

Sociology 138: The Sociology of Gender

Fall 2015

22 INGRAHAM, Tues and Thurs, 11-12:15

Instructor: Katie Zaman

Email: zaman@wisc.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday right after class until 2:30pm.
Thursday from 2:00-3:30.
Other times by appointment.

Office Location: 2473 Social Sciences (use rear elevators)

Description:

This class is an introduction to the sociology of gender, or how sociologists study gender relations among people and groups in society. It is also an introduction to thinking about the world around us in a sociological way, that is, how individual experiences are shaped by the institutions and cultures around us, and how we shape institutions and culture through our individual and collective actions.

It is impossible to understand gender without also understanding race, class, sexuality, and other categories (disability, age, nationality, religion, and so on). We are using gender as a starting point to think about how social inequalities are structured, but I will include as much as possible about these other categories for a fuller understanding.

It would be impossible to cover every aspect of gender in an introductory course, so we are going to use a democratic process to determine at least three of the topics we will discuss. I encourage you to use the Tumblr posts, lecture comments, and the final project to connect the concepts we use in class to your everyday life.

Learning objectives:

1. Understand the sociological definition of gender.
2. Understand how the gender categories of masculine and feminine are socially constructed and change over time, and think about non-binary alternatives.
3. Understand that gender intersects with other categories, including race, sex, class, disability, sexuality, and age.
4. Learn how the structure of our societies - our economic system, institutions, and social norms/culture - reinforce a specific set of gender relations.
5. Question the "universality" of gender by looking at historical change and non-Western societies.
6. Develop a gender critique of popular culture.
7. Learn about the different varieties of feminism.
8. Develop strategies to cope with and help change our society for the better.

Materials:

Please purchase and bring to class the following:

- white index cards, 4x6, one pack
- black flair marker (optional)

Readings will be posted on Learn@UW because...



The Rules:

- DO** put phones on SILENT during class time and don't spend the whole time texting your boo.
- DO** come to lectures, on time, and pay attention
- DO** complete quizzes and assignments on time (pay attention to Learn@UW)
- DO** be respectful of your fellow students
- DO** let me know if you have an issue that's making it hard for you to complete the requirements of this class. I want you to succeed, but please come talk to me early.
- DO** feel comfortable visiting me during office hours, or by appointment.

- don't** use laptops if it distracts you *or others* from lecture
- don't** come to lecture if you're sick - see attendance policy
- don't** make an argument about "reverse sexism" - it doesn't exist
- no really, don't** come to lecture if you're sick because of germs

Assessment:

Attendance - VERY IMPORTANT		25%
Quizzes - Weekly quizzes, on learn@uw, open book		20%
Tumblr posts - 10 total over the semester		10%
gender hashtag with 3-5 sentence explanation		
due Saturdays at midnight		
pass/fail		
you can make up two posts you missed		
Gender analyses		20%
Friends part 1	5%	
Your favorite show	5%	
A show you'd never watch	5%	
Friends part 2	5%	
Final Project		15%
Final Exam		10%
Opportunities for Extra Credit		
<i>Attendance</i> - make up for 1 missed class		
<i>Quizzes</i> - Replace lowest score		
<i>Gender Analyses</i> - Replace lowest score		
<i>Final Project</i> - add 5 points		
<i>Final Exam</i> - add 5 points		
All extra credit is due by midnight on Dec 19.		

Attendance: It is crucial that you attend lectures. This course does not have discussion sections, and the bulk of the material will be presented in lecture.

I will collect attendance cards at the end of each class. Each card should have the following:

- Your full name, legible, so that I can record your attendance.
- The date.
- Draw a frame, and a self portrait. No words or numbers. You will not be graded on "artistic ability." This is an exercise that is meant to engage your brain and help you focus before the start of class.
- On the other side of the card, write your short answer to the Question of the Day, and any comments or questions you have about the content of the lecture or readings.

You can miss three class periods for illness or emergencies. Please email me as soon as you know you'll be absent and why. After three absences, you will begin to lose attendance points. *If you have a legitimate reason to miss more than three classes, please talk to me about make-up work as soon as possible. I am reasonable! But not gullible.*

ALL QUIZZES, TUMBLR POSTS, GENDER ANALYSES, AND PROJECTS ARE DUE AT MIDNIGHT ON THEIR DUE DATE.

Quizzes: There will be weekly quizzes based on lectures and readings. They will be open book, on learn@UW, and you can take them twice. They will contain matching, multiple choice, and short answer questions.

Tumblr Posts: Each week, you will submit a minimum of one (you can post more than one) tumblr post to the class tumblr: uwsocofgender.tumblr.com. For each post, tag with the week (#week1, #week2), the topic of the post (#masculinity, #binary, #patriarchy) and write a few sentences about why your post relates to the topic. **Submit the link to your post on learn@uw.** There are 12 dropboxes on learn@uw, so you have a chance to make two bonus points (or make up two posts that you missed.) See Tumblr FAQs under Week 2 content on Learn@UW for more.

