

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER
AS/SOCI 3690 6.0 A (2019/20)

Course Director: Sheila L. Cavanagh
Lecture: Wednesdays, 4:00 to 7:00, ACE 013
Office Address: 322 Founders College
Office Hours: By Appointment
E-mail: Sheila@yorku.ca

NOTE: Please do not e-mail Dr. Cavanagh for interpretations of the course readings or lectures. Dr. Cavanagh will be available to answer questions about course material during lecture and office hours. If you e-mail her for a course-administrative matter please put **SOCI 3690** in the subject heading. Ensure that your e-mail is no more than five lines long (to ensure that the course director has time to read all messages).

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the critical study of gender in sociology. Beginning with questions about masculinity and femininity in Canadian society and internationally, we embark on an exploration of how gender is relevant to sociological thought. Focus will be placed on sociological theories of gender and how they enable us to understand contemporary sex and gender systems. Attention will be given to knowledge production, power, culture, sexuality, communication, class, colonization and biographies in our investigation of gender.

Topics include the study of gender in families, the institution of marriage, compulsory heterosexuality, institutions like work, education, the mass media, sport, beauty industries, popular culture, etc. Students will be expected to analyze the historical, economic, social, cultural and political aspects of gender formation in various societal contexts. Emphasis is placed on the histories of gender in western, capitalist industrialized nations: heterosexuality and bi-gendered culture; transnational migration, histories of colonization and racism; law and government.

Learning Objectives:

Course Evaluation

Test One: 20%
Mid-Term Exam: 30%
Test Two: 20%
Final Exam: 30%

Required Readings:

Kimmel, Michael, S., Aronson, Amy & Kaler, Amy. (2015) *The Gendered Society Reader*. Don Mills: Oxford.

Kimmel, Michael, S. & Holler, Jacqueline. (2011) *The Gendered Society*, Don Mills: Oxford.

Accommodations:

If you have disabilities documented by the University it is your responsibility to (a) inform the course director as soon as possible and (b) to provide official documentation of the accommodations required.

Student Responsibilities:

Students are responsible for all material covered in all lectures and tutorials, including announced changes, guest lectures, presentations and audio-visual material. Students are also responsible for constructive discussion in class. If you miss a class *you* take full responsibility for any missed material or information. We strongly suggest you find two student buddies for information sharing if you miss a class or a point during class. Students must ensure that all requirements are completed on time. Do not ask us what you missed when you were away.

Visit the writing centers on campus:

<http://www.yorku.ca/yorkweb/currentstudents/academicsupport/writingcentres.html>

The Online Resources of the York Arts Centre for Academic Writing provide important information about how to cite and reference scholarly work:

<http://www.arts.yorku.ca/caw/resources/html>

Lateness Penalties & Missed Tests:

*Medical documentation must be supplied for a missed in-class test.

*It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor if a test is missed at the earliest possible date.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious, punishable offence that can result in a departmental hearing, and in a failing grade. Plagiarism includes using the work of others without proper citation. This includes verbatim quotation from books, websites, assignments completed for other courses, etc. Always use quotation marks around words that are not your own and if you paraphrase the ideas of others you must attribute the idea to the appropriate author. See the university website:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/>

All essays and tests must be based on assigned course readings exclusively. Students may not use outside sources, readings, blogs, websites, readings found online or materials assigned in other courses to complete assignments. If students use non-course materials they will automatically receive a failing grade.

Visit the writing centers on campus:

<http://www.yorku.ca/yorkweb/currentstudents/academicsupport/writingcentres.html>

The Online Resources of the York Arts Centre for Academic Writing provide important information about how to cite and reference scholarly work:

<http://www.arts.yorku.ca/caw/resources/html>

COURSE SCHEDULE

FALL TERM

INTRODUCTION:

September 4

No readings assigned.

Gender, Sociology and Conceptual Frameworks

Anatomy and Destiny: Biological Arguments about Gender Difference:

September 11

Chapter 1 'Psychological Sex Differences through Sexual Selection' (David Buss) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 2 'Testosterone Rules' (Robert M. Sapolsky) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 3 'Believing is Seeing: Biology as Ideology' (Judith Lorber) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 4 'The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough' (Anne Fausto-Sterling) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

The Social Construction of Gender:

September 18

Chapter 2 'Ordained by Nature: Biology Constructs the Sexes' *The Gendered Society*.

