Department of Sociology
Sociology 301-A1: The Sociology of Gender (Fall 2016)
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30AM – 10:50AM
Location: Telus 150

Instructor: Randi Nixon
Email: rlnixon@ualberta.ca
Office: Tory 4-28
Office Hours: By appointment

Prerequisite: SOC 100 or consent of instructor.

Course Description and Objectives:

The sociology of gender takes ‘gender’ as its primary object of analysis in examining the complexities of power in any given society. This course examines gender as an organizing force in the shaping of individuals and structuring of societies from a variety of theoretical critical perspectives (phenomenological, poststructural, Marxist, feminist, queer, antiracist).

In this class there will be an emphasis on exploring gender as it intersects with other categories of difference (e.g. race, class, ability, sexual orientation), and how these intersections complicate dominant understandings of gendered embodiment, politics, and personhood.

This class will examine questions such as: what role does gender play in either maintaining or challenging the status quo; to what extent is gender wrapped up in (historically specific) understandings about what is ‘natural’ and ‘normal’; how are our ideas of gender materialized through our bodily practices and processes; what are the implications of these practices and processes on our personal, intellectual, and political horizons? In other words, we will examine a plethora of questions about the relationship between gender and power.

The aim of this course is to give students the critical tools to examine the complexity of gendered social relations of power. Students should complete the course with a firm grasp on both the limits and possibilities of analyzing ‘gender’ as it intersects and interlocks with multiple facets of subjectivity.

Required Materials

(available at the University Bookstore)

All other required readings are available either through eClass, the University of Alberta Library System, or online.
Evaluation
Midterm = 25%
Group Zine Project = 20%
Summary papers = 20% (2 x 10%)
Final Exam = 35%

Access to Instructor
Email will be answered during normal business hours of the University. While an effort will be made to respond in a timely manner, please allow 1-2 days for a reply. I will be available by appointment, which can be set up either via email or in person before or after class.

Classroom Environment
A healthy and productive classroom environment depends on everyone participating in creating a space where we can speak and hear one another without fear of hostility or judgment. The issues we will be discussing in this class are of a personal matter (i.e. we all have and do gender in our own way) and as a result may ignite lively and heated discussion. I expect everyone, including myself, to do their best to ensure that, in spite of personal opinions and clashes, we will stay focused on the content of the material as it relates to the social world in a sensitive and humble manner. There will be zero tolerance for discriminatory or abusive language of any sort.

Summary Papers (20%) – Due October 4th & November 15th
Students are to submit 1 page, single-spaced summaries of the readings at the beginning of class on the designated dates (see above). Each summary paper must include: summaries of all readings assigned on the due date; an outline of each author’s main argument, questions and concepts; be clear and concise; and, conclude the paper with two or three questions the student would like to explore further. Summaries will be graded on their concision and the extent to which they demonstrate an engaged and critical reading of course material.

Midterm Exam (25%) – October 18th
The content and format of the midterm exam will be discussed with the class prior to the exam date. Examples of past or representative exam material will be made available on Eclass.

Zine Project (20%) – Due in class December 6th
Each group will produce a 10-12 page ‘zine’ (handmade informational booklet) on a topic of their choosing relevant to the course. Additional instructional and assessment details will be discussed in class or posted on eClass. Groups will be assigned the second week of class.

Final Exam (35%)
At the end of term there will be a cumulative final exam. Examples of past or representative exam material will be made available on Eclass.
READING SCHEDULE

**Introductory Concepts**

**Thursday, September 1st**
- Introduction & Key Concepts

**Tuesday, September 6th**
- Peggy McIntosh. “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Backpack”
- Marilyn Frye. “Oppression”

**Thursday, September 8th**

**Biology as Ideology**

**Tuesday, September 13th**

**Thursday, September 15th**

**Hegemonic & Non-Hegemonic Masculinities**

**Tuesday, September 20th**

**Thursday, September 22nd**
• Film Screening: I Love You Man

**Tuesday, September 27th**

**Thursday, September 29th**

• Halberstam, Judith. “An Introduction to Female Masculinity: Masculinity without Men” Available on Eclass.

**Intersections of Femininities**

**Tuesday, October 4th**
Reading Summaries Due (Davis & Hill Collins)

• Angela Davis “The Approaching Obsolescence of Housework: A Working-Class Perspective.”
  https://www.marxists.org/subject/women/authors/davis-angela/housework.htm

• Patricia Hill Collins. “Toward a New Vision: Race, Class, and Gender as Categories of Analysis and Connection” Race, Sex and Class Fall 1993 (25-45).
  http://www.jstor.org.login.ezproxy.library.ualberta.ca/stable/41680038

**Thursday, October 6th**

**Tuesday, October 11th**

• Bordo, Susan. “Hunger as Ideology”. Available on eClass.

