**Seminar in the Sociology of Gender: 4202**

11:30-12:45pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays

August 28th-Dec 17

Building: Meyer and Anna Prentis Building

Room: 0002

Instructor: Lindsay Toman, MA

2244 Faculty Administration Building

Lindsay.toman@wayne.edu

Office Hour: Tuesdays, 1-2pm or by request.

**Introduction**

Welcome to the seminar in gender! Gender is a system of inequality that intersects with other forms of inequality, for example race, sexuality, and class. Sociologists view gender as a socially constructed phenomenon and believe that gender differences are not biological, but a response to cultural norms in society. These differences are reproduced as we go about our daily lives, distinctly shaping our experiences. We will cover topics such as: feminist theory, gendered embodiment, masculinities, sexualities, and violence. We cover these topics through a collection of theoretical and empirical readings. Students are required to read the assigned material, pose questions about the topics, and actively participate in class discussions.

**Learning Objectives:**

When you have successfully completed this course, you will be able to:

1. Apply sociological concepts, terms, and theories to the study of gender.
2. Recognize significant gendered barriers/privileges that affect our daily lives.
3. Comprehend the institutional gendered constraints imposed on both women, men, and gender non-binary folks.
4. Critically analyze research/theory and relate it to concepts in course.

**Classroom Format**

Our classes will consist of group discussion, lectures, and interactive exercises. Since the course is dedicated to understanding gender, I ask that each of you come to class with an open mind, respect others opinions and participate in a cooperative manner. If you choose to be disrespectful you will be asked to leave and lose any participation points you earned that class period.

*Laptops and cell phones are not allowed.* Since most of our class is discussion-based, a laptop is unnecessary and distracting. Please turn off your cell phone before class and keep it in your backpack or bag. If caught texting or using a phone, students will be marked absent for that day. If there is some sort of emergency and you have to check your phone or you have to leave class early, please let me know ahead of time.

If I need to inform you about any additional information pertaining to the class, I will do so via Canvas. Please check both of these regularly to make sure that you are well informed. This syllabus should be used as a guide, but I may make changes during the semester.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TDD only).  Once accommodations are in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during office hours to discuss your special needs. Student Disability Services’ mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at WSU.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism includes copying material (any more than 5 consecutive words) from outside texts or presenting outside information as if it were your own by not crediting authors through citations. It can be deliberate or unintended. If you're in doubt about the use of a source, cite it. Students caught plagiarizing information from other sources will receive a failing grade in the course. University policy states that students can be subject to multiple sanctions, from reprimand to expulsion as a consequence of academic dishonesty. To enforce this policy, all outside references must be submitted with assignments.

**Communication**

In the past, some students have emailed me using a different email address other than their Wayne State University email. These emails have almost always been sent to my ‘junk’ folder so you are required to use your Wayne State University email address if you want to communicate with me. Also, please give me up to 48 hours to respond to your email. If I do not respond, *PLEASE* do not hesitate to email me again.

**Late Work**

*All papers are due by the class period and must be turned in via email.* I do not accept papers past the day they are due and I do not accept physical copies. The only way I accept a paper late is if you give me a reasonable excuse at least one business day prior to the submission deadline.

**Grade Details**

Lead Discussant 25 points

Paper 1 25 points

Paper 2 25 points

In-Class Participation 25 points

**Total 100 points**

**Assignment Details**

**Lead Discussant**

You will be required to lead discussion for one of the class periods. This includes coming to class having read the readings for that day and creating an outline and discussion questions that will facilitate intellectual conversation. The outline/questions must be submitted to me three days before the class that you will be facilitating. This way I can give you feedback and help you in areas that you may feel stuck in. **This assignment will be worth 25% of your overall grade.**

**Participation**

You are required to attend class and are expected to have read the required readings for that day. A major aspect of being a student is physically and mentally showing up for the lectures so that you can add to the classroom environment. Certain classes will start out with a simple quiz. As long as you have done the readings, you should be able to pass. These will be collected and be counted towards your in-class participation. **This assignment will be worth 25% of your overall grade.**

**Paper 1: What is Gender Identity? Due Oct 17th**

For this paper, I would like you to describe gender identity using any combination of readings that have been assigned up until October 17th. Your paper should have a theme, for example is gender identity biologically or socially constructed? What does gender identity mean for people of color compared to white individuals? In what ways is gender identity effected or marginalized? This paper should be 5-7 pages, double spaced. **This assignment will be worth 25% of your overall grade.**

**Paper 2: What readings do you connect with the most? Due December 12th**

Which gender theory or reading assignments have you identified with the most? For this paper I want you to reflect on which readings have been the most intriguing or important to you. I want you to compare those readings to readings that you did not enjoy or agree with. This paper should be 5-7 pages, double spaced. **This assignment will be worth 25% of your overall grade.**

**Course Schedule**

August 29th: **Course introduction**

(B-Intro) Introduction, Sex and Gender through the Prism of Difference

**Week One: Feminist/Gender Theory**

Sep 3rd: (B-8) Betsy Lucal, “What it Means to be Gendered Me.”

