

University of British Columbia
Vancouver Campus
Fall 2014

SOCI 312 002 “Gender Relations”

Tues/Thurs 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Course Outline

Instructor: Manuela Valle

Classroom: TBA

Office hours: Tuesdays 3:00 - 4:00 pm, AnSo 3108

Email: manola.valle@gmail.com (weekdays)

Teaching Assistant: Dana Lowi-Merri

Office hours: By appointment. AnSo 3108

Email: dana.lowimerri@gmail.com (weekends)

1. Description

This course is designed to introduce upper level undergraduate students to some of the main contemporary sociological discussions on gender relations, particularly focusing on the problem of gender socialization, heteronormativity, and the intersectionality of oppression. We will also consider how the “ideology” of gender difference is used to explain the sexual division of labor, and gender inequality.

The course strives to enable students to use critical thinking, thus, to be able analyze concrete social problems by putting them into their specific historical context, and to creatively bring into it a variety of theoretical perspectives to offer possible interpretations. Moreover, the course encourages students to become self-reflective and to constantly identify their positionality in complex structures of power and privilege, especially in regards to the production of knowledge. Students are also encouraged to make meaningful connections between the course content and their own interests, cultural backgrounds, and experiences, and to bring into the classroom their own concerns to be analyzed and discussed.

2. Course goals:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain, apply, and exemplify from a sociological perspective the problem of gender socialization.
- Analyze their own position in complex structures of power.

3. Grading breakdown:

a) Participation in class 10%

Participation in this course is understood as coming to class prepared, listening, and intervening actively in class discussions. A minimum of 70% attendance is required to pass the class.

b) Film responses 15%

Most Thursdays we will watch a film or documentary that will complement our readings and weekly topics. Throughout the term you should submit a total of 3 critical responses in which you reflect about the weekly film by applying the concepts discussed in the unit.

c) Pop Quizzes 15%

There will be 4 surprise short quizzes with multiple choice, fill in the blanks, and true or false questions during the semester. Your final grade will be the average of the highest 3 grades. Questions will be about weekly readings, lecture notes, and the audiovisual material examined in class.

d) Research Paper 30%

Due: Thursday Nov 13

Towards the end of the course the students will write a double-spaced 10-15 pages reflection essay around one question from a list provided by your instructor on week 7. Develop your essay in relation to the written and audiovisual materials of the course, and using examples covered in class. You will be assessed in your ability to explain and apply a specific number of concepts developed in class. This is an exercise of integrating the key concepts, course discussions, and contents through your own voice. Alternatively, if you feel more comfortable you can respond to this question by developing a creative project in the form of a video, performance, small play, photographic project, etc. Please make sure to check in with me if you are choosing this option. Creative final projects will be displayed in a multimedia exhibit at the end of the term. More detailed guidelines will be provided in week 8.

e) Final Exam 30%

Fill-in the blanks and multiple choice, 30 questions. Study guide provided on week 14.

4. Expectations in the classroom

In this course, laptop use and texting is not permitted during class (if you need special accommodations for note-taking, let me know). Participation in class discussions should be respectful, avoiding discriminatory and offensive language, and being aware of your use of class time. Students are asked to contribute to a friendly, lively and encouraging class climate. As a courtesy to others and me, punctuality will be enforced. If you are more than 5 minutes late, you are asked not to interrupt the class and wait until the next break. Students are also encouraged to bring to the class further material as it relates to the course, for collective discussion. In every class there will be an activity for which you will get credit for an overall mark for participation.

Policies for Written Assignments

Before submitting your written assignments, please make sure they

- are written in 12 point, Times New Roman Font,
- have a title page that includes the title of your paper; your name and student ID; the date you are submitting the paper; the course number; and the name of the instructor (see APA style guide)
- include a header that lists your name as well as the course number and term (ex. Corky St. Clair Soci 100C 001 Winter 2013)
- have page numbers marked at the bottom right pages of your paper.

Late assignments will be deducted 5% for each working day it is submitted after the deadline.

