

**SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER
WOMEN'S STUDIES/SOCIOLOGY 362
Course Description
Spring, 2014**

Professor: Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind
Course Meets: M 12:30-3:00 Business Administration D106
Office: Saunders 721K (956-6313)
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Office Hours: MW 10:30am-11:30am (or by appointment)

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will offer students with an opportunity to study an important aspect of their lives--their gender--from a social scientific viewpoint. It will first acquaint them with the sociological perspective on gender and sexual identity and then go on to discuss the major myths that accompany most people's notions of masculinity and femininity. A discussion of the costs and benefits of traditional gender roles, their enforcement in everyday life, and a consideration of how gender roles are learned will provide the context for then discussing gender in major institutional context; cross-cultural data on institutional arrangements in other societies will also be presented. As the first social institution, the family is also the basis of patriarchy and a logical starting point for analysis. Historical and cross-cultural perspectives on family life as well as the impact of gender roles on sexuality, dating, mate selection, and marriage will be discussed.

The course will then turn to the gendered nature of various important aspects of social life. Gender and education will be explored with a particular focus on emerging issues such as relational violence in girls' cliques and the problem of media constructions of femininity, including violent and tough femininity (e.g. bad girls). A review of the many gender and the workplace issues (men as "success objects," economic discrimination against women, sexual harassment, etc.) will also be undertaken. The role of gender expectations in political life and the involvement of institutions of social control (the criminal justice system, welfare and health systems, etc.) in the maintenance of gender stratification and the control of women's bodies will also be considered. Finally, reactions to traditional gender stratification including the rise of feminism and the backlash against feminism in the US will be discussed as well as the future of gender and sexuality in the new global order.

TEXTBOOK

WOMEN, MEN AND SOCIETY: The Sociology of Gender. Sixth Edition. Claire Renzetti, Daniel J. Curran, and Shana Maier. Allyn and Bacon: 2012. Consider buying an etextbook to save money.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STRUCTURE

Classes will be conducted in a lecture / discussion format with an occasional videotape to augment the lecture or text. Regular ATTENDANCE is strongly encouraged as a major portion of each examination will involve material presented during classroom lectures.

Students will be required to complete two examinations (worth 100 points each). The examinations will utilize a mix of objective and essay questions. If a student does not do well on the first examination, they will have the option of completing a take-home re-take examination which will take the place of that examination score. This take home exam will involve a series of essays covering the material covered in the first portion of the class.

In addition, students will also be asked to undertake an additional activity for this course: a class presentation (worth 100 points). For those students electing a **course presentation**, they will have the responsibility to take-over a portion of the class period to consider a topic related to the work being discussed in the course outline. During the first week of classes, these topics will be identified and, in most instances, 1-2 person groups formed to handle this task. Students will be required to provide an outline of their presentation and graded on their handling of this session so everybody in the group needs a specific role. A week after the presentation, a **written version of the presentation** must be submitted; this paper documents the presentation and must be fully footnoted. Note that this is not a pure research paper, but students will need to demonstrate that they collected material beyond that found in the text. In addition, the contribution of each member of the team should be clearly indicated. The student grades for these presentations will reflect **both** the conduct of the class session and the written supporting document. **BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THIS CLASS, STUDENTS WILL BE STRICTLY LIMITED TO 20 MINUTES PER PRESENTATION. Be sure to practice so as to stay within this time!**

Each examination will be worth 100 points and the presentation will be worth 100 points. The following point totals are approximately those required for the associated letter grades. Actual grades will be based on a class curve to be announced after each exam. In general, though, this is the sort of distribution one should expect to see.

270-300	A	210-239	C
240-269	B	180-209	D

Extra Credit:

Students may also earn extra credit by attending presentations or events related to gender and crime, and writing a short reaction paper about their experience. Total points possible: 15 (5 per activity)

COURSE INFORMATION

Women's Studies/Sociology 362 meets the diversification requirements of the new core and, as such, it can transfer to other collegiate level campuses within the University of Hawaii system as well as to most colleges in the country. As this course is an upper division offering, students will be required to read, write, and think at the junior level. Given the level of the course and the instructor's proclivities, those students who are not able to keep up with their reading will have trouble with this course since the course assumes that everyone is reading the texts and coming to class prepared to discuss the material.

Other Important Matters:

Women's Studies Student Learning Objectives:

- Demonstrated ability to engage in critical and interdisciplinary thinking, analysis, and problem solving through effective written and oral communication.
- Evidence of ability to integrate key concepts in Women's Studies, including the social construction of gender ; intersectionalities among gender, sexuality, race, class and other vectors of power and identity; social stratification; and how these issues manifest in a Pacific-Asia context in written and oral work.
- Demonstrated ability to connect the classroom with "real world" feminist issues through active engagement in citizenship and civic participation.

Plagiarism

The following definition is from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa 2002-2003 catalog on Student Conduct and Discipline (page 550):

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, to satisfy an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without identifying that individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation a documented idea that has not been assimilated into the student's language and style; paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source; or, submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved.

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be dealt with accordingly.

Students with Disabilities

If you feel you need reasonable accommodations because of the impact of a disability, please 1) contact the KOKUA Program (V/T) at 956-7511 or 956-7612 in room 013 of the QLCSS; 2) speak with me privately to discuss your specific needs. I will be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet your access needs related to your documented disability.

Writers Workshop

If you require additional help with your writing you can contact: Writing Workshop, 956-7619 to set up an appointment. Workshops are offered by the Learning Assistance Center on how to write research papers. Call the English Department for an appointment.

