Sociology 425/525 WGSS 425/525
SOCIOLOGY OF WOMEN
Fall 2011
Wednesdays 5:30pm to 9:10pm
Cramer Hall 269

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Course Description

Analysis of the social position of women in the U.S. in institutional areas such as family, reproduction, politics, work, and education. Consideration and evaluation of feminist theories concerning social condition, behaviors, and characteristics of women.

Course Goals

The goal of this course is to explore the current sociological research on a wide variety of issues related to gender. Particular emphasis will be on examining the intersection of gender with race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. The major focus of the course will be evaluating the theoretical, methodological, and empirical contributions of the latest research in the area of gender.

Required Readings

Books may be purchased at the PSU bookstore or online. One copy of each book will be held on reserve in the library.


Required Readings (continued)

You will also be required to read peer-reviewed journal articles available online through the PSU library. Use the following direction to access the articles:

* Go to the library web site:  http://library.pdx.edu/
* Click on “Course Reserves”
* Type instructor's last name (Kelly) and click “search”
* Click on the course number
* Click “Accept”
* Click on the “Reading folder” folder
* Enter the password (Kelly) and click “view”
* Click on the subfolder (Note: the Lucal reading is in the “book chapter” subfolder. All other readings are in the “articles from PSU library” subfolder)
* Click on the “file name” for the document

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Discussion questions (20% of course grade): Students will provide three discussion questions to pose to the group during the class discussion. Undergraduate students will complete questions for three class meetings; graduate students will complete questions for six class meetings. Students will be assigned articles/books and dates to complete discussion questions; these dates will be emailed to the class and posted online after the first day of class. Discussion questions are due via email by 9:00am on the scheduled day to both the instructor and course TA.

In-class assignments (30% of course grade): We will have one to three in-class assignments each class meeting. These will consist of individual writing assignments and small group discussions. The in-class assignments will focus on the readings and/or material presented in class. Failed or missed assignments cannot be rewritten or made up at an alternative time; however, two assignment grades will be dropped. Note: exceptions for making up assignments may be made in the cases of multiple documented excused absences; however, this is at the instructor’s discretion.

Midterm paper (20% of course grade): Undergraduate students will write a music analysis paper in which you conduct a sociological analysis of the themes related to gender and sexuality in the lyrics and/or music videos to two songs. Music analysis papers will be two double-spaced pages. Graduate students will write a book review in which you write a critical analysis of a recent empirical study. Book reviews will be five double-spaced pages. Papers must be submitted in hard copy by October 26 by 5:30pm.

Final paper (30% of course grade): For the final paper, you will write and submit a paper to the “Forum” section of the Journal of Gender Studies. This paper must follow the guidelines described by the journal. Papers must be approximately 1500 words (approximately five double-spaced pages). Papers must be submitted in hard copy and must also be submitted to the journal online (with a confirmation email forwarded to both the instructor and course TA) by Wednesday December 7 at 3:30pm.
POLICIES

D2L: I will post the syllabus, due dates for discussion questions, and other course materials online. I will also post grades for all assignments online.

Email: The course TA and I regularly communicate with the class via PSU email so be sure that you are receiving our emails. If you prefer, you can arrange to have your PSU email forwarded to another email address. It is your responsibility to check your email daily during the school week and respond in a timely manner. In emails to the course TA and I, please put the title of the course in the subject line and sign your emails using your first and last name. Please use the email addresses on the first page of the syllabus. We will generally respond to email within 24 hours. Emails sent after 5:00pm on Friday will generally be answered by 5:00pm on Monday.

Academic Honesty: I expect complete academic honesty. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code for more detailed information on PSU policies. Cheating or plagiarizing will result in failing the assignment or the course and will be reported.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the PSU Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) and the instructor at the beginning of the term to arrange accommodations. The DRC is located in 435 Smith and can be contacted at 725-4150 or by email at drc@pdx.edu. Visit their site at www.pdx.edu/uasc/drc.

Classroom Conduct: I insist that you demonstrate the highest level of respect for your peers and for me. All points of view will be welcomed and respected; however, statements or behaviors that are disrespectful towards individuals or groups will not be tolerated. Behaviors that are distracting to your peers and to me are not acceptable (e.g. coming in late, packing up or leaving early, using cell phones, and having side conversations). I generally do not allow the use of laptops in class. If you have a compelling reason for needing a laptop, see me to request permission.

Guests in class: I do not allow people under age 18 to attend class. If you would like to bring a guest to class who is over 18, please ask in advance.

Cancelled Classes: In the case of inclement weather or other emergencies, please refer to the PSU web page: http://www.pdx.edu/. In the event that I have to cancel class I will email the class as soon as possible. If neither the TA nor I have arrived to class 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, consider class cancelled for the day. If class is cancelled for any reason, you are still expected to submit your discussion questions via email.

Absences: In the event you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to ask a classmate for notes, announcements, and any other missed material. If you have any questions after you have checked with a classmate, please see me before or after class or during office hours.
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: September 28

- No reading prior to first class meeting

Week 2: October 5


Week 3: October 12


Week 4: October 19


Week 5: October 26


Note: Music analysis paper (undergraduates) or book review (graduates) due by 5:30pm

Week 6: November 2

Week 7: November 9

- Carpenter, Laura M. 2002 “Gender and the Meaning and Experience of Virginity Loss in the Contemporary United States” *Gender & Society* 16(3):345-365

Week 8: November 16


Week 9: November 23


Week 10: November 30


Note: Final papers are due at the date and time for the final exam of this course: Wednesday December 7 at 3:30pm. Final papers must be submitted in hard copy and the *Journal of Gender Studies* online submission system (forward confirmation email to both the instructor and course TA).
GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
(ALL STUDENTS)

TASK

The task of the assignment is to write three questions that will be used in the class discussion.

