This course focuses on the sociological study of gender as a basic dimension of social life and social relations. *Gender*, understood as the collection of behaviors, attitudes, attributes and assumptions about what it means to be a man or a woman, relates to social identity and social status. *Gender roles* are the social roles that are prescribed for a society’s members, depending on their perceived *sex* category (the biological or physiological categories of male, female, etc.). *Sexuality* refers to sexual orientation, preference, and practice.

We will consider the gender *ideologies*, or social meanings and implications of being male, female, masculine and feminine. In considering how society and its members think about sex and gender attributes, we will focus on how these attributes shape and constrain attitudes, social behavior and beliefs.

Sociologists are concerned with the *social construction of gender*, which refers to how expectations associated with being male and female are created, reinforced and transmitted throughout our society. Sociologists are interested in examining how gender norms affect our expectations for social interaction, and how individuals actively (and unintentionally) reinforce gender expectations by “doing” gender-related things and by expecting gender difference in relations with others. In addition, sociologists study how beliefs about gender difference help shape the structure and process of social institutions, and how these institutions in turn affect men’s and women’s status in social, economic and political hierarchies. Gender difference is often used within societies as a justification for *patriarchy* and for greater male access to economic resources, power and status. We will explore how such systems of *gender inequality* shape our perception and understanding of gender difference.

*Introductory Sociology (SOCI 1111) is strongly recommended as a prerequisite course.*

Evaluation will be based on:
1. attendance
2. active participation in discussions, including extra point activities
3. five short written exercises
4. mid-term and final examinations

These will be weighted as follows: five exercises (50%) and exams (50%). Poor attendance can lower your grade, while class participation can raise your grade by up to a full letter grade. No extra credit will be awarded in the course. (See below for details.)

† This syllabus and other course materials are posted on WebCT
http://webct.memphis.edu and at the following web site:
http://umpeople.memphis.edu/dshinbrg/3432/SOCI3432.htm
Required Reading

Selected readings available on reserve in the McWherter Library Reserve Room [L], on the internet as a web-linked document [W] from WebCT, and as handouts.

Recommended Reading


Course Requirements

You must activate and use your UUID and password in order to access the WebCT material for this course. Contact the Help Desk at 678-8888 for more information.

Introductory Sociology (SOCI 1111) is strongly recommended as a prerequisite for this course.

1. Attendance: Show up, and show up on time. Your regular and punctual attendance in class meetings for this course is required. Students will sign the roll each day and are expected to attend every class, be on time, and stay for the entire class period. Students who skip class or are consistently late and/or leave early can find their final course grade lowered up to one whole letter grade. Students who miss class are responsible for the material covered. In addition, student with very poor attendance (four or more absences) may be required to meet with the professor and/or may earn an “F” for the course.

2. Participation: Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions and activities. To fully participate in class, you will need to complete the assigned reading before the class meeting, and be prepared to discuss the material (including asking questions about information you did not understand) in a thoughtful and respectful way. Students with excellent and enthusiastic class participation, who contribute constructively to class discussions, can find their final course grade raised up to one whole letter grade.

Some of the material we read and discuss may be challenging, controversial or touch on sensitive topics. Students are expected to approach these ideas and their discussion as mature adults.

Extra point activities: Across the semester, students will have the opportunity to earn up a total of ten (10) extra points which will be added to their lowest scoring exam for the computation of the their final grade. Students may earn these extra points for participation in specified activities which include:

(a) group in-class discussions
(b) WebCT quiz/self-studies
(c) WebCT discussion forums
3. Exercises: There are five (5) exercises due over the course of the semester. Three are “interview exercises” and two are “activity exercises.” The first two exercises of the term will include classroom activities and discussion. All exercises should be carefully written, typed, double-spaced with reasonable margins and fonts (margins no greater than 1 ¼ inches; fonts no larger than 12 point), with a separate cover page that includes your name. Written exercises should be thoughtfully organized, carefully proofread, and conform to specific instructions in the distributed assignments. Pages should be numbered. Please use staples rather than paper clips or report covers. Each exercise will be due in class. *Late work can be penalized one whole letter grade per week late.* Papers that do not conform to these guidelines can be returned to the student ungraded. A writing guide is posted on WebCT.

(a) Interview exercises: You will complete three (3) brief interview exercises to explore people’s beliefs about the social institutions/practices considered in the course, and the results of these interviews should be handed in as short written essays. The maximum page limit for these exercises is four (4) pages (and this may require writing a longer draft and then condensing/organizing it into a more concise version for a clear and analytically focused exercise). For each exercise, you should interview at least three (3) people—although the interviews can be quite brief (10-15 minutes should be adequate). Additional details, including questions to use in your interviews, will be distributed by the instructor ahead of time. Interviews will focus on people’s beliefs about what exists, what is good and/or what is possible relative to the social institutions or practices we are considering and/or some particular aspect of that institution or practice.

(b) Activity exercises: You will complete two (2) brief activity exercises to explore aspects of gender in American culture related to the social institutions/practices considered in the course, and the results of these activities should be handed in as short written essays. The maximum page limit for these exercises is four (4) pages (and this also may require writing a longer draft and then condensing/organizing it into a more concise version for a clear and analytically focused exercise). For each topic, you should complete the activity (a scavenger hunt and either a shopping field trip or media experience). Activity details and related essay questions will be distributed in a handout.

