

# **SOCIOLOGY OF SEX AND GENDER**

SOC 305 SEC M003 • Fall 2009  
MWF 10:35AM to 11:30AM  
Eggers Hall Room 111

## **Alecea Standlee**

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Office Hours: M 11:30-12:30 and by appointment

Welcome to Sociology of Sex and Gender. This course will explore the complex relationships between sex (defined in our society as biological) and gender (as a social construction) while also exploring the importance of sexual behavior and identity. This course will challenge us to rethink categories of “masculinity” and “femininity” and their relationship to societal institutions, such as the media as well as social structures such as race and class. The primary goal of the course is to provide students with tools and knowledge to critically analyze and better understand the worlds, in which they live, the social worlds they are defined by, and even, at times, resist.

### **Books** (Available at the SU Bookstore or online)

Disch, Estelle (Ed.)

2009 *Reconstructing Gender: A Multicultural Anthology*, 5th Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Ingrahm, Chrys

2008 *White Weddings: Romancing Heterosexuality in Popular Culture*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Routledge

Pascoe, C.J.

2006 *Dude, You're a Fag: Masculinity and Sexuality in High School*. University of California Press.

### **Course Requirements:**

One “Exam”:	20%
Two Critical Essays:	30% (15% each)
Discussion Leader:	10%
Final Project (and proposal)	30%
Participation/Attendance:	10%

**Attendance and participation:** Final grades will be lowered for students who miss more than *three* classes. Participation grade is based on in class discussion and online blackboard discussion. I will occasional post online conversation starters, but online discussion will primarily be the responsibility of the students.

**Discussion Questions:** Each student will sign up for a day to be a discussion leader. You will be responsible for writing and sharing 2-3 discussion questions based on the day's assigned readings.

**Exploratory Essays.** You will be responsible for producing 2 short essays during the course of the semester. You will write and turn in a short paper (2-3 pages) on the following topics.

- Essay 1 Exploring You World-This paper defines gender and/or sexuality in the context of the your own beliefs, family structure or social context. Examine your own ideas, then craft questions to ask family and friends. Summarize and contextualize your findings.
- Essay 2 Exploring Popular Culture-In this paper you will define gender and sexuality in the context of your own social location in the greater social/political/cultural context. Explore and present some aspect of popular culture that you feel shapes/is shaped your own relationship with gender and/or sexuality.

**Midterm Exam** will be in class and include short answer and/or essay components.

**Project Proposals:** Project proposals are due early in the term and will include a brief description of your project, a list of possible resources and a tentative timeline to completion. Proposals are NOT binding and you should expect that your project *will* grow and change though the semester. However, you should notify me of major changes in topic or form.

**Final Project:** Each student will be responsible for producing a final project that explores and critically engages the themes and readings for the semester. Projects may include theoretical or empirical research papers and/or creative presentations such as informational videos, community service projects etc. Project proposals are due by mid-term and must be approved by me. Grading will be based on the quality of your work and your critical engagement with class material and themes.

#### Grading Scale

A	94-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-93	C	74-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-73
B	84-86	D+	67-69
B-	80-83	D	65-66

#### Notes:

- 1) The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus and assignments. Changes may be made to accommodate the specific needs of the class.
- 2) High standards of academic integrity are valued and required by both the university and myself.
  - a. **Plagiarism, intended or unintended, will not be tolerated.** A student caught plagiarizing will face serious consequences. The infraction will be

reported to the Academic Integrity Committee and the student will receive an F on the assignment.

b. When producing written assignments and the final research paper, citations, proper use of quotation marks and paraphrasing, along with a bibliography are requisite. For guidance see me or go to the Writing Center at <http://wrt.syr.edu/wc/wcintro.html> or visit HBC 101.

c. Online sources must be cited properly and use carefully. See me if you have questions.

3) **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review those accommodations with the instructor.

Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For more information, see Office of Disability Services, <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>

4) Feel free to email me. Please allow 24 hours for a response. I will notify students if there will be a longer delay in email activity (due to travel, illness, etc.).

5) Readings listed for each day of class in the course schedule are to have been read **prior** to coming to that day's class. This is a reading intensive course; you will want to keep up with the readings to do well.

6) Student athletes need to submit permission forms signed by a coach in advance to be excused from class and are responsible for making up missing assignments and readings.

7) Classroom conduct: This course is heavily reliant on discussion, which includes difficult dialogue at times. **This is an inclusive and safe classroom.** All discussion points, opinions, and questions are valued; as such students are expected to treat one another and the professor thoughtfully and with respect. Pejorative or discriminatory language will not be tolerated and students who insist on such behavior will be asked to leave the classroom.

8) Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off before coming to class. **Please do not text message or work on your laptops during class!**

9) Let's have a great semester!

