

William Paterson University
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Women's and Gender Studies

Course Outline

1. Title of Course and Course Number

Gendered Lives and Societies

WGS 1800

3 credits

2. Course Description

This course is an introduction to understanding how societies, identities and social relations are shaped by sex, gender and sexuality. It will explore how gender is a socially constructed concept that affects men and women in different ways and shapes social relations, how gender is related to "race," class, age and disability, and how social institutions reproduce gender inequality.

3. Course Prerequisites

None

4. Course Objectives

This course will:

- a) To explore how gender and gender identities are constructed in society
- b) To analyze the construct of patriarchy using feminist theory
- c) To explore how gender oppression is linked to other forms of oppression like racism, class and disability.
- d) To develop critical ways of reading media representation (images, cultural values, populations).
- e) To examine how institutions such as the economy, media, healthcare, law and education affect ideas of gender.
- f) To understand the history of social movements that challenge patriarchy and heterosexism.

5. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major intellectual approaches and methodologies in the social and behavioral sciences [UCC Area SLO #3c1]
In WGS 180, students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key theoretical approaches of social constructionism, identity and role formation, socialization and gendered inequality.
2. Identify ethical dimensions of various approaches in the social and behavioral sciences [UCC Area SLO #3c2]
In WGS 180, students will think critically about the ethical dimensions of patriarchy, sexism, and heterosexism as forms of inequality, oppression and injustice.

3. Ask meaningful questions regarding human behavior and social problems [UCC Area SLO #3c3]
In WGS 180, students will demonstrate ability to distinguish between individual and systemic forms of gendered inequality and identify historical process of institutionalization of interconnected social problems; integrate knowledge and ideas by demonstrating an understanding of how particular social institutions (such as work, family, media, law, education) reproduce and transform gendered inequalities; discuss individual modes of engagement and collective strategies for resisting patriarchy, sexism, and heterosexism.
4. Understand and employ social science theories, evidence and data to address complex social problems [UCC Area SLO #3c4]
In WGS 180, students will think critically about the nature and scale of data and evidence for the existence of systemic social inequalities of gender and sexuality.

6. TOPICAL OUTLINE FOR COURSE CONTENT:

What is gender analysis?

What are the approaches to understanding gender studies (includes Women's Studies and Masculinities Studies)

Introduction to patriarchy and feminism

Systems of privilege and inequality founded on notions of sex, gender, and sexuality:

Understanding difference and hierarchy

Privilege and inequality

Institutions and language

How do these systems intersect with those founded on race, class and disability?

Learning gender and sexuality in a diverse society:

Biology and culture, femininities and masculinities, gender ranking, gender norms and practices

Social construction and politics of sexuality, sexual identities

Inscribing gender on the body:

Analysis of the representations of the body in the media (internet, television, movies, print, music, and art)

The beauty ideal, eating disorders

Health and wellness, reproductive choice and reproductive rights

Health care system, health policies

Family systems and lives:

Understanding family systems

Institutional connections

Power and family relationships

Marriage and parenting

Gender and work:

Gendered economy

Paid and unpaid labor, income inequalities

Impact of globalization in the US

Immigration

Violence:

- Gendered violence
- Forms of violence
- Research and policies to address violence
- Movements to stop perpetration of violence

The Gendered State and Public Policy:

- Government and representation
- Public policy
- The justice system
- Military

Religion as a site of social identity and source of gendered oppression:

- Role in people's lives
- Religion as both oppressive and empowering to women
- Re-interpreting and reconstructing traditions
- New spiritual traditions

Gendered perspectives and practices:

- Social movements and changes as a result of that struggle
- Activism and change
- Promise of feminist education
- Movements for gender liberation and social change
- Modes of engagement and resistance

7. Guidelines/Suggestions for Teaching Methods and Student Learning Activities

- Lectures
- In-class writing
- Group discussions
- Individual and group projects
- Films
- Guest speakers
- Service learning projects

8. Guidelines/Suggestions for Methods of Student Evaluation

1. UCC Area SLO #3c1 will be evaluated by class participation, journal entries, essays, exams, and/or response papers.
2. UCC Area SLO #3c2 will be evaluated by group work, debates, discussion board, essays, and/or response papers
3. UCC Area SLO #3c3 will be evaluated by class participation, exams, essays, and/or response papers
4. UCC Area SLO #3c4 will be evaluated by group project, exams and/or response papers.

9. Suggested Readings, Texts, Objects of Study

Kimmel, Michael. 2011. *The Gendered Society*. NY: Oxford University Press.

