

SOCI 4250.900 / SOCI 4250.950: Gender and Society
University of North Texas
Spring 2019

January 14 through May 10
Online course

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to analyze gender in the context of the major social institutions, especially the family, work, religion, politics, and education. We will survey changes in gender roles in the 20th and 21st centuries. We will examine the unequal treatment of women and men in the major social institutions and examine policies that create and perpetuate these differences. We will also describe policy changes that could create more gender equity in society.

Requirements

Prerequisites

In order to take this course, you must have completed SOCI 1510 or an equivalent credit. Check with your academic advisor if you feel unsure about this requirement.

Course Materials

There is one required book for this course:

Reader: Kimmel, Michael, & Aronson, Amy. (2013). *The Gendered Society Reader, 5th Edition*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 9780199927494.

The text can be found at UNT Barnes and Noble Bookstore, at Voertman's in Denton, or on Amazon.com.

Virtual Class "Attendance"

Because this class is conducted online, there is no official attendance requirement. However, weekly online discussion posts are required. Students who do not check Canvas often **do not** do well in this course.

Assignments: Quizzes, Discussion Boards, and Essays

Readings

You will have readings each week from your text, the Kimmel reader, and the online modules each week. These readings will be important to your success in the course.

Discussion Board

You will complete 15 weekly discussion board assignments on Canvas throughout the semester, worth 20 points each. During this course, you are likely to make discoveries about the gendered structure of society as well as about your gendered self and your place in society. You will share your insights weekly with your classmates on our course discussion board. In addition to course readings, you may also include information from news media or observations that come your way in your daily life.

These discussion board assignments consist of two main parts: your Original Discussion Post, and your Discussion Response.

Original Discussion Post:

First, discuss gender in American society. What one major insight did you gain about gender in American society from the chapters for this week? How did these insights change the way you think about gender in American society? What else do you want to know about these topics; e.g., what are some examples of things that you are curious about that you think need further research? Cite the source of your new knowledge including in-text citations and a full reference using APA format. Include material from the lecture (including any films) and the textbook or the reader (required). You must write at least 100 words about social insights, not including in-text citations and references.

Second, discuss gender in your own life. What one major insight did you gain about gender in your own life from the chapters for this week? How did these insights change how you think about gender in your life? What else do you want to know about these topics; e.g., what are some examples of things that you are curious about that you think need further research? Cite the source of your new knowledge, including material from the lecture (including any films) and the textbook or the reader (required). You must write at least 100 words about personal insights, not including in-text citations and references.

Original Discussion Post Rubric (10 points total):

- 4 points – discussion of social insight
- 4 points – discussion of personal insight
- 2 points – grammar, spelling, organization, and use of references

Discussion Response:

After you have posted your Original Discussion Post comments, you will be able to see the posts of other students in the class. You should comment constructively on posts by two of your classmates. Try to choose students to comment on who do not already have a comment from another student. You may confirm their insight with your own insights, disagree with their insights, or you may modify their insights. You must cite the lecture (including any films) and the textbook or reader in your discussion and you may cite other sources as well. These discussion responses should be at least 50 words each, not including in-text citations and references.

Discussion Response Rubric (10 points total):

- 4 points – first response
- 4 points – second response
- 2 points – grammar, spelling, organization, and use of references

Quizzes

You will complete 15 weekly quizzes on Canvas throughout the semester, worth 20 points each. The quizzes cover the reading material and lectures in the course, and consist of objective, multiple-choice questions which test your knowledge of the basic concepts in the course. The questions are open-book and open-note. However, the quizzes are timed (15 minutes) so you will need to have already read and taken notes over the week's material before you start the quiz. Quizzes may be completed late for half credit until May 8 at 5:00 p.m.

Social Policy Analyses

You will complete two (2) Social Policy Analysis papers worth a total of 100 points each, due throughout the semester. (See the schedule at the end of the syllabus for more details.) There are two parts to your Social Policy Analysis paper grade: your original paper, 80 points each, and your critique of a classmate's paper, 20 points each, for a total of 100 points each paper.

The social policy analysis papers give you an opportunity to explore in more depth one aspect of gender that is discussed in the lecture (including any films), textbook, and/or reader for each of the four segments of the course. The policy papers will be used to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the material on gender issues in American society. In addition to the course resources (lecture, textbook, and reader), you must cite one additional academic resource that discusses the issue you address. The academic sources may be an academic journal article or an academic book chapter. You may find additional academic literature in the UNT libraries online.

Once you have submitted your policy paper, you must critique the completed policy paper of another student on the discussion board. Notice that this means you are required to submit your policy paper in two different formats: using Turnitin on Canvas, and on the paper discussion forum.

Social Policy Analysis Paper Outline: Choose one gender issue that you think is of critical importance to American society. First, introduce your issue. Second, discuss three reasons why you think the topic is important (analysis and synthesis) drawing on information in lecture, including any films, textbook, reader, and one additional academic resource. Third, discuss two changes that you think need to be made in the way American society is responding to this issue (evaluation). Be sure to provide in-text citations for any sources you use, including the textbook, reader, and your academic source (journal article or book chapter). You must write at least 1000 words.

