

SOC 254 Gender in the Social World

Instructor: Seema Bahl

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Online Course

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Office hours: Via Canvas chat, video chat (Skype) or phone. In person appointments available upon request.

REQUIRED READING: Michael Kimmel: *The Gendered Society*, Sixth (6th) Edition.

Various readings and video clips, available on our **Soc 254 Canvas course site** (in the Modules section)

Are you born a “man” or “woman,” or does society make us “men” and “women?” Examine the ways in which gender organizes social life and shapes the distribution of power in society. Themes may include media stereotyping, gender roles, sex segregation in the workforce, sexual politics, and the experiences of women and men in families.

What to Expect in This Class:

This is a personally transformational course if we’ve ever seen one! What does it mean to be a “man” or a “woman?” Is one born a “man” or “woman,” or does society make “men” and “women?” This course deeply explores our complex social ideas about masculinity and femininity. You will explore the ways in which gender organizes our lives and shapes the distribution of power and privilege in contemporary society. You will also examine how gender influences our everyday interactions with others and how social institutions depend upon and perpetuate gender differences. This class examines the small gendered things we all do every day as well as gendered institutions (such as the economy and mass media). Students frequently tell us that, after taking this class, they can’t look at the world the same way again. You’ll learn that social and cultural ideas about gender are embedded in almost everything that we do. You’ll reflect on the course material, and you’ll apply it to your own life. Come prepared to watch films, participate in engaging online discussions, reflect upon gender in your own life, and dialogue on important topics.

Outcomes:

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Illustrate a sociological understanding of sex and gender.
- Analyze the ways in which societies are fundamentally organized by sex/gender systems.
- Describe how power plays a central role in the social construction of sex/gender.
- Explain how experiences of gender are shaped by class and race.

Online learning: Online classes demand independence, discipline, self-motivation, good writing and reading skills (I will be grading your reading comprehension, analysis, and proper citations where relevant. However, this is not a reading or writing class, so I won't be able to spend loads of time with each student correcting basic mistakes in grammar, spelling, citation, etc!). It is CRUCIAL that you have basic computer technology competence. You will be primarily interacting with your peers and myself online, through discussion posts, forums, papers, and emails.

You must be competent in CANVAS operation and navigation. In addition, you must be able to commit to:

1. Checking the course website almost every day,
2. Referring to this syllabus and your course calendar OFTEN to keep up with due dates,
3. Keeping up independently with the readings, multimedia clips, and assignments, and
4. You absolutely must be confident enough to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. We may or may not meet face to face, and that should be okay with you.

Can you meet these requirements? Then you are ready to take this course!

Disability

If you need course adaptations or special accommodations because of a disability, and/or if you have emergency medical information, please contact me. Please let me know as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made. The Disability Resource Center may be contacted at: (425) 564-2498 (phone), (425) 440-2025 (video phone) or TTY: (425) 564-4110.

Diversity

While this course is conducted on the Internet, we are still committed to establishing a community of learners, readers and writers. Respect for the diversity of perspectives, histories, experiences and identities that exist in any community is crucial for the productive functioning of the course.

Cheating: Do not plagiarize!! Do not use other people's ideas, interpretations and language without proper citation. Scholastic dishonesty includes having others do work for you, doing work for others, and plagiarism, and can lead to failure of the assignment or course. Please obtain help from the Writing Center or the Tutoring and Help Center. Please contact me with any questions.

Communication: I will hold office hours over Skype or phone via appointment, so you must have a Skype account to speak with me. Send me an email as soon as possible if you are not able to access Skype, and we will set it up together. You can send me an email to set up an appointment. We can also communicate over email. You must include a proper greeting (Dear Ms. Bahl) and put your topic in the subject line. Do not leave the subject line blank! I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours.

LATE WORK: Late work will be penalized 5 points per day and no assignments will be accepted **1 week or more after the due date**. NO EXCEPTIONS! This policy accounts for any potential computer glitches, family emergencies, etc. (this is quite a lenient policy), so I will not deviate from instituting these penalties under any circumstances.

Note: I will not accept any work after the last official day of the course.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

Assignments and Grading:

5 Forum discussions @ 30 points [due Sundays, response due the next Monday]	150 points
Exams (2 @ 100 points)	200 points
2 Essays (100 points each)	200 points
Learning Outcomes, Respect, and Cordiality	30 points
Total	580 points

You will turn in your assignments each week. Look under the 'Modules' tab in Canvas to find the appropriate assignment for that 'Module' of the week we are in and turn in your Forum Answer Sheet or your paper to the discussion or assignment drop box for that module. Refer to your class calendar to confirm due dates!

