth.

Connell, Robert W., and James W. Messerschmidt. 2005. "Hegemonic masculinity rethinking the concept." *Gender & Society* 19, no. 6: 829-859.

Recommended:

Bridges, Tristan. 2013. "A Very "Gay" Straight? Hybrid Masculinities, Sexual Aesthetics, and the Changing Relationship between Masculinity and Homophobia." *Gender & Society*.

WEEK 9: Sexuality and Transgender Studies

Tuesday, March 14

Stephen Valocchi. 2005. "Not Yet Queer Enough The Lessons of Queer Theory for the Sociology of Gender and Sexuality." *Gender & Society* 19/6: 750-770.

Schilt, Kristen. 2010. *Just One of the Guys*. University of Chicago Press.

Westbrook, Laurel, and Kristen Schilt. 2013. "Doing gender, determining gender transgender people, gender panics, and the maintenance of the Sex/Gender/Sexuality system." *Gender & Society* (2013):

Recommended:

Stryker, Susan and Paisley Currah. 2014. "Introduction." *Transgender Studies Quarterly* 1 (Vols 1-2): 1-18.

WEEK 10: Intersectionality

Tuesday, March 21

Crenshaw, Kimberly. 1991. "Mapping the margins: Intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of color." *Stanford Law Review* 43: 1241-1299.

Leslie McCall. 2005. "The complexity of intersectionality." *Signs* 30, no. 3: 1771-1800.

Choo, Hae Yeon, and Myra Marx Ferree. 2010. "Practicing Intersectionality in Sociological Research: A Critical Analysis of Inclusions, Interactions, and Institutions in the Study of Inequalities." *Sociological Theory* 28.2: 129-149.

Moore, Mignon R. 2011. "Two sides of the same coin: Revising analyses of lesbian sexuality and family formation through the study of Black women." *Journal of lesbian studies* 15/1: 58-68.

Recommended:

Chun, Jennifer Jihye, George Lipsitz, and Young Shin. 2013. "Intersectionality as a social movement strategy: Asian immigrant women advocates." *Signs* 38/4: 917-940.

WEEK 11: SPRING BREAK

March 26 – April 2

WEEK 12: Postcolonial Feminisms / Transnational Feminisms

Tuesday, April 4

Chandra Mohanty. 1988. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses." *Feminist Review* 30, pp. 61-88.

Gayatri Spivak. 1988. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" From Nelson and Grossberg, eds. *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. Macmillan.

Lila Abu-Lughod. 2002. "Do Muslim women really need saving? Anthropological reflections on cultural relativism and its others." *American Anthropologist* 104.3: pp. 783-790.

Kim-Puri, H.J. 2005. "Conceptualizing Gender-Sexuality-State-Nation: An Introduction." *Gender & Society* 19: pp. 137-159.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 2013. "Transnational feminist crossings: On neoliberalism and radical critique." *Signs* 38/4: 967-991.

WEEK 13: Gender, Religion, and Agency **Tuesday, April 11**

Mahmood, Saba. 2005. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*. Princeton University Press.

Rinaldo, Rachel. 2014. "Pious and Critical Muslim Women Activists and the Question of Agency." *Gender & Society*.

Avishai, Orit. 2016. "Theorizing Gender from Religion Cases: Agency, Feminist Activism, and Masculinity." *Sociology of Religion* 77/3: 261-279.

WEEK 14: Global/Transnational Feminist Movements **Tuesday, April 18**

Thayer, Millie. 2001. "Transnational Feminism: Reading Joan Scott in the Brazilian Sertão." *Ethnography* 2, no. 2: 243-271.

Kathy Davis. 2007. *The Making of Our Bodies Ourselves*. Duke University Press.

Recommended:

Zwingel, Susanne. 2012. "How Do Norms Travel? Theorizing International Women's Rights in Transnational Perspective1." *International Studies Quarterly* 56/1: 115-129.

WEEK 15: Gender and Work in the Global Economy **Tuesday, April 25**

Qualitative Sociology Special Issue on Gender and Globalization (December 2016)
<http://link.springer.com/journal/11133/39/4/page/1>

Read Introduction (Desai and Rinaldo), article by Leonard, Afterword by Salzinger

Ngai, Pun. 2005. *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace*. Duke University Press.

Recommended:

Chuang, Julia. 2015. "Factory Girls After the Factory Female Return Migrations in Rural China." *Gender & Society*.

WEEK 16: Debates over Gender and Globalization: Sex Trafficking
Tuesday, May 2

Parrenas, Rhacel. 2011. *Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration, and Sex Trafficking in Tokyo*. Stanford University Press.

Bernstein, Elizabeth. 2012. "Carceral politics as gender justice? The "traffic in women" and neoliberal circuits of crime, sex, and rights." *Theory and Society* 41/3: 233-259.

Orloff, Ann Shola, and Talia Shiff. 2016. "Feminism/s in Power: Rethinking Gender Equality after the Second Wave." In Ann Shola Orloff, Raka Ray, Evren Savci (eds.) *Perverse Politics? Feminism, Anti-Imperialism, Multiplicity (Political Power and Social Theory, Volume 30)* Emerald Group Publishing Limited, pp.109 – 134.