Instructor: Alessandra Rosa, Ph.D.
Office: TBA
Office Hours: By appointment. To schedule a meeting, you may arrange an appointment by email or after class.
Email: aless12@gmail.com

Course Description:

This course is concerned with the concept of gender and its impact in our society. By covering foundational concepts and theories, the course is intended to introduce you to: 1) sociological approaches to the study of gender, 2) the relationship of gender to other dimensions of our social experience, and 3) the role of gender in experiences of social inequality. We will look at sex and gender as socio-cultural constructs and examine the processes of gender socialization, the gendered nature of both formal and informal institutions, and the field of gender studies as the product of movements for social change and justice. The course considers how social institutions such as economic, political, family, education, media, and religion develop, maintain, adjust, or challenge gender stratification and the consequences of our gender hierarchies or categorizations. We will pay some attention, in a global context, to how gender issues across these areas are further complicated by dimensions of difference such as sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, education, and culture.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Describe and critically assess sociological perspectives on sex and gender.
- Understand the how gender relations are complicated by other dimensions of social experience, such as sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, education, and culture.
- Understand the role that gender plays in creating social, economic, and political inequality and its implications in our society.
- Discuss the role of social movements in challenging sex and gender roles and expectations.

Course Readings:
Readings for this course consist of the textbook, its reader: “The Gendered Society” and “The Gendered Society Reader” (5th Ed)” and/or articles according to each week’s theme. There are also required films. All additional readings (with the exception of the textbook and reader) will available on the course’s Blackboard website.

Required readings for the class are located below in the weekly section for which they are assigned.

Required readings must be done PRIOR each week of class!!!

**Expectations of this Course:**

Students are expected to:

- **Arrive to class on time.**
- **Turn off cell phones** and other electronics that can disturb the class discussion.
- **Come prepared to discuss** and/or raise questions about the readings assigned for each class by having read the materials beforehand. (Keep in mind that you will be assessed for your participation in class.)
- **Be respectful.** The topic of this class is inherently personal. Thus, there will be diversity of opinions within this classroom, yet this does not mean that you have to agree with everything being said or read.
- **Submit original work.** Plagiarism is a serious offense. If you use the work of other authors without giving them credit you will receive a ‘0’ and be reported to Academic Affairs.
- **All work turned in** must have a title, your name, course name and number, and include page numbers. It must also follow the AAA style guide.
- **Review** and follow the course calendar.
- **Login to the course’s Blackboard website** more than once per week to do the online quizzes, check for updates, new announcements, and/or communicate with the professor or your classmates.
- **Use a “buddy system”** to keep up with the class assignments when absent.
- **Expect emails from the professor** regarding assignments and/or schedule changes. (The professor reserves the right to modify the syllabus.)

**Policies:**

Please review the Student Handbook page as it contains essential information regarding guidelines and standards related to your education:

Disability Services:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office of Disability Resource Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the professor as soon as possible. The Office of Disability Resource Services at BBC is located in WUC, Room 131. If you need to schedule an appointment, you can do so in person or by calling 305-919-5211.
http://online.fiu.edu/app/webroot/html/blackboardlearn/mastertemplate/accessibility/

Course Assessment:

- Attendance and active participation – 10%
- Weekly online quizzes – 15%
- Weekly film group discussions – 25%
- Term paper – 50%

Course Requirements:

- Attendance and active participation: Attendance is required and any unexcused absence will affect your grade. Once in class, you will be evaluated on your contributions to class discussion and group assignments.

- Weekly online quizzes: The weekly online quizzes are based on the assigned readings and/or films for that week. These quizzes will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions.

- Weekly film group discussion: In your assigned group blog on Blackboard, you will post weekly (in the comment section) a film discussion/review that should include what was your opinion of the overall point of the film with examples, and what concepts from the course were represented in the film. In class, I will select a group to lead class discussion of the film.

- Term paper: The final term paper (10 double-spaced pages including references) will be based on both library research and an auto-ethnography. This means you will have to analyze yourself sociologically as a gendered person.

Grading:

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Course Calendar:

Week 1: August 25 & 27 – Introduction
- Students’ self-presentations & organize small groups
- Discussion of syllabus
- Introduction to the sociology of gender, definitions, and ideas

Required Readings:
- Textbook: Chapter 1 – Human Beings: An Engendered Species
- Reader: Caveman Masculinity: Finding Manhood in Evolutionary Science
- Watch film: “Tomboy” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 1: Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, August 27 at 2:00pm through Saturday, September 5 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion: Tomboy

Week 2: September 1 & 3 – Ordained by nature
- Discussion of the “Nature/Nurture Debate”

Required Readings:
- Textbook: Chapter 2 – Biology Constructs the Sexes
- Reader: Testosterone Rules
- Watch film: “XXY” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 2: Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, September 3 at 2:00pm through Saturday, September 5 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion: XXY

Week 3: September 8 & 10 – Spanning the World
- Discussion of the role of culture in constructing gender and sexuality

Required Readings:
- Textbook: Chapter 3 – Culture Constructs Gender Difference
- Reader: Coming of Age and Coming Out Ceremonies Across Cultures
- Watch film: “Mona Lisa Smiles” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Topic for Blog page is due on September 8, to get approval of the professor.
Quiz 3: Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, September 10 at 2:00pm through Saturday, September 12 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion: Mona Lisa Smiles

