

SOCI 270: Sociology of Gender

Winter 2018

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 1:35 – 2:25 PM

Monday, Jan. 8th – Monday, April 16th, 2018

Location: RPHYS 112

Instructor: Sarah Berry (sarah.berry@mcgill.ca)

Instructor Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm (Email to make appointment)

Teaching Assistant: TBD (email address TBD)

Teaching Assistant Office Hours: TBD

Course Description:

This is an introductory course to the sociology of gender. Throughout the semester, we will explore a wide range of theories and experiences of gender, from scholarly and activist perspectives to popular representations of gender. We will examine how experiences of gender, sex, and sexuality intersect, and we will explore the patterning of socioeconomic and health outcomes and experiences of discrimination by gender identity. Theories of gender will also be applied to topics such as beauty, education, sport, work, and religion.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Exams:** There will be two exams: a midterm and a final exam. The midterm exam will take place during the regular lecture period (in-class) on **Monday, February 26th** and will be worth 30% of the final course grade. The final exam will be scheduled during the final exam period (TBD) and will be worth 30% of the final course grade. Please note that the final exam will NOT be cumulative; it will cover material introduced *after* the midterm exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions covering information from course readings, lectures, films, and guest lectures. **Students will be expected to attend the exams on the scheduled dates and times.**
- 2) Paper Proposal & Final Paper:** Each student is required to write one **8-page paper** on a topic covered in class or introduced in the course readings. You will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the course materials, and to use one or more of the theoretical approaches discussed in the introductory lectures to explore your topic. Guidelines for the paper will be posted on WebCT and discussed in conference sections. A paper proposal worth 10% of your grade is due *no later than* **Monday, March 19th, via myCourses, by 11:59 pm**. It is strongly suggested that you hand in your proposal prior to this date, since the proposals will be graded as they are received, and you will receive feedback on the proposed content and structure of your final paper. More details about the paper proposed will be discussed during the semester, and detailed guidelines will be posted on myCourses. The final paper is due no later than **Monday, April 9th at 11:59 pm**. The final paper is worth 30%. (10% Proposal + 30% paper = 40% of final course grade). **No late papers will be accepted.**
- 3) Participation and Attendance:** Regular attendance at lectures and participation during class discussions is strongly encouraged. Lectures will not be recorded. **If you miss a class, you should contact a classmate to obtain lecture notes *before* meeting with the instructor or TA to ask questions about missed content.**

- 4) **Conferences:** There will be no formal conferences held during the semester, and you do not need to register for the conference sections.

Summary of SOCI 270 important dates & deadlines for exams & assignments

	Date/Deadline	% Final Course Grade
Midterm	Monday, Feb. 26th, during class	30%
Final Exam	Date/time TBA by University	30%
Paper Proposal	Monday, March 19 th , by 11:59 pm (via myCourses)	10%
Final Paper	Monday, April 9th, by 11:59 pm (via myCourses)	30%

Required Readings:

There is no required textbook for this course. All required readings will be available via myCourses.

MyCourses/WEBCT: The SOCI 270 myCourses website will be updated regularly with important announcements and information about the course. It is very important that you know how to access the site, and that you do so regularly.

*****Please Note: While it is unlikely that this syllabus will change substantially, it is possible that minor revisions may be made. While changes will be announced in class, it is your responsibility to keep up to date with the syllabus and the course materials. *****

Accommodations for Religious Holy Days or Sickness

No late assignments will be accepted for this course, and no make-up exams will be offered. Exceptions to these rules will only be granted in cases where sickness or religious holy days pose conflicts, and such exceptions will abide by McGill policies on these matters. In the case of religious holy days, students must inform the instructor at least two weeks prior to each conflict. Students unable to write a class exam or submit an assignment due to medical/personal reasons must notify the instructor as soon as possible, and submit appropriate documentation no later than one week after the date of the exam or deadline of the assignment.

Academic Integrity and Grading Policy:

"McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information); (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)."

"L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/)."

"In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded." (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)

"Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue)."

Week 1: Course Overview & Introduction

Monday, January 8th: Course Overview

Wednesday, Jan. 10th - Friday, Jan. 12th: Introduction & Basic Concepts: Sex, Gender, Sexuality

- West, Candace and Don H. Zimmerman. 1987. "Doing Gender." *Gender & Society* 1:125-51.
- West, Candace and Sarah Fenstermaker. 1995. "Doing Difference." *Gender & Society* 9:8-37.
- Lorber, Judith (2008). Believing is Seeing: Biology as Ideology. In *The Gendered Society Reader*, pp. 7 – 15.