The Psychoanalysis of Gender:

September 25

Chapter 3 'So That Explains It' Psychoanalytic and Developmental Perspectives on Gender' *The Gendered Society*.

Transgender Studies:

October 2

Stryker, Susan (2006) "Desubjugated Knowledges: An Introduction to Transgender Studies" In *The Transgender Studies Reader* (Eds.) by Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle. Routledge: New York and London (1-18).

Jay Prosser (2006) "Judith Butler: Queer Feminism, Transgender, and the Transubstantiation of Sex" In *The Transgender Studies Reader* (Eds.) by Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle. Routledge: New York and London (257-280).

The Cultural Construction of Gender:

October 9

Chapter 4 'Spanning the World: Culture Constructs Gender Difference' *The Gendered Society*.

Chapter 6 'Listening to the Voices of Hijab' (Tabassum F. Ruby) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Fall Reading Week (Oct. 12-18)

Feminist Theories of Gender

Feminist Sociological Perspectives of Gender:

October 23

Chapter 5 'The Social Construction of Gender Relations: Sociological and Feminist Perspectives' *The Gendered Society*.

In-Class Test One

October 30

Gender, Race and Racialization:

November 6

Chapter 9 "Gendered Racial Violence and Spatialized Justice: The Murder of Pamela George (Sherene Razack) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 10 "Interracial Unions With White Partners and Racial Profiling: Experiences and Perspectives" (Tamari Kitossa and Katarina Delikovsky) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 11 "Others in Their Own Land: Second Generation Asian Canadian Women, Racism, and the Persistence of Colonial Discourse" (Angela Aujla) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 12 "Gendered Diasporas Across Generations: The New African Diaspora in Vancouver" (Gillian Creese) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Queer Feminist Theories of Gender

November 13

Chapter 5 'Doing Gender (Candice West and Don. H. Zimmerman) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 13 "The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity" (Susan Bordo) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 16 "Exploring Male Femininity in the "Crisis": Men and Cosmetic Surgery" (Michael Atkinson) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Sexualities: Gendered Desires

November 20

Chapter 12 “Sexualities: Gendered Desires” in *The Gendered Society*.

Transgender Feminisms:

November 27

Chapter 11 ‘The Gendered Body: Prescriptions and Incriptions’ *The Gendered Society*.

Chapter 8 ‘Coming Out and Crossing Over: Identity Formation and Proclamation in a Transgender Community’ (Patricia Gagné, Richard Tewksbury, and Deanna McGaughey) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

WINTER TERM

Gender, Family, Work and Violence

Gender and Performance Ethnography as Sociological Method:

January 8

“Trans Performance Ethnography: Queer Bathroom Stories as Case Study” (Sheila L. Cavanagh) <http://sheila.info.yorku.ca/keynotes-and-public-presentations/> (Online readings).

Gendered Intimacies:

January 15

Chapter 10 ‘Gendered Intimacies: Communication, Friendship, Love and Sex’ *The Gendered Society*.

Gender Normativity and Compulsory Heterosexuality

January 22

Chapter 17 “Losing It: Similarities and Differences in First Intercourse Experiences of Men and Women” (Lily Tsui and Elena Nicoladis) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 18 “It Just Happens”: Negotiating Casual Heterosexual Sex” (Melanie Beres) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 19 “Same-Sex Marriage and Canadian Relationship Recognition: One Step Forward and Two Steps Back. A Critical Liberationist Perspective” (Nick Mulé) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Gendering Families:

January 29

Chapter 6 ‘The Gendered Family: Gender at the Heart of the Home’ *The Gendered Society*.

Chapter 23 “Household Labour and the Routine Production of Gender” (Scott Coltrane) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Gender, Families and State Institutions:

February 5

Chapter 20 “No Longer “One of the Boys”: Negotiations with Motherhood, as Prospect or Reality, among Women in Engineering” (Gillian Ranson) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 21 “Here’s My Story”: Fathers of “Looked After” Children Recount Their Experiences in the Canadian Child Welfare System” (Lena Dominelli, Susan Strega, Chris Walmsley, Marilyn Callahan, and Leslie Brown) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 22 “Situating “Home” at the Nexus of Public and Private Spheres: Aging, Gender, and Home Support Work in Canada” (Anne Martin-Matthews) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

In-Class Test Two

February 12

Winter Reading Week (Feb. 15-21)

Gender and Violence:

February 26

Chapter 13 “The Gender of Violence: Domination’s Endgame” *The Gendered Society*.

