

Las Positas College  
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## Course Outline for SOC 11

### SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER

Effective: Fall 2005

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

SOC 11 — SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER — 3.00 units

This course examines the social construction of masculinity and femininity historically and cross-culturally. It analyzes the impact of economic and political change on gender expectations and performance. This class focus includes both macro-analysis of how institutions shape gender and microanalyses of how individuals “do” or practice gender. Topics include: work, violence, sexual roles, early childhood socialization, and the impact of media images.

3.00 Units Lecture

#### Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

#### Discipline:

	<b>MIN</b>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

#### II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

#### III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

1. apply theories of gender construction to their own experience;
2. describe the role of economics in gender construction;
3. explain the social construction of both gender and sex categories;
4. state how gender roles have changed over time in the United States;
5. identify the main agents of gender socialization and their impact on children's and adults' gender construction;
6. outline the process by which people negotiate gender boundaries through their relationships with others (including violent relationships).

#### V. CONTENT:

- A. The social construction of sex and gender
  1. Theories of sociobiology
  2. Criticisms of sociobiology
  3. Physical definitions of sex: chromosomal, gonadal and morphological
  4. Hermaphroditism and social responses
  5. The impact of transsexualism on sex definitions
  6. Eight Western assumptions about gender (Kessler and McKenna)
  7. The Berdache Gender System
  8. Outline of gender systems (Lorber)
  9. Outline of individual gender construction (Lorber)
- B. The impact of economics
  1. Impact of industrialization/modernization of gender
  2. Home economies v. wage economies
  3. Impact of slavery on gender definitions
  4. The current tie between economic power and masculinity
  5. The impact of globalization on gender
  6. The social impact of transforming gender roles in the periphery
  7. The impact of political interventions on gender
- C. Gender as practice
  1. “Doing gender” (West and Zimmermann) and ethnomethodology
  2. Doing gender at work – gender segregation, glass ceilings, glass escalators (Roos, Reskin, Kanter, Williams)
  3. Doing gender at home – housework, the second shift (Hochschild)
  4. Gender as negotiation (Gerson) – e.g., prisons, sexual harassment, “doing heterosexuality.”
  5. Gender as a power relationship – “male privilege” (McIntosh, Schadt)
  6. Consequences of defying gender norms
- D. Impact of racial hierarchies and other forms of prejudice on gender definitions
  1. Origins of gendered stereotypes based on race, religion and ethnicity
  2. Concept of “white privilege” (McIntosh)

3. Myths of the Black Rapist, the promiscuous Black Woman (Manning, Davis)
  4. Real world consequences of stereotypes, e.g., the controversy over the Clarence Thomas/Anita Hill case
  5. The impact of stereotypes on historical interpretations, example of Pocahontas
  6. Does race or ethnicity impact how we "do gender"? No. (Baca Zinn)
  7. Doing gender with physical disabilities – the example of multiple masculinities (Gerschick and Miller)
- E. Gender and sexuality in America
1. The Colonial period
  2. Early industrialization
  3. The impact of race and sexuality in the 17th and 18th centuries
  4. Sexual systems of the nineteenth centuries
  5. The emergence of Utopian societies
  6. The impact of prostitution and pornography
  7. Middle class women's opposition to prostitution
  8. The purity movement
  9. Consequences of the purity movement
  10. Social hygiene movements
  11. Lynching
  12. Eugenics campaigns
  13. Birth control movements
  14. The weakening of Comstock Laws in the 20th century
  15. Gay and lesbian rights movements
  16. The unconstitutionality of anti-miscegenation laws
  17. The impact of reproductive technology
- F. Violence and gender
1. Rape – summary of research and theories including rape as official state policy
  2. Masculinity and control
  3. The varying degrees of violence – from femicide to every day violent acts women do to themselves
- G. Learning gender
1. Early socialization from family
  2. Learning gendered language
  3. Learning gendered values (examples – beauty in women, athleticism in men)
  4. Learning gendered norms (examples – division of labor, conflict resolution)
  5. Role of the media in learning gender – advertising, images of masculinity and femininity
  6. Role of school in learning gender – math/language divide, sports, opportunities for mentorships

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. Video/web page visitation
- C. **Discussion** -

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading assignments 1. Read pages 300-365 in *Feminist Frontiers*. B. Write a 10-page theory term paper. 1. Describe how the gender theory you are reading/learning in class applies to your own life.

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
  1. Exams/Tests
  2. Projects
- B. **Frequency**
  1. Frequency of Evaluation:
    - a. Midterm exam
    - b. Final Exam
    - c. Term project assignment

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Kimmel, Michael S. and Michael A. Messner. *Men's Lives*. 6th ed., Allyn and Bacon, 2003.
2. Richardson, Laurel, Verta Taylor, and Nancy Whittier. *Feminist Frontiers*, McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2003.
3. Satow, Roberta. *Gender and Social Life*. , Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: