THE SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER

Sociology 325: Section 0301
Spring 2010

Instructor: Lester Andrist
Email: les.andrist@gmail.com
Days/Times: MWF 12:00 am – 12:50 am
Office Location: ASY 1108
Room: ASY 2309 (Art-Soc Building)
Office Hours: Fridays 1:00 am - 3:00 pm, or by appointment

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, “The Politics of Community,” we explore the way sociologists typically approach the notion of community and how this work intersects with gender. In part III of the course, “Gender and Knowledge,” we take up the development, maintenance and deployment and intellectual structures and attempt to make connections to gender and gender-based inequalities.

Many of the ideas we confront this semester will likely be new. I think it is important for us to proceed with the premise that our own 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, 1/25  Introduction to the Course

Wed, 1/27  Introduction to the Sociological Study of Gender

Reading:

Fri, 1/29  The Social Construction of Gender

Reading:
• de Beauvoir, Simone. 1949. “Introduction: Woman As Other,” The Second Sex” [E]

Mon, 2/1  The Social Construction of Gender

Reading:

Wed, 2/3  The Social Construction of Gender

Reading:
**Film:**
- “TransGeneration”  HQ77.95.U6 T73 2005   272 min. (Part 1)

**Fri, 2/5**
**The Social Construction of Gender**

**Film:**
- “TransGeneration”  HQ77.95.U6 T73 2005   272 min. (Part 2)

**Mon, 2/8**
**Doing Gender**

**Reading:**

**Wed, 2/10**
**Performativity Theory**

**Reading:**

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

**Fri, 2/12**
**Performing and Negotiation**

**Reading:**

**Mon, 2/15**
**Gendering Emotion**

**Reading:**

**Wed, 2/17**  
**Masculinity**  
**Reading:**  

**Fri, 2/19**  
**Masculinity**  
**Film:**  
• “Tough Guise”  

**Mon, 2/22**  
**Masculinity**  
**Reading:**  

**Film:**  
• “Tough Guise”  

**Wed, 2/24**  
**Intersectionality**  
**Reading:**  

**Fri, 2/26**  
**Intersectionality**  
**Reading:**


**Mon, 3/1**  
**Intersectionality**  
**Reading:**

**Wed, 3/3**  
**Intersectionality**  
**Reading:**

**Fri, 3/5**  
**Midterm Review**  
**Due:**
- First 3 comment cards due

**Mon, 3/8**  
**MIDTERM EXAM**
### PART II: The Politics of Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Wed, 3/10  | Imagining Community/Imagining Nation | *Reading:*  
| Fri, 3/12  | Imagining Community/Imagining Nation | *Reading:*  
| Due        | Response paper proposals due |                                                                       |
| Mon, 3/15 – Fri, 3/19 | SPRING BREAK. NO CLASS! |                                                                       |
| Mon, 3/22  | Nationalism                     | *Reading:*  
| Wed, 3/24  | Nationalism                     | *Reading:*  

**Fri, 3/26 Nationalism**

*Reading:*


**Mon, 3/29 Nationalism**

*Reading:*


*Film:*

- “The life and times of Rosie the Riveter” D810.W7 L53 1987 65 min (Part 1)

**Wed, 3/31 Nationalism**

*Film:*

- “The life and times of Rosie the Riveter” D810.W7 L53 1987 65 min (Part 2)

**Fri, 4/2 Nationalism**

*Reading:*

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


**Mon, 4/5 Hip Hop**

*Reading:*


**Wed, 4/7 Hip Hop**

*Reading:*

PART III: Gender and Knowledge

Fri, 4/9  Queering the Sociology of Gender
Reading:

Mon, 4/12 Queering the Sociology of Gender
Reading:
Due:
• Response paper due

Wed, 4/14 Situated Knowledge, Standpoint Theory and the Politics of Location
Reading:

Fri, 4/16 Situated Knowledge, Standpoint Theory and the Politics of Location
Reading:

Mon, 4/19 Situated Knowledge, Standpoint Theory and the Politics of Location
Reading:

Wed, 4/21 Situated Knowledge, Standpoint Theory and the Politics of Location
Reading:

**Fri, 4/23**

**Situated Knowledge, Standpoint Theory and the Politics of Location**

*Reading:*


**Mon, 4/26**

**Identities**

*Reading:*


**CourseEvalUM Spring 2010**

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, April 27th and Wednesday, May 12th**. 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.

**Wed, 4/28**

**The Problem of Representation**

*Reading:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
“Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Season 3 – ‘Sylvia’” 25 min |
| Mon, 5/10 | FINAL EXAM                   |                                                                         |
| Due:      |                               |                                                                         |
|          |                               | Last 3 comment cards due                                                |
GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

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

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 to arrive on time and stay until class is dismissed. Failure to do so will negatively affect your final grade. If you must arrive late, leave early, or miss a class, notify me in advance of that class.

- **Attendance (30 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 or multiple choice. 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.**

• **Comments Cards (15 points):** You are required to hand in at least 6 3X5 comment cards by the end of the semester, with your comments restricted to one side of the card. Ideally, you will use the cards to reflect on the material we are covering in class, or you will tell me about your experience of encountering the material. For instance, you might use your first card to tell me why you thought something we covered was really important. Conversely, you might want to tell me why you thought a particular topic was not that important. For another card, you might want to comment about how a particular activity was useful in helping you learn, or you might want to tell me about how the material we are covering intersects with your life. You must turn in 3 cards by **Friday, 3/5,** and the final 3 cards are due no later than **Friday 5/7.** Note that 15 points will be awarded for turning in all 6 cards; 0 points will be awarded if you fail to turn in all 6.

**Response Paper (100 points)**  
Students will submit a 4 – 5 page written response to one of the themes discussed in the course. In addition to responding to the assigned readings in the syllabus, students will be required to add at least one additional citation. (12 pt font, 1” margins, double-spacing)  
**Proposal Due Date:** Friday 3/12/2010  
**Paper Due Date:** Monday 4/12/2010

**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 3/08/2010  
• **Final Exam (150 points):** Tuesday 5/18/2010 8:00-10:00 am

**EXTRA CREDIT**  
**Class Blog (60 points):** You are encouraged to participate in a class blog for extra credit. Each blog entry is worth a maximum of 20 points, and you may contribute a total of 3 blog entries throughout the semester. Your blog entry must cite at least one relevant article and must respond to an earlier entry. You will submit your entry to me, and I will post it online at [http://lesandrist.weebly.com/class-blog-project.html](http://lesandrist.weebly.com/class-blog-project.html). Please talk to me for further details.
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 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.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html