Grading: Again, all late assignments and postings will be penalized 5 points per day (including weekends)! No exceptions! No late assignments will be accepted 1 week or more after the due date. After this, assignments will automatically receive 0 points.

Readings: Each week has assigned readings, found in your course textbook with occasional supplementary readings found as single files located in the appropriate module for that week (open the 'Modules' tab on the left side of this courses page on Canvas). Again, refer to your course calendar if you are confused about which module you are responsible for at the current time. Give yourself enough time to do the readings (at least once, if not twice) so that you can answer the forum questions carefully. Do NOT wait until the last day or two to complete the readings and address the forum questions, which are lengthy!

Forums: READ THE FORUM ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES FOR INFORMATION ABOUT POINT VALUES, GRADING RUBRIC, ETC.

You are required to respond to forum questions most weeks. Forums are generally **due on Sunday of each week, and peer responses are due the following Monday**. Please keep in mind that this is a very large part of your grade, and it is imperative that you complete the readings/video clips (found in the Kimmel textbook or in Canvas under the appropriate module) on time and respond to the questions in a timely manner. Late answer sheets will be penalized 5 points per day and no answer sheet will be accepted 1 week or more after the due date. In terms of length, you will have to provide thoughtful, substantial responses that are based upon your familiarity with the readings and your own critical reflection. This would mean at least a few sentences, if not a whole paragraph, per question. I require a minimum of 100 words per forum response and 75 words per peer reply. You must answer each part of the question for full credit! Do not ‘blow off’ these responses! I will be carefully reading everyone’s submissions. You will also respond to one of your peer’s forum posts, focusing on his or her opinion-based answers.

IMPORTANT NOTE: IF YOU WERE TAKING THIS CLASS ‘ON THE GROUND’ AS OPPOSED TO FULLY ONLINE, YOU WOULD HAVE 5 CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK. THINK OF THE FORUMS AS THESE CONTACT HOURS. TRY TO ENGAGE WITH AT LEAST ONE FORUM QUESTION ON EVERY DAY DURING THE WEEK SO THAT YOU DO NOT GET ‘OVERWHELMED’ AT THE LAST MINUTE TRYING TO ANSWER ALL OF THE QUESTIONS!!

Exams: There will be two exams, each worth 100 points. They will all be open book exams, each with 20 multiple choice questions (worth 5 points each), and you will have 60 minutes to complete each exam. On the exam dates, I will open the exam for 24 hours, and you must click on the quiz, complete the exam (within 60 minutes), and submit the completed exam to me.

Module Response Essays: You are required to complete two Module Response Essays. These papers will be submitted online. Take these papers very seriously! Instructions can be found under the modules for the appropriate week and are entitled “Module Response Essay.” Each paper is worth 100 points.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Schedule	Readings and Multimedia	What is due
Week 1: Overview and Biological Views on Gender and Sex	Kimmel, Chapters 1 and 2 Additional material in Canvas	Sunday: Module 1 Forum Monday: Peer Response

Week 2: Cultural Constructs of Gender	Kimmel, Chapter 3 Additional material in Canvas	Sunday: Module 2 Forum Monday: Peer Response
Week 3 Social Construction of Gender	Kimmel, Chapter 5 Additional material in Canvas	Monday: Quiz One Covers Weeks 1,2, and 3
Week 4: Gendered Families	Kimmel, Chapter 6 Additional material in Canvas	Sunday: Module 4 Forum Tuesday: Peer Response
Week 5: Gendered Work	Kimmel, Chapter 9 Additional material in Canvas	Sunday: Module 5 Forum Monday: Peer Response
Week 6: Gendered Politics and Masculine Politics	Kimmel, Chapter 10 Additional material in Canvas	Monday: Quiz 2 Covers Weeks 4,5,and 6

Week 7: Intersectionality of Gender with Race, Class, and Disability	All Materials in Canvas	Sunday : Module Response Essay
Week 8: Gendered Media	Kimmel, Chapter 11 Additional material in Canvas	Sunday : Gendered Media Analysis Module Response Essay

Week 9: Gendered Violence	Kimmel, Chapter 14 Additional material in Canvas	Thursday: Module 9 Forum Monday: Peer Response
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