Prior to class, please either turn off cell phones and pagers or put on silent mode!

While we will try to stay on schedule, we may have to make changes to the syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. You will be notified in class or by email of these changes.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Sociology and Gender (January 12, 26): Introduction to the social scientific perspective on sex and gender roles, the scientific paradigm and feminist research, the need for the sociological imagination in gender studies. Masculine and Feminine as role or rule? Norms, Stereotypes, Gender and Identity; Sex/gender system.

READING: Renzetti and Curran, Chapter 1.

Assign topics, January 26.

Traditional Gender Roles: Natural or learned? (February 2) A brief review of the archaeological and biological evidence on gender; introduction to the anthropology of gender

READING: Renzetti and Curran, Chapter 2, 3

Group 1: Biological Sex Differences—New Research (February 2)

Group 2: Pre-Contact Hawaiian Culture and Gender (February 2)

Growing Up Male and Female (February 9): Differential socialization and its consequences, gender and development

READING: Renzetti and Curran, Chapter 4,

VIDEO: Secret of the Sexes

Group 3: Toys and Gender (February 9)

Group 4: Video Games Sexist? (February 9)

Gender and the Hidden Curriculum (February 23): The role of education in the production and maintenance of gender difference. Gender in elementary schools (cliques and “mean girls”); gender in high school (bullying); and gender in higher education.

READING: Renzetti and Curran, Chapter 5

VIDEO: Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America

Group 5: Sexual Assault on Campus (February 23)

Group 6: Growing up Gay: Schools and LBTG Youth (February 23)

Enforcement of Traditional Stereotypes in Everyday Life (March 2): Role of language, non-verbal communication, and the media in the construction of gender

READING: Renzetti and Curran, Chapter 6

DVD: Killing Us Softly 3 or Codes of Gender

Group 7: *Popular Media and Gender (March 2)*

(possibly two groups print and TV)

Group 8: *Boy Talk, Girl Talk (March 2)*

EXAM ONE: March 9

Women, Men and Family (March 16)--sexuality and sexual regulation, cultural constructions of sexuality and gender, dating and mate selection, relationships within marriage, the motherhood issue, trends in modern marriage, variations in family types (issue of gay marriage), violence in the family and divorce.

READING: Renzetti and Curran, Chapters 7, 11

Group 9: *Hawaii, Gay Marriage, and Civil Unions: A History (March 16)*

Gender and Work (March 30): Beyond the breadwinner role, women and the workplace, the politics of housework, sexual harassment in the workplace

READING: Renzetti and Curran, Chapter 8

VIDEO: *The Fairer Sex (March 16)*

Group 10: *Gender in High Tech: the New Frat Club (March 30)*

Group 11: *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (March 30)*

Gender, Crime, and Social Control (April 6-April 13): female delinquency, gender and gangs, masculinities/feminities and crime, trends in women's imprisonment, crime and gender in Hawaii

READING: Renzetti and Curran, Chapter 9; Delinquency in Hawaii reports <http://www.chesneylind.com/reports/crime2005/crime2005.html>

DVD: *Tough Guise*

Group 12: *Youth in Custody in Hawaii: Issues and Concerns (April 13)*

Gender, Leadership and Politics (April 20): power, leadership and gender; women in elective office; women in the military

Group 13: *Gender and the 2014 Election (April 20)*

Group 14: *Sexual Assault in the Military: An Emerging Problem (April 20)*

Health and Gender (April 27) with a focus on health and beauty for women, and sports for boys and men. We will also touch on issues of binge drinking for both sexes.

READING: Renzetti and Curran Chapter 12

VIDEO: *Spin the Bottle (April 20)* (time permitting)

Group 15: *Gender and Sport in Hawaii: Title IX at UHM (April 20)*

Group 16: Women, Weight, and Beauty Standards in Hawaii April 20)

Feminism, the Politics of Backlash, and the New Millennium (May 4)

READING: Renzetti and Curran, Chapter 1 (pgs. 12-25); Backlash segment
(address below)

<http://coursesa.matrix.msu.edu/~hst203/documents/faludi.html>

Group 17: One Billion Rising: Global Feminism Emerges (May 4)

FINAL EXAM: May 11, 12:00-2:00

Group Presentation Schedule

- Group 1: Biological Sex Differences (January 26)**
- Group 2: Pre-Contact Hawaiian Culture and Gender (January 26)**
- Group 3: Toys and Gender (February 9)**
- Group 4: Are Video Games Sexist (February 9)**
- Group 5: Sexual Assault on Campus (February 23)**
- Group 6: Growing up Gay: Schools and LBGT Youth (February 23)**
- Group 7: Gender and Popular Media (March 2)**
- Group 8: Boy Talk, Girl Talk (March 2)**
- Group 9: Hawaii, Gay Marriage, and Civil Unions: A History (March 16)**
- Group 10: Gender in High Tech: The New Frat Club (March 30)**
- Group 11: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (March 30)**
- Group 12: Youth in Custody in Hawaii April 13)**
- Group 13: Gender and the '14 Election: Hawaii and the Nation (April 20)**
- Group 14: Sexual Assault in the Military (April 20)**
- Group 14: Gender and Sports in Hawaii: Title 9 at UHM (April 27)**
- Group 15: Women, Weight and Beauty Standards: A Hawaii Focus (April 27)**
- Group 16: One Billion Rising: Global Feminism Emerges (May 4)**