Week 2: The Social Construction of Gender and Sex

Monday, Jan. 15th, Wednesday, Jan. 17th, and Friday, January 19th: Gendered Interactions & Institutions

- Risman, Barbara J. 2004. "Gender as a Social Structure: Theory Wrestling with Activism." *Gender & Society*, 18 (4): 429-450.
- Acker, Joan. 1992. "From Sex Roles to Gendered Institutions." *Contemporary Sociology* 21:565-69.
- Deutsch, Francine M. 2007. "Undoing Gender." *Gender & Society* 21:106-27.

Week 3: Feminist Theories & Intersectionality

Monday, Jan. 22nd: Feminist Theories (1)

Wednesday, Jan. 24th: Feminist Theories (2)

Friday, January 26th: Feminist Theories (3) & Intersectionality

- Haraway, Donna. 1988. "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective." *Feminist Studies* 14:575-599.

- Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 43:1241-99.
- McCall, Leslie. 2005. "The Complexity of Intersectionality." *Signs* 30:1771-800.

Week 4: Masculinity Theories

Monday, Jan. 29th: Masculinity Theories (1)

Wednesday, Jan. 31st: Masculinity Theories (2)

Friday, Feb. 2nd: Masculinity Theories (3)

- Blais, Melissa & Francis Dupuis-Déri. 2012. "Masculinism and the Antifeminist Countermovement." *Social Movement Studies: Journal of Social, Cultural and Political Protest*, 11:1, 21-39.
- Pascoe, J.J. 2005. "'Dude, You're a Fag': Adolescent Masculinity and the Fag Discourse." *Sexualities* 8:329-46.

Week 5: Queer Theory & Gender Continua

Monday, Feb. 5th: Gender Continua (1)

Wednesday, Feb. 7th: Gender Continua (2)

Friday, Feb. 9th: Gender Continua (3)

- Rupp, Leila J., Verta Taylor, and Eve Ilana Shapiro. 2010. "Drag Queens and Drag Kings: The Difference Gender Makes." *Sexualities* 13:275-94.
- Valocchi, Stephen. 2005. "Not Yet Queer Enough: The Lessons of Queer Theory for the Sociology of Gender and Sexuality." *Gender & Society* 19:750-70.
- Kirkland, Anna. 2006. "What's at Stake in Transgender Discrimination as Sex Discrimination?" *Signs* 32: 83-111.

Week 6: Intersexuality & Gender

Monday, Feb. 12th: Intersexuality & Gender (1)

Wednesday, Feb. 14th: Intersexuality & Gender (2)

Friday, Feb. 16th: Intersexuality & Gender (3)

- Kessler, Suzanne J. 1990. "The Medical Construction of Gender: Case Management of Intersexed Infants." *Signs* 16(1): 3-26.
- Chase, Cheryl. 2003. "Hermaphrodite with Attitude: Mapping the Emergence of Intersex Political Activism." Pp. 31-45 in Robert J. Corber and Stephen Valocchi, eds. *Queer Studies: An Interdisciplinary Reader*. Malden, MA and Oxford, UK: Blackwell.

- Blackless, Melanie et al. 2000. "How Sexually Dimorphic Are We? Review and Synthesis." *American Journal of Human Biology* 12:151-66.

Week 7: Biology as Destiny? Embodiment and Gender

Monday, Feb. 19th: Biological Determinism, Sex, and Gender

Wednesday, Feb. 21st: Biosocial approaches to Sex and Gender (1)

Friday, Feb. 23rd: Biosocial approaches to Sex and Gender (2)

- Buss, David. (2008). Psychological Sex Differences Through Sexual Selection. In *The Gendered Society Reader*, pp. 2 – 7
- Gravlee, C.C. (2009). "How Race Becomes Biology: Embodiment of Social Inequality." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 139, 47-57.
- Bird, C.E. & Rieker, P. F. (1999). "Gender Matters: an integrated model for understanding men's and women's health." *Social Science & Medicine* 48: 745 – 755.
- Diez Roux, A.V. (2007). "Integrating social and biologic factors in health research: a systems view." *Ann Epidemiol* 17 (7):569 –74.

