

SOC/WMST 223-03
Women and Men in Contemporary Society
12:35-1:50PM Fall 2008
Lindegren 133

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I Course Description

The intent of this course is to approach the constructed and highly contested concept of gender in contemporary US society, as well as its inseparability from race, class, sexuality, ability and age. Please note that this is both a sociology AND a women's studies course. This course will require use of critical-thinking, writing skills, and an ability to work and communicate within a diverse group. There is no prerequisite for this class, but you should come willing and prepared to learn.

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

(a) demonstrate an understanding of such concepts as gender, discrimination, feminism, and patriarchy; (b) display basic knowledge of gender's significance in U.S. history, culture, and social structure; (c) demonstrate critical thinking about the dialogue emerging from different theories and perspectives pertaining to gender, race, class, and sexuality; and (d) apply concepts from personal and/or family experience to analyze gender as a form of mutuality that must be understood to enhance the common good.

II Required Texts and Readings:

Women, Men and Society, 5th ed. Claire M. Renzetti and Daniel J. Curran, Allyn and Bacon (2002)

Weekly course readings and other information will be available on BLACKBOARD. You must have an SIU email account to access Blackboard.
<https://mycourses.siu.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>

III Course Exams

There will be two exams in this course, each worth 100 points. There will be no make-up exams without consent of the instructor. You must have paperwork to prove your absence is a valid one (university approved excuse) and the exam must be made-up

within one week. If you cannot take an exam, and are aware of this before the exam, you will be required to take the exam before the scheduled exam date.

VI Quizzes

Unannounced quizzes may be given throughout the semester, particularly if the class does not appear to have done the readings or does not adequately participate in discussion. Quiz material will include information from the text, articles, videos, and guest lecturers.

VII Assignments

A Personal Herstory/History will be due in the earlier part of the semester. Further instructions will be given. This assignment is worth 50 pts. Students will be responsible for three other assignments throughout the course of the semester worth 50 points. Late assignments will not be accepted without a university excuse.

VIII Journals

Short journals will be submitted online via Blackboard every Thursday by 5PM. Students are responsible for summarizing each week’s readings in 500-750 words, particularly focusing upon individual thoughts, critiques and questions of class readings. The first journal will be due Thursday August 28th. Journals will be due every Thursday thereafter. The final journal will be submitted December 4th. No journals are due over Fall break. **To receive credit for short journals you MUST download each reading from Blackboard by Thursday at 5pm of the week it is assigned.** Every three journals missed will result in the lowering of the final grade by one letter. Late journals will not be accepted without a university approved excuse.

IX Grades*

Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Personal Herstory	50
Essay	50
In-Class Assignment	15
Guest Speaker Question	5
Group Assignment	30

Total	350

<u>GRADING SCALE</u>	
A	350-315
B	314-280
C	279-245
D	244-210
F	< 209

****Course assignments, quizzes, exams and grades may change at the discretion of the instructor. Some extra credit may be made available throughout the semester.***

X Ground Rules for this course*

1. Acknowledge that racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia exist.
2. Acknowledge that one of the meanings of racism/sexism is that we have been systematically taught misinformation about our own group and especially members of other groups.
3. We cannot be blamed for the misinformation we have learned, but we will be held responsible for repeating misinformation after we have learned otherwise.
4. Victims are not to be blamed for their oppression.
5. We will assume that people are always doing the best they can.
6. We will actively pursue information about our own group and those of others.
7. We will share information about our own group with other members of the class and we will NEVER demean, devalue, or in any way “put down” people for their experiences.
8. We each have an obligation to actively combat the myths and stereotypes about our own group and other groups so that we can break down the walls which prohibit group cooperation and group gain.
9. We want to create a safe atmosphere for open discussion. Thus, at times, members of the class may wish to make a comment that they do not want repeated outside of the classroom. If so, the student will preface her or his remarks with a request and the class will agree not to repeat the remarks.

* Adopted from Lynn Weber, Center for Research on Women, University of Memphis/Women’s Studies, University of South Carolina.

Please arrive to class on time. Turn off cell phones/pagers/etc, remain awake and alert, and refrain from reading the DE during class time. Also, make an effort to be sober during my class.

XI ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES, AND LATE WORK

I don’t take attendance. Please don’t come to class without doing the required readings for the day. Surprisingly, students that attend my class AND complete their readings achieve higher grades than those who do not (go figure). Only university approved excuses will be accepted for late work or for the rescheduling of an exam.

XII Academic Honesty

Bear in mind that plagiarism, inadvertent or intentional, will never be tolerated in this class. By submitting assignments in my course, you agree that you have a clear understanding of the university policy on academic honesty. Those caught passing off the work of others as their own, or failing to properly cite or quote a source will be given a zero on the assignment and/or a failing grade in the course.

XIII Help with skills

This class involves a good deal of writing. If you need help with your writing skills, please make an appointment with the SIUC Writing Center (**2281 Faner Hall**). If you need help at all in the classroom, please take advantage of my office hours. I like to see students. It makes me feel like I’m doing my job!

XIV Classmate Contact Information

I strongly encourage you to learn the names and contact information of at least two people in this class, in case you are absent or need to compare notes with someone.

XV SCHEDULE

(Assignments, readings and due dates are subject to change throughout the semester)

Readings not from the course textbook will be available on Blackboard. You **MUST** download ALL required readings to be eligible for full credit in this course. If you have trouble accessing Blackboard, contact me or the information desk at library. **There are NO EXCUSES for failure to access readings.** SIU has a number of computer labs readily accessible to students, as well as helpful staff at the Northwest Annex and Morris Library, who will answer any Blackboard questions.

Please complete the readings before the class date they are assigned.

Week 1

AUG 19 Syllabus Distribution
AUG 21 Introduction to Gender

Week 2

AUG 26 CH 1
AUG 28 CH 1
**Personal Herstory Due
(50 pts)**

Week 3

SEPT 2 CH 2
SEPT 4 CH 2

Week 4

SEPT 9 FAUSTO-STERLING;
SAPOLSKY
SEPT 11 MIDDLESEXES (FILM)

Week 5

SEPT 16 CH 3
SEPT 18 CH 3

Week 6

SEPT 23 NANDA; MERNISSI
SEPT 25 CH 4

Week 7

SEPT 30 CH 4

OCT 2 LUCAL

**Group Assignment Due
(30 pts)****Week 8**

OCT 7 CH 5

OCT 9 CH 5

Week 9

OCT 14 REVIEW

OCT 16 **EXAM****Week 10**

OCT 21 FILM (TBD)

OCT 23 CH 6 (AND FINISH FILM)

Week 11

OCT 28 CH 6

OCT 30 **In Class Assignment
(15 pts)****Week 12**

NOV 4 SPEAKERS PANEL

Typed Question Due (5 PTS)

NOV 6 WILCHINS

Week 13

NOV 11 CH 7

NOV 13 CH 7

Week 14

NOV 18 Baumgardner & Richards

NOV 20 CH 8

Week 15

FALL BREAK

Week 16

DEC 2 CH 8 (CONT'D)

Essay Due (50 pts)

DEC 4 REVIEW

Final Exam**Wed, Dec 10, 12:50 - 02:50 PM****133 Lindegren Hall**

Emergency Procedures. Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and health environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down), and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.