Gender Analyses: There are four gender analyses that you will do throughout the semester. *General guidelines:* 500-750 words, use class concepts, submit on learn@uw.

Gender analysis 1: Friends, Season 1, Episode 24 (we will go over in class)

Gender analysis 2: Your favorite show. Choose an episode of your favorite tv series. No movies.

Gender analysis 3: The opposite of your favorite show. Something you usually wouldn't watch based on your gendered entertainment preferences.

Gender analysis 4: Friends, Season 2, Episode 1 (same instructions as GA1)

Final Project: Due December 15.

You may choose one of the following projects:

- An in-depth **gender analysis of a movie** that discusses gendered aspects of the story line, casting, costumes, dialogue, and directing, relating these aspects to the course material. 4-6 pages long.
- A **gender playlist** of at least 8 songs that address a gender theme. You will submit your playlist with a 250 word explanation for each song and how it relates to the theme, and an overall summary of 500 words about your playlist.

Late Work and Missed Assignments may be accepted if you email me with the reason you were late.

Final Exam: THE FINAL EXAM IS NOT ON DECEMBER 23. Don't come to the room that day, because I won't be here! We will have the final on the last day of class, December 15. It will be based on the weekly quizzes, lectures, films, and readings.

Extra Credit: You can earn extra credit for the following categories:

- Attendance - make up for 1 missed class
- Quizzes - Replace lowest score
- Gender Analyses - Replace lowest score
- Final Project - add 5 points
- Final Exam - add 5 points

Each category may only be used once. If you are unsure whether an activity will be counted ahead of time, you can **send me an email for pre-approval** (pls try to give advanced notice).

Extra credit can be earned by:

- participating in a **gender diversity dialogue** and submitting a 500 word report. This is a limited opportunity, as there are only 20-30 spots, but I encourage you to take advantage of it. (More info coming soon.)
- attending an event **on campus** related to gender and writing a 500 word gender analysis. Possibilities include:
 - departmental events
 - dorm events
 - social events
 - presentations
 - films, plays, shows
 - student org events
- write a gender analysis of your choice about a contemporary gender artifact (advertisements, music videos, movies, tv shows, holidays, product, fashion trend, etc.), outlining how it is gendered, using course material.
- suggestions are welcome. always get pre-approval for an activity not on this list to be sure that it will count.

**Submit your extra credit work
in the associated dropbox on learn@uw.**

Grading Rubric:

A:	95% +
AB:	90% - 94%
B:	85% - 89%
BC:	78% - 84%
C:	70% - 77%
D:	60% - 69%
F:	below 60%

Course Schedule (Subject to change)

Week 1: Welcome

Quiz 1: survey due 9/8

Assignment due next week: Gender analysis 1 (Friends)

Week 2: Sociology, Gender, and Intersectionality

READ: [The Combahee River Collective Statement](#)

9/8: defining sociology, intersectionality

9/10: what is gender?

Quiz 2: sociology, oppression, intersectionality, and gender

Tumblr post 1 due

Assignment due: Friends gender analysis

Week 3: Nature and Nurture

Read: Connell and Pearse, ch 3

9/15: Nature

9/17: Nurture

Quiz 3

Tumblr post 2

Week 4: Masculinities

Read: *Masculinities*, Wade and Ferree

9/22 - Socialization and Masculinities

9/24 - Masculinities - Guest Lecturer Jason Nolen

Quiz 4

Tumblr post 3

Extra Credit Opportunity: [The Public Household: Legacies of Race and Gender in Struggles over Economic Value](#), Thursday, September 24, 4:15, 3401 Sterling Hall,

Week 5: Femininities and Objectification

Read: *Femininities*, Wade and Ferree

9/29: Femininities

10/1: Objectification

Assignment due next week: Gender analysis 2

Quiz 5

Tumblr post 4

Extra Credit Opportunity: [Structural Inequalities and Poverty: Organizing for Economic Rights in India](#), Wednesday, September 30, 4pm, Pyle Center

Week 6: Virginity, Dating and Sexual Scripts

Read: Wade and Ferree, Chapter 10

10/6: Virginity

10/8: Dating, Sexual Scripts

Quiz 6

Tumblr post 5

Gender Analysis 2 due

Extra Credit Opportunity: [UW-Madison's 8th Annual Outstanding Women of Color Awards Reception](#), October 7, 5-7:30pm, Pyle Center

Week 7: Sexual Assault and Reproductive Justice

Read: Jeannie Flavin, selection from *Our Bodies, Our Crimes*

10/13: Sexual Assault

10/15: Bodily Autonomy, the right to reproduce, the right not to reproduce

Movie - TBD

Quiz 7

Tumblr post 6

Week 8: Marriage and Families

Read: Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, ch 5 (selections)

10/20: Marriage and Families - Guest Lecturer, Gina Longo

10/22: Black families and The New Jim Crow

Quiz 8

Tumblr post 7

Extra credit opportunity: [Oct 23 and 24 - 40 yrs of women's studies at uw madison](#)

Keynote speaker: [Mia Mingus, Disability Justice Advocate](#), 4pm, Friday Oct 23, 1310 Sterling Hall.