Exceptions will be made for unforeseen medical or family crises with the confirmation through Arts Advising. If you experience a medical, emotional or personal problems that detracts from your academic performance, please contact the Faculty of Arts Academic Advising Office, located in Buchanan A201, phone 604-822-4028. **I only make exceptions for missed deadlines with a letter from the Arts Advising Office.**

Cheating and plagiarism are strictly forbidden by the University. According to the UBC Calendar, Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to

the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, and endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.

If you have any questions about what plagiarism entails please ask your instructor or TA or consult the UBC Calendar.

7. Required Reading

Kimmel, Michael S. and Jacqueline Holler. The Gendered Society (Canadian Edition). Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Digital Reader: "Beauty Myths and Charm Schools: Constructing Femininity" purchase here:

<http://bit.ly/constructingfemininity>

Course schedule

Fall 2014 (12 weeks)

Unit 1: Introduction to the course: what is gender?

Thursday Sept. 4th

Overview of course and class contract.

Introduction to Gender.

Unit 2: Social Construction of Gender Relations: Sociological and Feminist Perspectives

Tuesday Sep 9

☞ READ: Kimmel and Holler's Ch. 1 "Introduction"

✓ Topic Questions for Final Research Paper.

Thursday Sept 11

In class reading and discussion: Oudshoorn, Nelly. "Introduction to *Beyond the Natural Body*."

Tuesday Sept 16

☞ READ: Kimmel and Holler's Ch. 5 "The Social Construction of Gender Relations"

Thursday Sept 18

In class reading and discussion: Gould, Lois. "X: A Fabulous Child's Story."

Unit 3: Gender Difference and Gender Inequality

Tuesday Sep 23

POP QUIZ #1

☞ READ: Kimmel and Holler's Ch. 8 "Separate and Unequal"

Thursday Sept 25

☆ Film "Status Quo? The unfinished business of feminism in Canada" (Canada, 2012) Directed by Karen

Cho. 78 min.

Tuesday Sept 30

Class activity: group analysis of newspaper clips.

Thursday Oct 2

In class viewing and discussion of documentary “Toilet Training” Directed by Tara Mateik (US, 2003) produced by the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. 30 mins.

Unit 4: Gender Representations in Popular Culture

Tuesday Oct 7.

POP QUIZ #2

☞ READ: Kimmel and Holler’s Ch. 9 “The Gendered Media”

Thursday Oct 9

☆ Film “The Codes of Gender.” (USA, 2009) Directed by Sut Jhally. 73 mins.

Tuesday Oct 14

☞ READ: Kimmel and Holler’s Ch. 12 “The Gender of Violence”

Thursday Oct 16

☆ Film “Tough guise: violence, media, and the crisis in masculinity.” Directed by Sut Jhally. USA, 2002. 84 mins.

Unit 5: Heteronormativity and Transphobia: Queer Theories

Tuesday Oct 21

☞ READ: Kimmel and Holler’s Ch. 2 “Ordained by Nature”

Thursday Oct 23

☆ Film “The Brandon Teena Story” (USA, 1998) Directed by Susan Muska, Gréta Olafsdóttir. 89 mins.

Tuesday Oct 28

POP QUIZ #3

☞ READ: Kimmel and Holler's Ch. 11 "The Gendered Body"

Thursday Oct 30

☆ Film "She's a Boy I Knew" (Canada, 2007). Directed by Gwen Haworth.

Unit 6: Gender Relations at a Global Scale

Tuesday Nov 4

Lecture: Gender, neoliberalism and globalization

Thursday Nov 6

☆ Film "Maquilapolis [videorecording] = City of factories." (USA, 2006). CineMamás Film. 68 mins.

Tuesday Nov 11

POP QUIZ #4

Lecture: Immigrant, racialized and "other" women.

Thursday Nov 13

📎 **Research Paper Due**

☆ Film "Under One Sky: Arab Women in North America Talk About the Hijab." (Canada, 1999) Directed by Jennifer Kawaja. 40 mins.

Unit 7: Deconstructing Gender Stereotypes

Tuesday Nov 18

☞ READ: Digital Reader's "Sisterhood is powerful," "Hell is older people," "Forever your girl."

Thursday Nov 20

☆ Film "Killing Us Softly"

Tuesday Nov 25

☞ READ: Digital Reader's "In richness and in wealth," "No disrespect," "Laugh trap."

Thursday Nov 27

★ Final Exam review