Social Policy Analysis Paper Rubric (80 points total):

- 5 points – statement of the topic
- 15 points – three reasons why the topic is important
- 20 points – two proposed social changes
- 20 points – use of at least one academic journal article or book chapter
- 20 points – grammar, spelling, and organization

Critique Outline: After you have turned your paper in via Turnitin on Canvas, copy and paste your own policy paper into the policy paper discussion forum, so that others may critique it. Next choose a student to comment on who does not already have a comment from another student, if possible. Your critique must include your summary and evaluation of two positive contributions of the paper and one suggestion for improvement of the completed paper.

First, state the topic of your classmate's paper. Second, summarize and evaluate two positive contributions you believe your classmate makes to understanding their topic (analysis and synthesis). Third, document one area where you think your classmate's argument can be improved and make a suggestion for improving their analysis in this area (evaluation). Provide any in-text citations from the lecture, films, textbook, and/or reader in your critique. You must write at least 200 words.

Critique Rubric (20 points total):

- 5 points – statement of topic
- 10 points – notice two positive contributions
- 5 points – make one suggestion for improvement

Late Work Policy

All solo work, Quizzes and Social Policy Analysis papers, may be turned in late for half credit. Half credit means the work will be graded as usual, and then the grade will be cut in half. So, for example, if a student made a 14 on a quiz, if the quiz is late the student will make a 7 instead. You do not need special permission or to submit an excuse for late work; just do it late and it will be given half credit. You may complete any solo work late up until the last day of the semester, which is May 8 at 5:00 p.m.

All work that requires interaction with the rest of the class, original discussion posts, discussion responses, and Paper Critiques, must be completed by its deadline, and no opportunity will be given for extra credit or make-up work once the deadline is passed. This is simply because logically, it is impossible for a student to do work which requires interacting with the rest of the class once the rest of the class has already moved on to the next week's assignment. Unfortunately, this type of work cannot be completed after the deadline for even legitimate reasons, including family emergencies, illnesses, etc. If you miss one of these interactive assignments for a university-approved reason, once you get university approval send me an email and we will work out some alternative assignment so that your grade does not suffer.

Canvas sometimes experiences technical difficulties, so I highly recommend that you turn in your work **before** each deadline so that you have time to fix any problems that come up. In the past, students have believed they turned in a written assignment online, but the assignment never showed up as turned in. **Double-check** your work to make sure everything you intend to turn in is actually turned in!

A Note on the Class Schedule

The complete class schedule is listed at the end of the syllabus. You will notice that almost all assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on their due dates, which are all weekdays (usually Fridays). If you work a weekday job with regular daytime hours, and you try to wait until the last minute to complete assignments, you will find that it is difficult to complete them on time. **However, it is important to note that most assignments due in the class can be completed well ahead of the due date.** All readings are available to complete as soon as you receive your book. All PowerPoints and notes are available from the beginning of the semester on. All quizzes are available to be completed at any time throughout the semester until their deadlines. All policy analysis papers may be turned in at any time until their deadlines. All solo work is available to complete at any time from the beginning of the semester until its deadline. Only interactive work (such as Original Discussion Posts, Discussion Responses, and Paper Critiques) must be completed within a specific window of time, and those windows always span multiple days and nights. A 9 to 5 weekday job should not be a barrier to completing this course work.

Grading Synopsis

Assignment	Points	Percentage	Due Date
Original Discussion Post	15 (10 points each)	18.75%	Every Wednesday
Discussion Response	15 (10 points each)	18.75%	Every Friday
Quizzes	15 (20 points each)	37.5%	Every Friday
Policy Analysis Papers	2 (80 points each)	20%	See schedule
Paper Critique	2 (20 points each)	5%	See schedule
Total	800 points	100%	

Course Final Grade Scale

720-800	A
640-719	B
560-639	C
480-559	D
0-479	F

Schedule of Activities and Assignments

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the class schedule as needed. This schedule is tentative only, and may change as the class proceeds at its own pace.

Week 1 – Introduction to Social Trends of the 20th Century January 14 through 18

Readings – Module 1

Assignments – Week 1 Original Discussion Post due by January 16 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 1 Discussion Responses due by January 18 at 11:59 p.m.

Quiz 1 due by January 18 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 2 – Nature vs. Nurture in the Gendered World January 19 through 25

Readings – Module 2

Caveman Masculinity, by McCaughey (reader)

Men as Women and Women as Men, by Lorber (reader)

Coming of Age and Coming Out Ceremonies, by Herdt (reader)

Cultural Patterns and Sex/Gender Diversity, by Nanda (reader)

Assignments – Week 2 Original Discussion Post due by January 23 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 2 Discussion Responses due by January 25 at 11:59 p.m.

