**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER**

Sociology 325: Section 0201  
Fall 2009

**Instructor:** Lester Andrist  
**Email:** les.andrist@gmail.com  
**Office Location:** ASY 1108  
**Office Hours:** Mondays 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, or by appointment  
**Days/Times:** MWF 10:00 am – 10:50 am  
**Room:** ASY 1213 (Art-Soc Building)

*Language casts sheaves of reality upon the social body.*  
--Monique Wittig

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In one form or another, contemporary sociological theories of gender generally begin with the assertion that, like race and class, gender is a social construct. That is, it is made “real,” not by genes, but by society’s institutions and the work of embodied actors. In part I of the course, “Theoretical Foundations,” we explore how gender is socially constructed, whether it is possible to construct it differently, and what such an effort might look like. In part II, “Gendered State/ Gendered World, we consider two cornerstone institutions in greater detail: state and economy. How are these institutions implicated in reproducing and elaborating upon a gendered social order? In part III of the course, “Coalition Building,” we examine how gender has functioned as a basis for institution building on local and national levels, and how dominant understandings of gender and sexism are resisted and co-opted by emergent communities.

Many of the ideas we confront this semester will likely be new. It is important, I think, for us to proceed with the premise that knowledge is always a work in progress, which means that there is always more to be said about a particular topic and more vantage points from which to consider a given idea. To this end, please be prepared to critically engage the ideas we encounter throughout the course, both in your writing and classroom participation.

This course satisfies the CORE Diversity Course requirement. By definition, such a course focuses primarily on a) the history, status, treatment, and/or accomplishment of women and/or “minority” groups and cultures; b) non-Western culture; and/or c) concepts and implications for diversity. Such courses allow students the opportunity to examine their ideas and values in an unfamiliar intellectual and/or social context.

*Prerequisite: One introductory course in sociology.*
**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS**

There are required reading assignments for each day of class. Students are expected to complete all readings and must be prepared to discuss the readings in class for the day which they are assigned. The books may be purchased at the University Bookstore or online through sites such as www.addall.com.


There will be supplemental readings for many days of class. All supplemental readings will be available on Blackboard and it is the student’s responsibility to print these out and bring them to class. If you are unable to access Blackboard, please bring this to my attention immediately. I will send the readings to you directly.

[K] = *The Kaleidoscope of Gender*

[E] = Electronic

[C] = *The Conceptual Practices of Power*

**USING BLACKBOARD**

http://www.elms.umd.edu

The website for this course is hosted by Blackboard, an online course development tool that is used in classes throughout the University of Maryland. Logging on to Blackboard will give you access to the course syllabus and all supplemental readings; you may check your grades and your progress in the course; and you may use Blackboard to communicate with other students in the class. Any student who cannot successfully log into Blackboard should contact me as early as possible.
SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

PART I: Theoretical Foundations

Mon, 8/31  Introduction to the Course

Wed, 9/2  Introduction to the Sociological Study of Gender
Reading:
  • Costello, Cary. 2009. “Caster Semenya – An Intersex Perspective”

Fri, 9/4  The Social Construction of Gender
Reading:
  • de Beauvoir, Simone. 1949. “Introduction: Woman As Other,” The Second Sex” [E]

Mon, 9/7  NO CLASS

Wed, 9/9  The Social Construction of Gender
Reading:
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Film</th>
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Wed, 9/23  Gendering Emotion

Reading:

Fri, 9/25  Masculinity

Reading:

Mon, 9/28  Masculinity

Reading:

Film:
- “Tough Guise” P96.S5 T68 1999  84 min. (Part 1)

Wed, 9/30  Masculinity

Film:
- “Tough Guise” P96.S5 T68 1999  84 min. (Part 2)
Fri, 10/2  Masculinity: (En)gendering Resistance  
*Reading:*  

Mon, 10/5  Intersectionality  
*Reading:*  

Wed, 10/7  Intersectionality  
*Reading:*  

Fri, 10/9  Gender as Social Structure  
*Reading:*  
Mon, 10/12  Queering the Sociology of Gender

Reading:

Wed, 10/14  Situated Knowledge, Standpoint Theory and the Politics of Location

Reading:

Fri, 10/16  Situated Knowledge, Standpoint Theory and the Politics of Location

Reading:

Mon, 10/19  Situated Knowledge, Standpoint Theory and the Politics of Location

Reading:

Wed, 10/21  Situated Knowledge, Standpoint Theory and the Politics of Location

Reading:

Fri, 10/23  Midterm Review

Mon, 10/26  MIDTERM EXAM
PART II: Gendered State/ Gendered World

Wed, 10/28 Gender and State

Reading:

Fri, 10/30 Gender and State

Reading:
• Albanese, Patricia. 2001. "Nationalism, War, and Archaization of Gender Relations in the Balkans." *Violence Against Women* 7(9):999-1023. [E]

Mon, 11/2 Gender and State

Reading:

Due:
• Power Paper Proposal

Wed, 11/4 Gender and World

Reading:
Fri, 11/6  Gender and World
_Reading:_

_Film:_
- “The Take”  HC175 .T25 2004  87 min. (Part 1)