Week 8: Gendered Sexualities

Monday, Feb. 26th: Midterm Exam (in-class, during regular lecture time)

Wednesday, Feb. 28th: Gendered Sexualities

Friday, March 2nd: Gendered Sexualities

- Kimmel, Michael S. 2005. "Gendering Desire." Chapter 1 in his *The Gender of Desire: Essays on Male Sexuality*. New York: State University of New York Press.
- Wade, Nicholas (April 10, 2007). Pas de Deux of Sexuality is Written in the Genes. *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/10/health/10gene.html>
- Namaste, Viviane K. (2008). Genderbashing: Sexuality, Gender, and the Regulation of Public Space. In *The Gendered Society Reader*, edited by Kimmel, Aronson & Kaler, pp. 412 – 421. New York: Oxford Publishing

Week 9: READING BREAK

Monday, March 5th – Friday, March 9th: READING BREAK (NO CLASSES)

Week 10: Gendered Reproduction

Monday, March 12th: Gendered Reproduction (1)

Wednesday, March 14th: Gendered Reproduction (2)

Friday, March 16th: Gendered Reproduction (3)

- Martin, Emily. 1991. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles." *Signs*, 16(3), 485-501.
- Laird, J. (January 01, 1994). A male pill? Gender discrepancies in contraceptive commitment. *Feminism & Psychology*, 4, 3, 458-68.
- MacDonald, Margaret (2006). "Gender Expectations: Natural Bodies and Natural Births in the New Midwifery in Canada." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 20 (2): 235 – 256

Week 11: Relationships, Parenting, and Gender

Monday, March 19th: Gendered and Sexed Perspectives on Love & Intimacy (****Papers Proposals due today by 11:59 pm, via myCourses****)

Wednesday, March 21st: Gender, Sex, Social Institutions and Parenting (1)

Friday, March 23rd: Gender, Sex, Social Institutions and Parenting (2)

- Cancian, F. (2008). The Feminization of Love. In *The Gendered Society Reader*, edited by Kimmel, Aronson & Kaler, pp 337-346. New York: Oxford Publishing.
- Lorber, J. (1994). Chapter 7: Rocking The Cradle: Gendered Parenting. In *Paradoxes of Gender*, pp. 144-171. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- DiGregorio, N. (March 01, 2016). Same-Sex Marriage Policies and Lesbian Family Life. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 13, 1, 58-72.

Week 12: Education, Work, and Gender

March 26th: Education & Gender

March 28th: Gender & Work

March 30th: GOOD FRIDAY holiday (no class today)

- Martin, Karin A. 1998. "Becoming a Gendered Body: Practices of Preschools." *American Sociological Review* 63:494-511
- Angier, N. & Chang, K. (24 January 2005). Gray Matter and the Sexes: Still a Scientific Gray Area. *New York Times*.

- Paull, G. (December 01, 2006). The Impact of Children on Women's Paid Work. *Fiscal Studies*, 27, 4, 473-512.

Week 13: Religion, Politics, and Gender

April 2nd: EASTER MONDAY holiday (no class today)

April 4th: Religion & Gender

April 6th: Gendered Politics

- Beal, Becky. (1997). The Promise Keepers' Use of Sport in Defining "Christlike" Masculinity. *Journal of Sport and Social Issues* 21 (3): 274.
- Chapter 10: Politics & Law in *Gendered Worlds*, pp. 300 – 314 only
- Carlin, D. B., & Winfrey, K. L. (September 01, 2009). Have You Come a Long Way, Baby? Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, and Sexism in 2008 Campaign Coverage. *Communication Studies*, 60, 4, 326-343.

Week 14: Media, Beauty and Sport

April 9th: Media Representation & Gender (Final Papers due by today at 11:59 pm, via myCourses**)**

April 11th: Beauty & Femininity

April 13th: Sport & Masculinity

- Saltzberg, E. A., and Chrisler, J. C. (1995). Beauty is the Beast: Psychological Effects of the Pursuit of the Perfect Female Body. In *Women: A Feminist Perspective*, edited by Jo Freeman, pp. 146-156. Mayfield Publishing.
- Chapter 11: Media & Sports in *Gendered Worlds*, pp. 354 – 366 only
- Smith, A. C., & Stewart, B. (January 01, 2012). Body perceptions and health behaviors in an online bodybuilding community. *Qualitative Health Research*, 22, 7, 971-85.

Week 15: Course Overview & Final Exam Review

April 10: Course Wrap-Up & Final Exam Review