Sep 5th: (B-6) Westbrook and Schilt, “Doing Gender, Determining Gender: Transgender People, Gender Panis, and the Maintenance of the Sex/Gender/Sexuality System.”

**Week Two: What is the Patriarchy?**

Sep 10: (Canvas) Marilyn Frye, On oppression

(Canvas) Allan Johnson, Origins of Patriarchy

Sept 12: (Canvas) Combahee River Collective

**Week Three: Black Feminist Thought/ Womanism**

Sept 17: (Canvas) The Sociological Construction of Black Feminist Thought

Sept 19: (Canvas) Patricia Hill Collins, What’s in a Name? Womanism, Black Feminism and Beyond.

(B-17) Audre Lorde, Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference

**Week Four: Nature versus Nurture**

Sep 24: (Canvas) Monique Wittig, One is Not Born a Woman

(B-1) Anne-Fausto Sterling, The Five Sexes Revisited

Sep 26: (Canvas) Judith Lorber, Night to His Day: Gender as a Social Construct

**Week Five: Sexualities and Desire**

Oct 1: (B-13) Jane Ward, Dude Sex: White Masculinities and “Authentic” Heterosexuality among Dudes who have Sex with Dudes.

Oct 3: (B-15) Kirsty Liddiard, The Work of Disabled Identities in Intimate Relationships

(B-12) Karen Pyke, An Intersectional Approach to Resistance and Complicity

**Week Six:** **Gender, Health, and Medicine**

Sep 24: (Canvas) Ken Silverstein, Millions for Viagra, Pennies for Diseases of the Poor

(Canvas) Leslie Feinberg, I Can’t Afford to Get Sick

Sep 26: (B-7) Georgian Davis, Medical Jurisdiction and the Intersex Body

**Week Seven: Families**

Oct 8: (Canvas) Arlie Hoschild, When Work becomes Home and Home becomes Work.

(B-28) Nicole Sevittini, Housework and Non-Normative Gender Display among Lesbians and Gay Men

Oct 10: (B-22) Patricia Hill Collins, The Meaning of Motherhood in Black Culture.

(B-27) Kathryn Edin, What Do Low-Income Single Mothers say about Marriage?

**Week Eight: Immigration and Assimilation**

Oct 15: (Canvas) Leila Ahmed, The Veil Debate Again

Oct 17: (Canvas) Salam Aboulhassan and Krista Brumley, Carrying the Burden of a Culture: Bargaining with Patriarchy, Gendered Reputation and Arab American Women

**Week Nine: Masculinities**

Oct 22: (B-4) Raewyn Connell, Masculinities and Globalization

Oct 24: (B-18) Tristian Bridges and C.J. Pascoe, Hybrid Masculinities: New Directions in the Sociology of Men and Masculinities

**Week Ten:** **Constructing Gender in the Workplace**

Oct 29: (B-30) Christine Williams, The Glass Escalator Revisited: Gender Inequality in Neo-Liberal Times.

Oct 31: (Book) Adia Harvey Wingfield, The Modern Mammy and the Angry Black Man: African American Professionals’ Experiences with Gendered Racism in the Workplace.”

(B-33) Milian Kang, “I Just Put Koreans and Nails Together”: Nails Spas and Model Minority

**Week Eleven: Gender and Education**

Nov 5: (B-24) Roberta Espinoza, The Good Daughter Dillema: Latinas Managing Family and School Demands

Nov 7: (B-36) Ann Arnett Ferguson, Naughty by Nature

**Week Twelve: Gender in the Media**

Nov 12: (Canvas) bell hooks, Moving Beyond Pain

(Video) Please watch Beyonce’s Lemonade before class. You can find the visual album on youtube.

Nov 14: (Canvas) Whitney Hunt, "It's Not Racist or Sexist. It's Just the Way it is."

**Week Thirteen: LGBTQ Inclusion**

Nov 19: (B-20) Joelle Ruby Ryan, From Transgender to Trans\* The Ongoing Struggle for Inclusion, Acceptance, and Celebration of Identities Beyond the Binary

Nov 21: TBD

**Week Fourteen: Oppression of Native Americans**

Nov 26: (Canvas) Native American Feminism, Sovereignty, and Social Change

Nov 28: UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY, NO CLASS

**Week Fifteen: Social Change**

Dec 3: (B-43) Kevin Powell, Confessions of a Recovering Misogynist

Dec 5: (B-46) Sarah Jaffe, The collective Power of #MeToo

Dec 10: Study Day

Dec 12: Final Paper is Due!