Mon, 11/9  Gender and World
_Film:_
- “The Take”  HC175 .T25 2004  87 min. (Part 2)

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**PART III: Coalition Building: The Politics of Community, Nationalism, and Identity**

Wed, 11/11  Imagining Community/Imagining Nation
_Reading:_

Fri, 11/13  Community
_Reading:_

_Film:_
- “The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo”  HV6322.3.A7 M33 1990z  64 min (Part 1)

Mon, 11/16  Community
_Film:_
- “The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo”  HV6322.3.A7 M33 1990z  64 min (Part 2)
Wed, 11/18  Nationalism
Reading:

Fri, 11/20  Nationalism
Reading:

Mon, 11/23  Identities
Reading:

Due:
- Power Paper

Wed, 11/25  NO CLASS

Fri, 11/27  NO CLASS

Mon, 11/30  Identities
Reading:
Wed, 12/2  Identities
Reading:

Fri, 12/4  Identities
Reading:

Film:
• “Gender Trouble”  RC883 .G46 2002  24 min.

Mon, 12/7  The Problem of Representation
Reading:

Wed, 12/9  Nothing Is Forever
Reading:

Fri, 12/11  Nothing Is Forever
Reading:

Mon, 12/14  FINAL EXAM
COURSEEvalUM FALL 2009

Your participation in the evaluation of courses through CourseEvalUM is a responsibility you hold as a student member of our academic community. Your feedback is confidential and important to the improvement of teaching and learning at the university as well as to the tenure and promotion process. CourseEvalUM will be open for you to complete your evaluations for fall semester courses between Tuesday, December 1 and Sunday, December 13. Please go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete your evaluations starting December 1. By completing all of your evaluations each semester, you will have the privilege of accessing online, at Testudo, the evaluation reports for the thousands of courses for which 70% or more students submitted their evaluations.

GRADING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>150 points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Power Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>150 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>500 points</strong></td>
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Final Grades will be based on the total points received out of 500 possible points. Letter grades will be determined based on the following distributions:

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<tr>
<th>A+</th>
<th>485-500</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>370-384</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>470-484</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>350-369</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>450-469</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>335-349</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>435-449</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>320-334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>420-434</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>300-319</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>400-419</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>299 or less</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>385-399</td>
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation (150 points)
Participation means more than just showing up to class. To get the most out of the class, students must carefully read and review assigned readings, and participate in daily discussions and exercises. Because your class participation grade will be based on participating in discussions and in-class exercises, it is critical that you complete class readings on time and be prepared to discuss them. You are expected arrive on time and stay until class is dismissed. Failure to do so will negatively affect your final grade. If you must at some point during the semester arrive late, leave early, or miss a class, notify me in advance of that class.

- Attendance (45 points): Student engagement is worth 10% of your total participation grade. Note that “engagement” means many things. Some students demonstrate their engagement by simply asking for clarification when they do not understand something. Others are openly critical about ideas discussed in class. Still others express their engagement by passing along interesting links and suggesting relevant films.

- Pop Quizzes (105 points): There will be 6 in-class pop quizzes (you can drop your lowest score). These will usually be in the form of short essay questions. The questions may be cumulative, but they will emphasize the current week’s readings/films. **Each quiz will be worth 21 points.** Grades will take into account your clarity and organization of writing your responses. The quizzes will be given out at the very beginning of class. If you are late, you miss the quiz. **There are no make-up quizzes.**

Power Paper (100 points)
Drawing upon the readings we encountered throughout the semester, please address the following question: What is power?
(4 – 5 pages, 12 pt font, 1” margins, double-spacing)
**Proposal Due Date:** Monday 11/2/2009
**Paper Due Date:** Monday 11/23/2009

Exams (250 points)
Students have 2 exams in the course. Each is administered in class and is comprised of multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions. No make-up exams will be given, except under extraordinary circumstances.

- **Midterm Exam (100 points):** Monday 10/26/2009
- **Final Exam (150 points):** Monday 12/14/2009
CLASS CONDUCT
Be respectful: We will be talking about topics that are often hotly debated and controversial. It is important to me that our classroom remains a place where each of us is able to comfortably express ideas. I expect each of us to be respectful and listen to each other’s viewpoints.

Be responsible: Please come to class on time. It is a good strategy to bring a copy of the assigned readings with you with notes you have made in the margins. Be prepared to discuss the readings.

No cell phones: Please turn all cell phones off before you enter the classroom.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
If you have a University documented disability (or suspect that you might), please inform me of such by the second class meeting (9/2) so I can make any appropriate and necessary arrangements.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
As a student at the University of Maryland, you are expected to adhere to the University’s honor code. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty of any kind. Your work in this course should be your own, and if I suspect any form of academic dishonesty, I will refer you to the University’s Student Honor Council. One consequence of academic dishonesty is that you will receive a grade of ‘XF’ (failure due to Academic Dishonesty). The following constitute the violations of the University’s Code of Academic Dishonesty:

- Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
- Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise. Cite everything!
- Fabrication: Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in any academic exercise.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of this Code. [http://www.studenthonor council.umd.edu/code.html]