

Sociology of Gender Exam 1

*This is a take home essay exam. You have one week to complete the following assignment. This exam will be due in class **September 29th**. No late exams will be accepted. Classes will not meet on Sept. 24th^h. Students must select **four** essay questions and respond to each question completely in a **2-3 page** paper for each question. The total exam will be 8-12 pages. Essays will be 12pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced. Make sure to properly cite all references, including textbook, additional readings and lecture notes/slides.*

1. Give a comprehensive explanation of the concepts sex, gender and sexuality. Define and explain each concept and then tell me how they relate to one another. How is the social scientific understanding of these concepts different from the popular culture construction?
2. Why is an understanding of the specific social context important to understanding the process of gender socialization? How might gender socialization be different across races or socioeconomic class? Give examples from the chapter and from your own life.
3. In the article “the Social Construction of Gender” the author states: “There is no core or bedrock in human nature below these endlessly looping processes of the social production of sex and gender, self and other, identity and psyche, each of which is a “complex cultural construction.” What does she mean by this quote? Explain and analyze her argument. Do you find it convincing? Why or why not?
4. Using the white privilege article by Peggy McIntosh as an example, select an aspect of your identity that is historically privileged, such as maleness, whiteness, middle class status, national identity/citizenship, heterosexuality etc. and generate a list of the way in which you are privileged. What is in your invisible knapsack? How do such privileges shape your lived experience?
5. Define intersectionality and explain how intersectionality helps us better understand the way in which our social identities might impact our personal experiences. How might our identities shape the way we engage with social inequality? Discuss specific examples from the readings or your own research that might illustrate how understanding intersectional identity shapes how people experience inequality and stratification.
6. Explain how individualism, the idea that individual people are responsible for all aspects of the world, might be related to ideas about oppression and inequality? How does individualism perpetuate the notion that individuals rather than systems are responsible for inequality? Explain how popular culture might contribute to the systems of gender equality that exist in the US. Give examples.
7. Utilizing the material provided by the film “Tough Guise” discuss the contemporary cultural expectations of men and boys in the US. Consider the possible impacts of such expectations on boys and men, girls and women and on society as a whole. Discuss the relationship between cultural ideals of manhood and another social issue of your choice.