

Gender and Society SOCI 4250-900

Professor: William “Buddy” Scarborough, PhD
288C Sycamore Hall
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Hours: Fridays, 1pm to 4pm
*please e-mail for appointment

Course Description

In this course, we will discuss the sociology of gender and its relationship with many aspects of society.

We will use sociological readings to guide our discussion, but our analysis of gender will also be enriched by the exchange of ideas and experiences of students in the course. By applying theoretical perspective to our lived experiences, we will be able to shed new light on reasons for the inequality we observe in our daily lives. We can also draw from personal experience to build from existing theories.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

I have four goals for the course:

- 1) Students will understand foundational theories in the sociology of gender.
- 2) Students will become familiar with contemporary debates in the sociology of gender through engaging with competing theories.
- 3) Students will become familiar with influential theories that explain how gender intersects with other social structures.
- 4) Students will begin to apply theories and concepts from class to investigate social phenomena.

Required Text:

There are no required texts for purchase for this class. All readings will be uploaded onto Canvas.

SCIENTIFIC DEBATE AND DEVELOPMENT

Theoretical and scientific advances are commonly made through critique of previous frameworks that were insufficient, methodologically limited, or omitted important perspectives. Virtually all sociological theories have some limitations and/or scope conditions because society is very complex and always changing. Critiquing or building from theories is therefore one way to advance our scientific understanding and ability to solve social problems.

I invite you to critique, expand upon, and challenge the theories and frameworks we cover in this class. I selected readings for our curriculum that were among the most influential in our field. Many of them are also controversial and immersed in debate. Through this process of critique and dialogue we advance the scientific process of discovery.

Grades

I use a 100-point rubric for the course with points being distributed across two categories 1) Weekly quizzes, and 2) the final paper. Letter grades will be awarded based on the percentage of total points received (see table below).

Weekly Quizzes	40% of Grade
Paper: Analysis of Gendered Social Problem	60% of Grade
Total	100%

Grading Rubric:

90%-100% points: A

80%-89.9% points: B

70%-79.9% points: C

60%-69.9% points: D

59.9% or below: F

Assignments

Weekly Quizzes

Each module will include at least one quiz covering content from the readings and lecture. Quizzes are not group work – they are assigned for individual students. Quizzes may only be taken once. Weekly quizzes account for 40% of students' overall grade.

Paper

For the major paper of this course, you will choose a specific topic related to gender – and analyze the individual-, interactional-, and macro-level processes that contribute to its existence. You should cite at least 4 pieces of literature from the course.

The paper is designed to be written in five phases throughout the course of the semester, each with a separate deadline and corresponding points. By the time the full paper is due during finals week, students will have already completed nearly all sections for the paper and will focus on revising and writing a conclusion.

Assignment and Grade Policies

Late Assignments

To incorporate flexibility into the syllabus, I will drop students' three lowest quiz grades. Beyond these exceptions, late assignments will be penalized 20% for every day that they are late, starting the minute after the deadline (e.g., if assignment is due at 11:59pm and submitted as 12:00am, it will be penalized 20%).

If there are extenuating circumstances preventing submission of assignments, please let the professor know. I will make every effort to accommodate students.

Academic Integrity

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Students who engage in academic dishonesty will receive a zero in the assignment and potentially a zero in the course and administrative action from the university.

Please note that all paper submissions will go through turnitin plagiarism and AI detection to ensure papers are students' original work. Papers found to be plagiarized or written with AI chatbots will receive a zero and additional procedures for violations of academic conduct will be followed, as outlined by [UNT Policy](#).

Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades may only be assigned when the student is making satisfactory progress until the request for an incomplete is made. Incompletes must be requested in writing at least one week before Final Exam Week, must be accompanied by documentation of the reason that the course cannot be completed before the end of the semester, and are only considered if at least 50% of course exams & assignments have been completed with a passing grade.

Make-ups

Other than documented medical emergencies and religious observations, no make-ups will be given for any of the exams or in-class assignments.

Extra Credit

There are no extra credit opportunities in this course. Research has shown that extra credit tends to benefit students already in privileged positions who have the extra time and energy to take advantage of them, while doing little for students who actually may need the extra points. Consequently, extra credit assignments often worsen existing educational inequalities. Therefore, I will not offer extra credit in this class. If you have a compelling argument for why extra credit may benefit *all* students that considers the many different challenges they face, I am open to reconsidering my position on this matter.

Attendance and Participation

Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. You should attend every class unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy \(PDF\)](#) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>). If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let me know. Your safety and well-being are important to me.

Visit the UNT Learning Center

The UNT Learning Center provides a variety of free academic support programs from tutoring and supplemental-instruction services to academic skills workshops and coaching. **Contact Information:** Phone: 940-369-7006 | Email: Learning.Center@unt.edu | In-person: Monday through Friday, from 8a - 5p, Sage Hall, Room 170. For more information about the services provided, visit the LC online: learningcenter.unt.edu.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences.

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ADA Accommodation Statement

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course.

You can request accommodations at any time, but it's important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648.

Religious Holidays

If you wish to observe a religious holidays that conflicts with the completion of a course module, notify me by the tenth day of the semester of the relevant module unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. In such cases, you should notify me at least five days in advance of the date. I will make every reasonable effort to honor the request, not penalize you for missing material, and if an examination or project is due during the absence, I

will give you an exam or assignment equivalent to the one completed in the module.

For online courses only:

Federal regulations state that students may apply only 3 fully-online semester credit hours (SCH) to the hours required for full-time status for [F-1 Visa \(DOC\)](#) holders. Full-time status for F-1 Visa students is 12 hours for undergraduates and 9 hours for graduate students.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Here is a summary of the weekly lessons, dates when they will be posted, and associated assignments.

Date Posted	Lesson	Assignment
Week 1	Introduction	Quiz
Week 2	Social Structures	Quiz
Week 3	Gender as a Social Structure	Quiz & Paper
Week 4	Bodies and Physical Selves	Quiz
Week 5	Embodiment	Quiz
Weekl 6	Socialization	Quiz & Paper
Week 7	Performativity and Masculinity	Quiz
Week 8	Performing Gender and Femininity	Quiz
Week 9	Stereotypes	Quiz & Paper
Week 10	Institutions and Organizations	Quiz
Week 11	Public Policy	Quiz
Week 12	Macro-Level Cultural Ideologies	Quiz & Paper
Week 13	Applying Gender Theory	Quiz
Week 14	Applying Gender Theory	Quiz
Week 15	Conclusions	Final Paper