4. Exams: Two exams, a mid-term and a final exam will be administered in this course. The mid-term will be given on Wednesday, October 12th, 2005, during class and the final during our assigned exam period, Monday, December 12th, 2005 (10:30 am to 12:30 pm). In format, these exams will include short answer questions, fixed-choice response questions (true/false or multiple choice items) and about 2 or 3 short essays. *Under no circumstances will make-up exams be given.* Students with scheduling conflicts must make arrangements with me to take the exam ahead of time (prior to its regularly scheduled time) and should notify me of their conflict as early in the semester as possible (no later than ten days before the scheduled exam).

5. No extra credit: Under no circumstances will I accept extra credit assignments from students. Students are responsible for assignments *throughout* the semester, not only at the end of the term.
Grading

Exercises ..............................................................50% of grade
  Three (3) interview exercises ............................10% each
  Two (2) activity exercises .................................10% each

Exams ............................................................50% of grade
  Mid-term exam ...............................................25%
  Final exam .....................................................25%

Total ............................................................100%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Grade</th>
<th>percent score</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
<th>percent score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>99–100</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78–79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93–98</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73–77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90–92</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70–72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88–89</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68–69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83–87</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>65–67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80–82</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0–64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And, remember that final grades may be raised by up to a full letter grade for excellent classroom participation and/or lowered by up to a full letter grade for poor attendance. Also, “extra point” activities can add up to 10 additional points to your lowest scoring exam before your final grade is computed.

Other Issues

1. Submitting assignments: Assignments are due in class on the date designated in the syllabus. I also accept assignments via WebCT. Late work will be penalized one full letter grade per week late. Do not slide your paper under (or on) my office door. It will get stepped on, kicked or otherwise misplaced. If I’m not in my office, take your assignment to the Sociology Office (Clement 231) and ask the secretary to sign and date it and place it in my mail box.

2. Resubmitting revised assignments: You can revise and resubmit graded exercises for a new grade, if you do the following: (a) let me know in advance that you intend to substantially revise your assignment (for each assignment you choose to revise); (b) revise the substance of your essay (simple formatting, grammatical and other minor revisions will not result in a new grade); and (c) attach your original assignment (including supporting documents, e.g., your field notes) to your revised exercise. Revised assignments that were originally submitted late (after the initial due date) may continue to be docked for lateness. The last day to submit revised exercises is in class on Wednesday, November 30th, 2005. Revised assignments will not be accepted from students who did not indicate their intentions in advance.

2. Keeping in touch with me: The best way to reach me is via WebCT, by email, or to see me during my office hours. In urgent circumstances, please contact the Sociology office (901-678-2611). The office staff generally knows my whereabouts and can contact me quickly if the need arises.
If you are unable to complete an assignment on time or expect to be late or absent or must leave class early, I expect to hear from you BEFORE the deadline, class meeting or office appointment.

3. Academic Misconduct: Academic misconduct on the part of students will not be tolerated in this course and may result in one or more of the following: a zero (0) on the assignment; a failing grade in the course (an “F”); expulsion from the University. Academic misconduct includes acts of cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes (but is not limited to) using any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes or tests; using sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers or other assignments; and misrepresenting assignments as the product of a student’s sole independent effort. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) the use of the published or unpublished work of another person without full or clear acknowledgment. This includes paraphrasing or direct quotation without references as well as copying directly off the Internet! Please refer to the University’s Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook at http://www.memphis.edu/stuhand2/ for more information.

4. Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Student Disability Services (SDS) office (located in 110 Wilder; Phone 901-678-2880 V/TTY; FAX 901-678-3070) in order to receive appropriate course-related accommodations and services. Students who formally register their disabilities with SDS are entitled to reasonable accommodations, as well as confidentiality with respect to their specific disability. If you have registered with SDS, please be certain that I receive an official memo that outlines your accommodation requirements so that we may maximize your learning experience.

5. Confidentiality: To ensure confidentiality of student information, under no circumstances will I send grades over email or discuss your grade over the telephone or voicemail.

6. Classroom Conduct: Students are expected to approach controversial and/or sensitive topics as mature adults.

   Food and beverages will be permitted in the classroom, as long as the classroom is left in a clean and tidy state at the end of class and as long as such activity is not disruptive during class time.

   **Cell phones, electronic pagers, and alarms, etc. must be silenced or turned off during class.**

**Summary of Due Dates**

- Monday, September 12.................Exercise #1 Activity: Scavenger Hunt
- Wednesday, September 28............Exercise #2 Interview: Home and Family
- Wednesday, October 12..............Mid-Term Exam (in class)
- Monday, October 24...................Exercise #3 Interview: Work and Employment
- Wednesday, November 9.............Exercise #4 Activity: Mall Fieldtrip or Media
- Monday, November 28...............Exercise #5 Interview: Sex and Love or Beauty, Appearance and the Body or Violence
- Monday, December 12...............Final Exam (10:30 am – 12:30 pm)