Quiz 2 due by January 25 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 3 – Role Theories in the Gendered World of the 20th Century January 26 through February 1

Readings – Module 3

The Gender Similarities Hypothesis, by Hyde (reader)

Assignments – Week 3 Original Discussion Post due by January 30 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 3 Discussion Responses due by February 1 at 11:59 p.m.

Quiz 3 due by February 1 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 4 – Social Construction of Gender in the 21st Century February 2 through 8

Readings – Module 4

Doing Gender, by West and Zimmerman (reader)

Doing Difference, by West and Fenstermaker (reader)

Great Divides, by Epstein (reader)

Assignments – Week 4 Original Discussion Post due by February 6 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 4 Discussion Responses due by February 8 at 11:59 p.m.

Quiz 4 due by February 8 at 11:59 p.m.

**Week 5 – The Gendered Family: Demographic Trends
February 9 through 15**

Readings – Module 5

**American Marriage in Early Twenty-First Century America, by Cherlin,
(reader)**

Assignments – Week 5 Original Discussion Post due by February 13 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 5 Discussion Responses due by February 15 at 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 5 due by February 15 at 11:59 p.m.

**Week 6 – The Gendered Family: Family Structure and Roles
February 16 through 22**

Readings – Module 6

**American Marriage in Early Twenty-First Century America, by Cherlin,
continued (reader)**

At-Home Fathers and Breadwinning Mothers, by Medved and Rawlin
(reader)

Assignments – Week 6 Original Discussion Post due by February 20 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 6 Discussion Responses due by February 22 at 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 6 due by February 22 at 11:59 p.m.

**Week 7 – The Gendered Classroom
February 23 through March 1**

Readings – Module 7

“Spice Girls,” “Girlies,” and “Tomboys”, by Reay (reader)

“I Just Got on With It”, by Roberts (reader)

Assignments – Week 7 Original Discussion Post due by February 27 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 7 Discussion Responses due by March 1 at 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 7 due by March 1 at 11:59 p.m.
Social Policy Analysis Paper 1 due by March 1 at 11:59 p.m.

**Week 8 – Gendered Religion
March 2 through 8**

Readings – Module 8

**The Unhappy Marriage of Religion and Politics, by Razavi and Jenichen
(reader)**

Assignments – Week 8 Original Discussion Post due by March 6 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 8 Discussion Responses due by March 8 at 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 8 due by March 8 at 11:59 p.m.
Paper Critique due by March 8 at 11:59 p.m.

Spring Break – March 11 through 17

**Week 9 – The Gendered World of Work: Changes of the Course of the 20th
March 16 through 22**

Readings – Module 9

The Gender Revolution, by England (reader)

Racializing the Glass Escalator, by Wingfield (reader)

Before and After, by Schilt and Wiswall (reader)

Assignments – Week 9 Original Discussion Post due by March 20 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 9 Discussion Responses due by March 22 at 11:59 p.m.

Quiz 9 due by March 22 at 11:59 p.m.

**Week 10 – The Gendered World of Politics
March 23 through 29**

Readings – Module 10

Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, and Michelle Obama, by McGinley (reader)

Assignments – Week 10 Original Discussion Post due by March 27 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 10 Discussion Responses due by March 29 at 11:59 p.m.

Quiz 10 due by March 29 at 11:59 p.m.

**Week 11 – The Gendered Media
March 30 through April 5**

Readings – Module 11

Lights on at the End of the Party, by Horvath et. al. (reader)

Assignments – Week 11 Original Discussion Post due by April 3 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 11 Discussion Responses due by April 5 at 11:59 p.m.

Quiz 11 due by April 5 at 11:59 p.m.

**Week 12 – Gendered Intimacies
April 6 through 12**

Readings – Module 12

The Feminization of Love, by Cancian (reader)

Hooking Up and Forming Romantic Relationships on Today's College

Campuses, by England, et. al. (reader)

Assignments – Week 12 Original Discussion Post due by April 10 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 12 Discussion Responses due by April 12 at 11:59 p.m.

Quiz 12 due by April 12 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 13 – The Gendered Body
April 13 through 19

Readings – Module 13

The Body and the Reproduction of Feminism, by Bordo (reader)

Assignments – Week 13 Original Discussion Post due by April 17 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 13 Discussion Responses due by April 19 at 11:59 p.m.

Quiz 13 due by April 19 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 14 – Gendered Violence
April 20 through 26

Readings – Module 14

Good Guys with Guns, by Stroud (reader)

Assignments – Week 14 Original Discussion Post due by April 24 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 14 Discussion Responses due by April 26 at 11:59 p.m.

Quiz 14 due by April 26 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 15 – The Degendered Society?
April 27 through May 3

Readings – Module 15

Assignments – Week 15 Original Discussion Post due by May 1 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 15 Discussion Responses due by May 3 at 11:59 p.m.

Quiz 15 due by May 3 at 11:59 p.m.

Social Policy Analysis Paper 2 due by May 3 at 11:59 p.m.

Final Exam Week
May 6 through 8

Assignments – Paper Critique due by May 8 at 11:59 p.m.

May 8 – all late work due by 11:59 p.m.