Week 4: September 15 & 17 – “So, That Explains It”
• Discussion of gender identity and roles

Required Readings:
• Textbook: Chapter 4 – Psychoanalytic and Developmental Perspectives on Gender
• Reader: “Dude, You’re a Fag”: Adolescent Masculinity and the Fag Discourse
• Watch film: “Billy Elliot” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 4: Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, September 17 at 2:00pm through Saturday, September 19 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion: Billy Elliot

Week 5: September 22 & 24 – The Social Construction of Gender Relations
• Discussion of the social construction of gender

Required Readings:
• Textbook: Chapter 5 – The Social Construction of Gender Relations
• Reader: Doing Difference
• Watch film: “Growing Up Trans” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 5: Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, September 24 at 2:00pm through Saturday, September 26 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion: Growing Up Trans

Week 6: September 29 & October 1 – The Gendered Family
• Discussion of biology, sex, and the family

Required Readings:
• Textbook: Chapter 6 – Biology Constructs the Sexes
• Reader: At-Home Father and Breadwinning Mothers: Variations in Constructing Work and Family Lives
• Watch film: “Precious” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 6: Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, October 1 at 2:00pm through Saturday, October 3 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion: Precious

Week 7: October 6 & 8 – The Gendered Classroom
• Discussion of the role of education and classroom dynamics

**Required Readings:**
• Textbook: Chapter 7 – The Gendered Classroom
• Reader: “Spice Girls,” “Nice Girls,” “Girlies,” and “Tomboys”: Gender Discourses, Girls’ Cultures, and Femininities in the Primary Classroom
• Watch film: “Dangerous Minds” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

**Quiz 7:** Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, October 8 at 2:00pm through Saturday, October 10 at midnight. 
**Weekly film group discussion:** Dangerous Minds

**Week 8: October 13 & 15 – Gender and Religion**
• Discussion of the gendering of religion

**Required Readings:**
• Textbook: Chapter 8 – Gender and Religion
• Reader: To Veil or not to Veil? A Case Study of identity Negotiation Among Muslim Women in Austin, Texas
• Watch film: “Arranged” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

**Quiz 8:** Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, October 15 at 2:00pm through Saturday, October 17 at midnight. 
**Weekly film group discussion:** Arranged

**Week 9: October 20 & 22 – Separate and Unequal**
• Discussion of gender, labor, and inequalities

**Required Readings:**
• Textbook: Chapter 9 – The Gendered World of Work
• Reader: Racializing the Glass Escalator: Reconsidering Men’s Experiences with Women’s Work
• Watch film: “North Country” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

**Quiz 9:** Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, October 22 at 2:00pm through Saturday, October 24 at midnight. 
**Weekly film group discussion:** North Country

**Week 10: October 27 & 29 – The Gender of Politics and the Politics of Gender**
• Discussion of gender politics and the State

**Required Readings:**
• Textbook: Chapter 10 – The Gender of Politics and the Politics of Gender
• Reader: Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, and Michelle Obama: Performing Gender, Race, and Class on the Campaign Trail
• Watch film: “If these Walls Could Talk” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 10: Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, October 29 at 2:00pm through Saturday, October 31 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion: If these Walls Could Talk

Week 11: November 3 & 5 – The Gendered Media
• Discussion of media misogynies

Required Readings:
• Textbook: Chapter 11 – The Gendered Media
• Reader: A 36-24-36 Cerebrum: Productivity, gender, and Video Game Advertising
• Reader: Real Niggas: Black Men, Hard Men, and the Rise of Gangsta Culture
• Watch film: “Miss Representation” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 11: Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, November 5 at 2:00pm through Saturday, November 7 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion: Miss Representation

Week 12: November 10 & 12 – Gender Intimacies
• Discussion of gendered interactions

Required Readings:
• Textbook: Chapter 12 – Friendship and Love
• Reader: Sexual Harassment and Masculinity: The Power and Meaning of “Girl Watching”
• Reader: Hooking Up and Forming Romantic Relationships on Today’s College Campuses
• Watch film: “Kinsey” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 12: Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, November 12 at 2:00pm through Saturday, November 14 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion: Kinsey

Week 13: November 17 & 19 – The Gendered Body
• Discussion of the body and gender

Required Readings:
• Textbook: Chapter 13 – The Gendered Body
• Reader: Beards, Breasts, and Bodies: Doing Sex in a Gendered World
• Watch film: “Tricked” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 13: Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, November 19 at 2:00pm through Saturday, November 21 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion: Tricked

Submission of Term papers due on November 22 by midnight on the Blackboard website.

Week 14: November 24 – The Gender of Violence
• Discussion of gendered violence
• NO CLASS on November 26

Required Readings:
• Textbook: Chapter 14 – The Gender of Violence
• Reader: Good guys with Guns: Hegemonic Masculinity and Concealed Handguns
• Watch film: “Tough Guise” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 14: Available for 60 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, November 26 at 2:00pm through Saturday, November 28 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion: Tough Guise

Week 15: December 1 & 3 – “A Degendered Society”?
• Discussion of the direction of our society

Required Readings:
• Textbook: Epilogue
• Watch film: “Inequality for All” – discuss film in group on Blackboard

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FINAL EXAMS!!!