

Soc 305 MID-TERM EXAM - TAKE HOME

Please choose 2 of the following questions and answer it in 2-3 pages. Your final exam will be 5-6 typed double spaced pages. Make sure to carefully cite ideas from the readings. Due in class Oct, 26. Late papers will lose points.

- 1) In her article “The Social Construction of Gender” Judith Lorber concludes that “...the continuing purpose of gender as a modern institution is to construct women as a group to be the subordinates of men as a group.” Using material from the text, lectures and/or the Pascoe, try to assess her conclusion. What kinds of evidence in the text support her assertion and what kinds seem to contradict it? Finally, what do you think of her conclusion? Be sure to use Lorber’s ideas about the social construction of gender as you develop your essay.
- 2) Imagine a world in which the sex/gender system did not exist. Would other oppressions remain the same? How would they be different? Consider the information you have about interlocking oppressions, how would this be different? Carefully examine the role of Intersectionality in this hypothetical world. Use examples provided in various readings to make your point.
- 3) Many of our authors are concerned that gender socialization has shaped both masculinity and femininity in they find limiting or frustrating. They either implicitly or explicitly suggest ways to change the gender system in order to give men and women more options. Using the authors themselves or the people whom they quote or cite, discuss some of these recommendations, assess their viability, and share briefly your own opinion as to which ones you personally would support.
- 4) Imagine that you had been born a different person. Choose a new gender, a new race or culture, and one other change (either a difference of class, sexual orientation, or physical ability). Develop a new hypothetical identity based on the readings in the text. Stick to the readings for evidence and avoid any unsupported generalizations about the “new you.” In some cases you will have to weave the readings together in a creative way, since not all potential identities are fully addressed. Use several reading to craft your argument.
- 5) Discuss the relationship between the following concepts, sex, gender and sexuality. In what ways do the authors we have read define, use and question these concepts. Using, Pascoe’s book and at least 3 other readings explore how sex, gender and sexuality can shape and be shaped by forces of socialization, for example family, education, media, economics.