Course Syllabus

Instructor: Alessandra Rosa, Ph.D.
Office: SIPA 302
Office Hours: Thursdays 2:30 – 4:30pm and Fridays 1:00-3:00pm. To schedule a meeting outside of my office hours, you may arrange an appointment by email or after class.
Email: aless12@gmail.com
Tel: 305.348.7469

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: “Gendered Worlds” (3rd Ed) and/or articles according to each week’s theme. There are also required films. All additional readings (with the exception of the textbook) will available on the course’s Blackboard website.

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

Required readings must be done PRIOR to 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 an appropriate citation style guide (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.).
- **Review** and follow the course calendar.
- **Login to the course’s Blackboard website** more than once per week to do the online quizzes, film discussions, 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:

http://online.fiu.edu/app/webroot/html/blackboardlearn/policies/

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 group blog 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**.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 – 94</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83 – 80</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69 – 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93 – 90</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79 – 77</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>66 – 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89 – 87</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>76 – 74</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>63 – 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86 – 84</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73 – 70</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Note: Readings and films may be slightly added or modified.]

Course Calendar:

Week 1: January 14th – Introduction
- Students’ self-presentations & organize small groups
- Discussion of syllabus
- Introduction to the sociology of gender, definitions, and ideas
- Go over the class syllabus
- Introduction to the sociology of gender, definitions, and ideas

Required Readings:
- Chapter 1 – Introduction

Quiz 1: Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, January 14 at 2:00pm through Sunday, January 24 at midnight.

Week 2: January 21st – Bodies and Gender
- Discussion of key points to understand biological sex as a continuum, not a dichotomy of male and female.
- Sign up to a group for the film discussions. Begin posting and commenting on the assigned film.

Required Readings:
- Chapter 2 – Bodies and Gender
- Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 2: Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, January 21 at 2:00pm through Sunday, January 24 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion

Week 3: January 28th – Socialization and the Social Construction of Gender
- Discussion of key points about “learning gender”, “doing gender”, and gendered social institutions.
Required Readings:
- Chapter 3 – Socialization and the Social Construction of Gender
- Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 3: Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, January 28 at 2:00pm through Sunday, January 31 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion

---

Week 4: February 4th – Sexualities
- Discussion of key points about sexualities and how they intersect with gender, race, ethnicity, nation, etc.

Required Readings:
- Chapter 4 – Sexualities
- Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 4: Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, February 4 at 2:00pm through Sunday, February 7 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion

---

Week 5: February 11th – Education
- Discussion of key points of understanding education as a gendered institution.

Required Readings:
- Chapter 5 – Education
- Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 5: Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, February 11 at 2:00pm through Sunday, February 14 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion

---

Week 6: February 18th – Work
- Discussion of key points about gendered work, including unpaid work, labor markets, job hierarchies, and institutional systems of labor exploitation.

Required Readings:
- Chapter 6 – Work
- Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 6: Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, February 18 at 2:00pm through Sunday, February 21 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion

Week 7: February 25th – Families
- Discussion of key points about gendered families, including marriages, balancing paid work and family life, parenting and caregiving, and divorce.

Required Readings:
- Chapter 7 – Families
- Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 7: Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, February 25 at 2:00pm through Sunday, February 28 at midnight.

Weekly film group discussion

Week 8: March 3rd – Violence
- Discussion of key points of gendered violence and how it is a feature in our lives.

Required Readings:
- Chapter 8 – Violence
- Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 8: Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, March 3 at 2:00pm through Sunday, March 6 at midnight.

Weekly film group discussion

Week 9: March 10th – Health and Illness
- Discussion of key points about gendered health and health care.

Required Readings:
- Chapter 9 – Health and Illness
- Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 9: Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, March 10 at 2:00pm through Sunday, March 13 at midnight.

Weekly film group discussion

Week 10: March 17th – NO CLASS
- SPRING BREAK!!! 😊

Weekly film group discussion

Week 11: March 24th – Politics, Prison, and the Military
• Discussion of key points about gendered politics, including electoral politics, military, and prison.

**Required Readings:**
• Chapter 10 – Politics, Prison, and the Military
• Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

**Quiz 10:** Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, March 24 at 2:00pm through Sunday, March 27 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion

**Week 12: March 31st – Media**
• Discussions of key points regarding media and the ways they reflect, create, challenge, or maintain the status quo in regards to gender.

**Required Readings:**
• Chapter 11 – Media
• Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

**Quiz 11:** Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, March 31 at 2:00pm through Sunday, April 3 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion

**Week 13: April 7th – Sports**
• Discussion of key points about gendered sports.

**Required Readings:**
• Chapter 12 – Sports
• Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

**Quiz 12:** Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, April 7 at 2:00pm through Sunday, April 10 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion

**Week 14: April 14th – Religion**
• Discussion of key points regarding religions and gender.

**Required Readings:**
• Chapter 13 – Religion
• Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

**Quiz 13:** Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, April 14 at 2:00pm through Sunday, April 17 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion

Submission of Term papers due on Sunday, April 17th by midnight on the Blackboard website.

Week 15: April 21st – Globalization, Organizing, and Making the World a Better Place
- Discussion of key points of global forces shaping our world and gender issues.

Required Readings:
- Chapter 14 – Globalization, Organizing, and Making the World a Better Place
- Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Quiz 14: Available for 30 minutes, one attempt from Thursday, April 21 at 2:00pm through Sunday, April 24 at midnight.
Weekly film group discussion

Week 16: April 28th
- Discussion of film “Inequality for all”

Required Readings:
- Watch assigned film – discuss film in group on Blackboard

Weekly film group discussion

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FINAL EXAMS!!!