Sociology of Gender [A250-001]
Department of Sociology
Loyola University New Orleans
College of Social Sciences
Fall 2010

Instructor: Jaita Talukdar, PhD
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Email: jtalukda@loyno.edu [Last Name, MW/ TTH]
Class Time: MW 330-445 pm Office hours: MW 1-3 pm or by appointment

Disability Statement: If you have a disability that qualifies you for accommodations, please contact Sarah Mead Smith, Director of Disability Services at 865-2990. If you wish to receive test accommodations like extended time you must provide me with an official accommodation form from the Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. Disability Services is located in Monroe 405.

Policy on Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, and another person's words. Normally, all work done for courses -- papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to me. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. **Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism.**

Evacuation Statement: In case of an “emergency” the course will move to BB and students are expected to check for instructions within 72 hours of classes being suspended.

Course Description:
Consider some of these examples. Men cannot cry. After getting divorced, single mothers face financial duress, often slipping into poverty. Sociologists will tell you that men do not cry and single mothers become financially unstable because of their “gender”. Gender has a strong effect on our lives, but in order to understand that we need to think of gender as more than a set of meanings that is given to human behavior. Gender works as a comprehensive system: it is a process where we “do” gender appropriate behavior; it is a structure or a social arrangement and finally it is a hierarchical system that bestows privilege differently. In this class we will look into theories and empirical studies that demonstrate how gender impacts our lives, how it interacts with race, class, ethnicity and nationality, how it is enmeshed in social institutions and finally how it has come to be a system of inequality.

Course Objectives:
To learn basic sociological concepts and theories of gender
To learn the connection between theory and experience
To learn the meaning of privilege and oppression in our lives and lives of others
To learn critical thinking, i.e. to evaluate, judge and examine something in a detailed and analytical way

Course Text(s):
**ZSM:** Zinn, Maxine Baca; Piererette Hondangneu-Sotelo and Michael Messner (2005) *Gender through the Prism of Difference*, 3rd Edition Oxford University Press

**BB:** Additional material [articles and summary reports] will be posted on BB. Please check BB regularly for announcements and new materials [mostly articles that I will be posting on BB]
Course Requirements:

Exams [40%]: Tests will be 50 minutes (one class period) in length. The format of the exams will consist of some combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. The exams will not be cumulative; thus, they will cover only the immediately preceding material.

Papers [20%]: There will be two writing assignments in this course. The first paper will be a 2-3 page ESSAY QUESTION and the second paper will be an INDIVIDUAL REPORT of a gender project that you will be doing for the class. The number of pages will be announced later. Papers must be submitted BOTH through safe assign (BB) AND as a paper copy in class on the due date indicated in the syllabus. Failure to submit by the deadline will constitute as late submission and penalized. Please make a note that I do not accept electronic emailed version of the assignments. You may email me the paper only to stop the clock and give me a paper copy ASAP. Failure to give me a paper copy will be treated as failure on part of the student to submit on time.

Gender Project [20%]: This is a group project for which you will receive two grades; a GROUP GRADE for presentation and an INDIVIDUAL GRADE for a report that you will write based on the project. In this project, you will be wearing a hat of a researcher. As a group you will decide on a topic (from those covered in class) of investigation. As a group you will decide on a larger question or a hypothesis and design a survey (open-ended, semi structured questions). Individually you will do the survey with an unknown subject on the pre-determined questions. The identity of the person will remain unknown to everyone (including me). After doing the interviews, you will combine the findings and come to a conclusion for the question that you had posed at the beginning. This will give you hands- on experience of doing research, but more importantly illuminate some of the ways that gender subtlety impacts our lives. You will be presenting your entire project as a group (on pre-assigned days) and will be writing an individual report of your project.

Class Participation [10%]: I strongly encourage class participation. If you are present in class and do not participate, you will lose sixty percent of the points. In other words, you can expect a 4/10 if you have not contributed to any class discussion. I would thus ask you to contribute in whatever way you feel comfortable; it could be a question, a suggestion, a criticism, or an idea, or something you have read/seen outside the class.