### **Course Schedule**

08/31 Intro and Course Overview

09/02 **(BB)** "The Promise" by C. Wright Mills

09/04 "General Introduction" (pgs. 1-22)

09/07 Labor Day NO CLASS

09/09 NO CLASS – Please complete your first "Exploring" Assignment

09/11 Part II: Gender Socialization" (pgs. 107-111)

“The Social Construction of Gender” (pgs. 112-119)

**Essay 1 Due**

**Intersections & Identity**

09/14 “Part I: It’s Not Just about Gender” (pgs. 31-33)

“White Privilege: Unpacking Invisible Knapsack” (pgs. 78--83)

Patriarchy, the System: An It, Not a He, a Them, or an Us” (pgs. 98-106)

09/16 “The Past is Ever Present: Recognizing the New Racism” (pgs. 51-65)

09/18 “Under and (Inside) Western Eyes: At the Turn of the Century” (pgs. 88-97)

09/21 Ed-al Fitr (NO CLASS)

09/23 “Just Walk On By: A Black Man Ponders His Power to Alter Public Space”  
(pgs. 204-207)

“From Nothing, A Consciousness” (pgs. 44-50)

“J.A.P.’-Slapping: The Politics of Scapegoating” (pgs. 70-73)

“Controlled or Autonomous: Identity and the Experience of the Network, Women  
Living Under Muslim Laws” (pgs 83-88)

09/25 “The Puerto Rican Dummy and the Merciful Son” (pgs. 34-44)

“Angry Women are Building: Issues and Struggles Facing American Indian  
Women Today” (pgs. 65-69)

09/28 Yom Kippur NO CLASS

09/30 **(BB)** Fausto-Sterling “The Five Sexes” and “Is Gender Essential?”

10/2 “Passing Last Summer” (pgs. 282-288)

“The Impact of Multiple Marginalization” (pgs. 289-296)

**Project Proposal due**

**(Re)Thinking Sex and Gender**

10/5 “Real Men Don’t Cry . . . and Other ‘Uncool’ Myths” (pgs. 230-235)

“The Myth of the Sexual Athlete (pgs. 278-281)

*Film: Tough Guise*

10/7 Pascoe Chap 1

10/9 Pascoe Chap 2

10/12 Pascoe Chap 3

10/14 Pascoe Chap 4

10/16 Pascoe Chap 5&6

10/19 ‘What About the Boys?’(pgs. 369-382)

“Homophobia in Straight Men” (pgs. 550-551)

10/21 – *Review Groups*

10/23 **Midterm Exam**

10/26 *Film: Dream Worlds*

“‘A Way Outa No Way’: Eating Problems among African-American, Latina, and

- White Women” (pgs. 186-201)  
 “I’m Not Fat, I’m Latina” (pgs. 210-211)  
 10/28 “Reproductive Issues are Essential Survival Issues for the Asian-American  
 Communities” (pgs. 607-610)  
 “Contemporary Challenges to Black Women’s Reproductive Rights”  
 (pgs. 304-318)  
 10/30 “Health Care Reform—A Woman’s Issue” (pgs. 603-606)  
 “Masculinities and Men’s Health: Moving Toward Post-Superman Era  
 Prevention” (pgs. 585-602)

### **Gender and Institutions**

- 11/02 “White Wedding” Chap 1  
 11/04 “White Wedding” Chap 2  
 11/06 “White Wedding” Chap 3  
  
 11/09 “White Wedding” Chap 4  
 11/11 “White Wedding” Chap 5  
 11/13 “What is Marriage For?” (pgs. 345-350)  
 “Free to Marry at Last—May 17, 2004” (pgs. 350-352)

### ***Essay 2 is due***

- 11/16 “Families” (pgs. 297-303)  
 “The New Momism” (pgs. 235-247)  
 11/18 “Bloodmother, Othermothers, and Women-Centered Networks” (pgs. 318-324)  
 “Dilemmas of Involved Fatherhood” (pgs. 325-334)  
 11/20 “Education” (pgs 353-362)  
 “Missing in Interaction” (362-368)  
  
 11/23-11/27 Thanksgiving (NO CLASS)  
  
 11/30 “The End of Welfare as We Know It: An Overview of the PRWORA”  
 (pgs. 421-432)  
 12/02 “Paid Work and Unemployment” (pgs. 413-420)  
 “Sixty Cents to a Man’s Dollar” (pgs. 433-440)  
 12/04 “America’s Dirty Work: Migrant Maids and Modern-Day Slavery” (pgs. 451-460)  
 “Global Woman” (pgs. 441-450)  
  
 12/07 “How Safe is America?” (pgs. 557-559)  
 “Violence at Home and Abroad” (pgs. 496-503)  
 12/09 “Pictures of Boyhood” (pgs. 530-539)  
 “Injury, Gender, and Trouble” (pgs. 539-549)  
 12/11 “Statement of Principles” (pgs. 631-632)  
 “Women’s Human Rights” (pgs.655-657)  
 12/14 *Final Project Due by 5pm.*