Disch, Estelle. 2008. *Reconstructing Gender: A Multicultural Anthology*. NY: McGraw-Hill

Connell, R.W. 2002. *Gender: A Short Introduction*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

10. Bibliography of Supportive Texts and Other Materials:

Andersen, Margaret & Patricia Hill Collins. 2010. *Race, Class, & Gender: An Anthology* CA: Wadsworth Publishing.

Aulette, Judy Root and Judith Wittner & Kristin Blakely. 2008. *Gendered Worlds*. NY: Oxford University Press.

Baca Zinn, Maxine., Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo & Michael A. Messner. 2005. *Gender Through the Prism of Difference*. NY: Oxford University Press.

Barreto, Manuel., Michelle K. Ryan, and Michael T. Schmit. Eds. 2008. *The Glass Ceiling in the 21st Century: Understanding Barriers to Gender Equality (Psychology of Women)*. American Psychological Association.

Browne, Jude. Ed. 2007. *The Future of Gender*. NY: Cambridge University Press.

Brettell, Caroline B. & Carolyn F. Sargent. Eds. 2009. *Gender in Cross-cultural Perspective*. NY: Prentice Hall

Coady, David. 2008. *Metrosexual : Gender, Sexuality, and Sport*. Albany: SUNY Press.

Davis, Kathy., Mary Evans & Judith Lorber. Eds. 2006. *Handbook of Gender and Women's Studies*. California: Sage

Ehrenreich, Barbara & Arlie Russell Hochschild. 2002. *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the new Economy*. NY: Henry Holt.

Fausto- Sterling, Anne. 2000. *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*. New York: Basic Books.

Ferber, Abby L., Kimberly Holcomb, & Tre Wentling. 2008. *Sex, Gender, and Sexuality: The New Basics*. NY: Oxford University Press.

Fuller, Linda K. Ed. 2006. *Sport, Rhetoric, and Gender: Historical Perspectives and Media Representations*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Gornick, Janet C., Marcia K. Meyers, Erik Olin Wright, & Barbara Bergmann. 2009. *Gender Equality: Transforming Family Divisions of Labor*. London: Verso

Harper, Shaun R. & Frank Harris III. 2010. *College Men and Masculinities: Theory, Research, and Implications for Practice*. CA: John Wiley

Hines, Sally & 2010. *Transgender Identities: Towards a Social Analysis of Gender Diversity*. New York : Routledge

- Hodgson, Dorothy L. 2001. *Gendered Modernities: Ethnographic Perspectives*. New York: Palgrave.
- Holmes, Mary. 2007. *What Is Gender?: Sociological Approaches*. London : Sage
- Inglehart, Ronald, and Pippa Norri. 2003. *Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press
- Judith Squire. 2007. *The New Politics of Gender Equality*. NY: Palgrave Macmillan
- Kessler, Suzanne J. and Wendy McKenna. 1985. *Gender: An Ethnomethodological Approach*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Kimmel, Michael and Amy Aronson. 2010. *The Gendered Society Reader*. NY: Oxford University Press.
- Lorber, Judith 2006. *Gendered Bodies: Feminist Perspectives*. LA: Roxbury Publishing Company.
- Lorber, Judith. 2009. *Gender Inequality: Feminist Theories and Politics*. NY: Oxford University Press.
- McClain, Linda C. and Joanna L. Grossman. 2009. *Gender Equality: Dimensions of Women's Equal Citizenship* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press
- Nayak, Anoop & Kehily, Mary Jane. 2008. *Gender, Youth and Culture: Young Masculinities and Femininities*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- O'Brien, Jodi A. 2009. *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society*. CA: Sage
- Parker, Richard. et.al. Eds. 2000. *Framing the Sexual Subject: The Politics of Gender, Sexuality, and Power* Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Ruxton, Sandy. 2004. *Gender Equality and Men: Learning From Practice*. Oxford, UK: Oxfam Publishing.
- Salzinger, Leslie. 2003. *Genders in Production: Making Workers in Mexico's Global Factories*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Segal, Marcia Texler. Ed. 2006. *Intersections of Gender, race, and Class*. NY: OUP.
- Shaw, Alison & Ardener, Shirley. Edt. 2005. *Changing Sex and Bending Gender*. New York: Berghahn Books.
- Weber, Lynn. 2009. *Understanding Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality: A Conceptual Framework*. NY: Oxford University Press.

11. Preparer's Name and Date: Vidya Kalaramadam. April 21, 2010.

12. Original Departmental Approval Date: September 14, 2010.

13. Reviser's Name and Date: Vidya Kalaramadam, October 16, 2010

14. Departmental Revision Approval Date: October 17, 2010