**Thursday, October 13th**
Midterm Review

Tuesday, October 18th

Midterm Exam

Thursday, October 20th
• Presentation by the University of Alberta Sexual Assault Centre

Non-Binary & Trans Identities

Tuesday, October 25th
• Gender Failure discussion

Thursday, October 27th
• Gender Failure discussion

Tuesday, November 1st

Thursday, November 3rd
• Film Screening TBA

Tuesday, November 8th - FALL BREAK – NO CLASSES

Thursday, November 10th – FALL BREAK – NO CLASSES

From Gender to Sexuality

Tuesday, November 15th

Reading Summaries Due (Butler & Foucault)


Thursday, November 17th

**Rape Culture and Sexual Violence**

Tuesday, November 22nd
- Film Screening: *The Hunting Ground*

Thursday, November 24th

- Review of the University of Alberta’s Response to Sexual Assault. Available on Eclass.


**Race and Colonial Violence**

Tuesday, November 29th


Thursday, December 1st
- Film Screening: *Finding Dawn*

**Gendered Affect & Emotion**

Tuesday, December 6th

*Zines Due*


Formatting, Style and Content Requirements for Summary Papers
• Place your name, date, course title, and pagination at the top right-hand corner of every page.
• Do not include a separate title page.
• Use font Times New Roman, size 12.
• Single-space your work.
• Use 1-inch margins all around.
• Feel free to write in the first person.
• Do not use contractions or colloquial language.
• Aim for concision and clarity in your writing.
• Avoid using long quotations. Instead, summarize the author’s point in your own words.
• A high quality of writing is expected. This includes grammar, sentence structure, paragraph organization, clarity and concision.
• Proof-read your work carefully. Editing your work several times is good writing practice and is the best way to improve your writing skills. Excessive spelling and grammatical errors will lower your grade.
• Your paper must demonstrate and honest and serious engagement with course readings, concepts and discussions.
• Define all concepts you refer to. Using examples to further demonstrate your understanding of the concept will be rewarded.
• You are welcome to make informed critical comments but note that this is different from opinion. Do justice to the author and make the best case you can for them before criticizing them.

Evaluation Criteria
The summary papers will be evaluated on the basis of several criteria appropriate to student at the third year level. The first concerns whether the required (technical and practical) components of the paper have been addressed in a satisfactory way. Second, you will be assessed on the quality and accuracy of your interpretations of required course readings. Third, you are assessed on the quality of writing. The fourth criterion concerns the degree of insight, creativity and critical engagement with the material to advance an understanding beyond what can be taken from a solid understanding of course material. To achieve an “A-“ or above, your summaries must be very good to excellent on all measures.

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:
Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or personal issues, it is your responsibility to find out what material and discussion you missed. Regarding
absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar.

**Policy for Late Assignments:**
Late assignments will not be accepted unless you make arrangements with me prior to the deadline. In the case of illness or personal matters, you may make arrangements with me, but you must come to me as much in advance as possible. If you have made arrangements with me, you will be deducted 1/3 of a grade letter per day for up to 5 days.

**Policy on MISSED exams:**
Neither absence from class nor travel plans will be accepted as legitimate reasons for failure to attend an exam. An unexcused absence will result in a grade of zero for that exam. Should a student miss a mid-term, they must contact the Instructor via e-mail within two working days of the originally scheduled exam, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence. Please note that depending upon the circumstances, appropriate documentation may be required (e.g., “Medical Declaration Form for Students,” “Statutory Declaration,” police report, death notice, court documents). Students with an excused absence must write the missed exam rather than shift the weight of that exam to other course requirements.

**Moodle/Eclass:**
Course materials will be made available on University of Alberta Eclass (powered by Moodle). It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with this website.

**Required Notes:**
Policy about course outlines can be found in §23.4(2) of the University Calendar.

**Learning and working environment:**
The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violate to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice: (http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy Procedures can be found in the GFC Policy Manual, section 44 available at http://gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca/

**Plagiarism and Cheating:**
All students should consult the “Truth-In-Education” handbook or Website (http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/) regarding the definitions of plagiarism and its consequences when detected. An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. Before unpleasantness occurs consult http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIW/; also discuss this matter with any tutor(s) and with your instructor.

Academic Integrity:
“I didn’t know” is not an excuse! It is your job to learn what plagiarism is. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. All students should consult the “Truth-In-Education” Handbook or Website (http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/).

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. You can also find information here: http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/pdfs/AI%20Undergrad%20Guide.pdf

Recording of Lectures:
Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.

Student Accessibility Services:
If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Accessibility Services, contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; phone 780-492-3381; WEB http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca/).

Grading Scheme

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>88-93</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>4.0</td>
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