Extra credit opportunity: Thursday, October 22, 3:30pm, 3401 Sterling Hall, ["I Do for My Kids": Negotiating Gender, Race and Inequality in Family Court](#)

Week 9: Production and Social Reproduction

Read:

10/27: Inequality, Wage Gaps, Collective Bargaining

10/29: Care work, feminization, globalization

Quiz 9

Tumblr post 8

Assignment due next week: Gender analysis 3

Week 10: Gender and Sports

Read:

11/3: Guest Lecturer Madi Pape

11/5: Guest Lecturers Alex Hanna and Jaclyn Wypler

Quiz 10

Tumblr post 9
Gender analysis 3 due

Week 11: Education

Read: [The Rise of Women](#) (summary) and Ch 3 from *Dude, You're a Fag*

11/10: Education

11/12: Bullying

Quiz 11

Tumblr post 10

Week 12: Sexuality and Gender

Read: TBD

11/17: Nurture vs Nature

11/19: Marriage Rights, Adoption Rights

Quiz 12

Tumblr post 11 (bonus)

THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/24 is a bonus class - attendance will help your attendance score, but non-attendance won't hurt you.

11/26 NO CLASS

Tumblr post 12 (bonus)

Due next week: Final gender analysis

Week 13: Sex Work

12/1 - Sex Work in the US

12/4 - Sex Worker Rights

Final Gender analysis due

Week 12: Conclusion and Review

12/8 - What do we do about it?

12/10 - Review

Final project due next week

Final Exam:

12/15 - Tuesday

Final Project Due Dec 19 at midnight

All extra credit due Dec 19 at midnight

OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS

Accommodations.

Please send me an email by the end of the second week of the course if you are eligible for special arrangements or accommodations for testing, assignments, or other aspects of the course. This may be the case if English is your second language or you experience a physical or psychological condition that makes it difficult for you to complete assignments and/or exams without some modification of those tasks. Accommodations are provided for students who qualify for disability services through the McBurney Center. [Their website](#) has detailed instructions about how to qualify. Provide a copy of your accommodations request (VISA) to the instructor by the end of the second week of class. We try to reserve rooms and proctors by the third week in class, so we must know of all accommodations by then.

If you wish to request a scheduling accommodation for religious observances, send an email by the end of the second week of the course stating the specific date(s) for which you request accommodation; campus policy requires that religious observances be accommodated if you make a timely request early in the term. See [the university's web page](#) for details.

NOTE: Even if you don't have a McBurney visa, please come talk to me about anything that affects your performance in this class. This includes things like "I'm not 'disabled' enough according to McBurney standards to get a visa," and "I have to work to support myself," and "I am a single parent."

Academic honesty.

As with all courses at the University of Wisconsin, you are expected to follow the University's rules and regulations pertaining to academic honesty and integrity. The [standards are outlined by the Office of the Dean of Students](#).

According to UWS 14, academic misconduct is defined as: seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation; uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise; forges or falsifies academic documents or records; intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others; engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; assists other students in any of these acts.

For a complete description of behaviors that violate the University's standards as well the disciplinary penalties and procedures, please see the Dean of Students website. If you have questions about the rules for any of the assignments or exams, please ask your instructor or one of the TAs.

Departmental notice of grievance and appeal rights.

The Department of Sociology regularly conducts student evaluations of all professors and teaching assistants near the end of the semester. Students who have more immediate concerns

about this course should report them to the instructor or to the chair, 8128 Social Science (Pamela.oliver@wisc.edu).

Department learning objectives.

Beyond the specific substantive and methodological content I will cover in this course, I have designed this course to achieve the following instructional objectives designated as priorities by the Department of sociology:

Communicate Skillfully: Sociology majors write papers and make oral presentations that build arguments and assess evidence in a clear and effective manner.

Critical Thinking about Society and Social Processes: Sociology graduates can look beyond the surface of issues to discover the "why" and "how" of social order and structure and consider the underlying social mechanisms that may be creating a situation, identify evidence that may adjudicate between alternate explanations for phenomena, and develop proposed policies or action plans in light of theory and data.

See Things from a Global Perspective: Sociologists learn about different cultures, groups, and societies across both time and place. They are aware of the diversity of backgrounds and experiences among residents of the United States. They understand the ways events and processes in one country are linked to those in other countries.