Chapter 35 “Rape-Prone versus Rape-Free Campus Cultures (Peggy Reeves Sanday) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 36 “The Myth of Sexual Symmetry in Marital Violence” (Russell P. Dobash, R. Emerson Dobash, Margo Wilson, and Martin Daly) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 37 “Intimate Male Partner Violence in the Migration Process: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Class” (Sepali Guruge, Nazilla Khanlou, and Denise Gastaldo) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 38 “Genderbashing: Sexuality, Gender, and the Regulation of Public Space” (Viviane K. Namaste) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Gender, Education and Work: Pedagogy and the Reproduction of Inequality

Gender and Work:

March 4

Chapter 8 ‘Separate and Unequal: The Gendered World of Work’ *The Gendered Society*.

Chapter 28 “Cautious Caregivers: Gender Stereotypes and the Sexualization of Men Nurses’ Touch” (Joan A. Evans) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 29 “Gendered Strategies of the Self: Navigating Hierarchy and Contesting Masculinities” (Shelley Pacholok) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 30 “Women’s Perspectives on Disability, Underemployment, and Health” (Susan Lee) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 31 “Domestic Distinctions: Constructing Difference among Paid Domestic Workers in Toronto” (Bernadette Stiell and Kim England) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Gender and Education:

March 11

Chapter 24 “Warrior Narratives in the Kindergarten Classroom: Renegotiating the Social Contract?” (Ellen Jordan and Angela Cowan) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 25 "At Dawn, Our Bellies Full": Teaching Tales of Food and Resistance From Residential Schools and Internment Camps in Canada” (Marilyn Iwama) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 26 “What Do You Call an Indian Woman with a Law Degree? Nine Aboriginal Women at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law Speak Out (Tracey Lindberg) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 27 “Micro Inequities and Everyday Inequalities: "Race", Gender, Sexuality, and Class in Medical School” (Brenda Beagan) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Gender, Media, Sport and the Politics of Representing Bodies

Gender, Media and the Politics of Representation:

March 18

Chapter 9 ‘The Gendered Media: Difference and Domination Glamourized’ *The Gendered Society*.

Chapter 32 “Helpless Maidens and Chivalrous Knights: Afghan Women in the Canadian Press (Yasmin Jiwani) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 33 “You Can Run but You Can't Hide: The Incorporation of Riot Grrrl into Mainstream Culture” (Alison Jacques) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Gendering Sports:

March 25

Chapter 9 ‘It’s Part of the Game’: Physicality and the Production of Gender in Women’s Hockey’ (Nancy Theberge) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 14 “Mass Media and Gender Identity in High Performance Canadian Figure Skating” (Karen McGarry) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 34 “Globalization, Corporate Nationalism and Masculinity in Canada: Sport, Molson Beer Advertising and Consumer Citizenship” (Steven Jackson) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Gender and Social Movements

April 1

Chapter 39 “Feminism and Young Women: Still Alive and Kicking” (Candis Steenbergen) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 40 "You Just Felt the Collective Wind Being Knocked Out of Us": The Desinstitutionalization of Feminism and the Survival of Women's Organizing in Canada (Kathleen Rodgers and Melanie Knight) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 41 “Context, Challenges, and Tensions in Global Efforts to Engage Men in the Prevention of Violence Against Women: An Ecological Analysis” (Erin A. Casey, Juliana Carlson, Cathlyn Fraguela-Rios, Ericka Kimball, Tova B. Neugut, Richard M. Tolman and

Jeffrey L. Edleson) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Chapter 42 “A Gaggle of Raging Grannies: The Empowerment of Older Canadian Women through Social Activism” (Miya Narushima) *The Gendered Society Reader*.

Note: You will not receive your final test/assignment back. This work will be held in the Sociology Department. After you have received your final grade from York you may review your test/assignment at the Department. You may not take it out of the Department. Remember not to contact your professor for your final assignment mark, your involvement or attendance marks, or your final grade.