Attendance [10%]: I take attendance every day. You have only three unexcused absences.

Grade Distribution:

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<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-94</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>82-80</td>
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<td>69-60</td>
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<td>Less than 60</td>
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Reading Schedule:

September

1st  [The two-by-two model] ZSM: Read I (1)
6th  Labor Day Holiday
8th  [The social construction of gender] BB: Read Lorber, “The Social Construction of Gender” and ZSM: Read II (12)
13th My Life in Pink
15th My Life in Pink (contd.) and Discussions
20th [Patriarchy as a structure of privileges] ZSM: Read V (32) and Read VI (39)
22nd

Fit Wolf’s “Beauty Myth”

27th

[Gender, sexuality and identity] ZSM: Read III (17) and III (23)

29th

ZSM: Read III (22)

29th September: Essay I Due

October

4th

[Black feminist thought] BB: Read Collins, “The Outsider Within” and ZSM: IV (24)

6th

BB: Read Beauboeuf-LaFontant, “Keeping Up Appearances”

11th

[Theories of intersectionality] ZSM: IV (26) and IV (27)

13th

[The social construction of masculinity] ZSM: Read I (4) and BB: Sargent”, “Real Teacher and Real Men” and Review of Exam I

18th

Fall Break

20th

Exam I

20th October: Exam I

25th

[Gender and motherhood] ZSM: Read V (29) and (31)

27th

[Work and family] BB: Read Hochchild “Giving it at the Office” and “The Second Shift”

November

1st


3rd

[Popular culture and gender] ZSM: Read VIII (47)

8th

[Minority women and bodies] BB: Read Collins, “Mammies, Matriarchs and Other Controlling Images” and “Hesse-Biber, “Racial Identity and Development of Body Image”

10th

[Popular Culture and gender] ZSM: Read VIII (45) and BB: Read Palmer-Mehta, “Mediocre Masculinities”

15th

Review of Exam II

17th

Exam II

17th November: Exam II

22nd

Student Project Work Day

24th

Thanksgiving Holiday

29th

Student Project Work Day

December

1st

Student Project Presentations

6th

Student Project Presentations

8th

Student Project Presentations

15th December: Final Paper Due @ 2pm
Also, please make a note of the following:

- Cell phones, pagers and beepers MUST BE TURNED OFF during class and PLEASE DO NOT TEXT IN CLASS.

- LAPTOPS ARE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE THE CLASSROOM.

- Please be considerate of the fact that in this class we will be discussing subject matter or watching films/DVDs that some may be consider controversial. For both fictional and non-fictional accounts covered in the films I expect that you show respect and sensitivity towards the matter. Our task is to explore the subject matter in depth and consider their multiple perspectives and arguments

- Please note that PAPERS HANDED IN LATE will automatically have POINTS DEDUCTED unless accompanied by a DOCUMENTED excuse. YOU HAVE A WEEK TO TURN IN PAPER though you WILL GET only 80% OF POINTS possible. After a week you get a F grade.

  IF you miss a test or an exam without a valid excuse (illness, family emergency), you will receive a ZERO.

  IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM ME OF YOUR ABSENCE BEFORE THE SCHEDULED TEST OR AT AN EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.

- Academic cheating is, generally, the thwarting or breaking of the general rules of academic work or the specific rules of the individual courses. It includes falsifying data; submitting, without the instructor's approval, work in one course which was done for another; helping others to plagiarize or cheat from one's own or another's work; or actually doing the work of another person. I reserve the right to refer any cases of suspected plagiarism or cheating to the Disciplinary Committee; I also reserve the right to assign a grade of "F" for the given paper, quiz or test.

- PLEASE SAVE ALL YOUR WORK TILL THE END OF SEMESTER IN CASE OF A MISSING PAPER OR QUIZ.