SOURCES

For discussion questions, the only source is the reading selection assigned. You may draw on outside sources in addition to the course reading; however, drawing on outside sources is strongly discouraged. You should only incorporate outside sources if they are directly relevant. Any sources that you consult should be cited. Any time you take a direct quote, as well as when you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported. You must include a references section at the end of the memo only if you use sources other than the course reading.

COMPONENTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Good discussion questions are open-ended and provide an examination of the theoretical, methodological, and empirical contribution of the text.

Note: Discussion questions should show clear and concise writing and appropriate proofreading; assignments will not receive full credit if they show significant problems with grammar, spelling, word use, typos, awkward sentences and/or improper formatting.

FORMATTING

- Questions included in the body of the email rather than as an attachment
- Heading (name, date, assignment name)
- Questions separated by a single blank line (not numbered or bulleted)

DUE DATES AND SUBMITTING THE ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be assigned articles/books and dates to complete discussion questions; these dates will be emailed to the class posted online after the first day of class. Undergraduate students will complete discussion questions for three of the course meetings. Graduate students will complete discussion questions for six of the course meetings.

Discussion questions must be sent via email to the instructor and course TA. Discussion questions should be included in the body of the email. It is highly recommended that you write your questions in a word processing document, then proofread and edit, then copy and paste into the email.
DUE DATES AND SUBMITTING THE ASSIGNMENTS (continued)

Discussion questions must be submitted by 9:00am the day the class is scheduled to meet. Late discussion questions received between 9:00am and 5:30pm on the day they are due will be penalized 5 points. If the discussion questions are not received by 5:30pm they are considered missed and the assignment will be rescheduled for a different date (up until the readings for the final class meeting). There is a 5 point penalty for rescheduled assignments not arranged in advance. If you arrange to reschedule your discussion questions with me in advance (i.e. at least 48 hours before they are due), there is no late penalty.
GUIDELINES FOR MUSIC ANALYSIS PAPER  
(UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SOC 425/WS 425 ONLY)

TASK

Write a two page paper in which you analyze the lyrics and/or music videos of two songs. Your paper must be a sociological analysis of the themes related to gender and sexuality in the songs.

SOURCES

The data for this analysis will be the lyrics (and music videos if you choose) of two songs from any genre or time period. Since you will be comparing and contrasting the messages of the songs, you should choose songs that are similar in at least one way (e.g. topic of song, artist). State the title of the song, artist, and year of the songs in the text of the paper.

You may draw on course readings or outside sources; however, drawing on outside sources is strongly discouraged. You should only incorporate outside sources if it enhances your analysis. Any sources that you consult should be cited. Any time you take a direct quote, as well as when you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported. You must cite your sources and include a references section at the end of the paper only if you use sources other than the song lyrics.

COMPONENTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Choose two songs from any genre and time period. There should be some similarity as well as differences between the songs in order to make for a meaningful comparison. Obtain the full lyrics to each song. Copy and paste the lyrics for the songs at the end of your assignment (make sure to format and spell check, note that lyrics should be single spaced). In your paper, choose a few themes to address. I suggest you choose a few of the following questions to explore:

- What are the messages about men and masculinity implied in this song? Do the messages challenge or support hegemonic masculinity? What are the messages about women and femininity? Do the messages challenge or support emphasized femininity?
- What are the messages about male sexuality? Female sexuality? Are these messages heteronormative?
- Do the songs objectify women or women’s bodies? Men or men’s bodies?
- What are the messages about class? What are the messages about race and ethnicity? What stereotypes are challenged? What stereotypes are supported? Use an intersectional analysis. How are messages about gender sexualized, racialized, and classed?
- Does the song support or challenge patriarchy, male privilege, and/or male oppression of women? Does the song empower women? Does it support or challenge racism, classism, heteronormativity, and/or homophobia?
The purpose of the writing assignment is to provide an original and critical analysis rather than a summary of lyrics of the songs. The goal is to identify a few themes and use examples from the songs to illustrate these points. In your analysis, you must compare and contrast themes in the two songs. Discussing one song and then the other is not a good strategy for this assignment. Use examples and quotes from the lyrics to support the points of your critique. In this two page paper, keep quotes short. Note that your personal experiences or reactions are not appropriate for a sociological analysis. Assignments should provide in-depth analysis and fully explain all ideas. It is best to choose just a few points to make rather than make superficial comments on many topics.

Note: Assignments should show clear and concise writing and appropriate proofreading; assignments will not receive full credit if they show significant problems with grammar, spelling, word use, typos, awkward sentences and/or improper formatting.

See sample student papers online for further guidance on completing the assignment.

FORMATTING

- Times New Roman, size 12 font,
- One inch margins all around, paragraphs indented half an inch
- All double spaced with no extra blank lines
- Heading in upper right corner (name, date, assignment name)
- Page number in bottom right corner
- Minimum of one and a half pages, maximum of two pages (not including lyrics)
- Print double sided if possible

DUE DATES AND SUBMITTING THE ASSIGNMENTS

Music analysis papers are due in hard copy by October 26 by 5:30pm. Late assignments will be penalized five points per day and late papers will not be accepted after 10 days. Papers may be turned in during class or put in the instructor’s mailbox (Sociology department lobby, Cramer Hall 217). In order to accommodate students who may have multiple assignments or exams due around the same time, or other kinds of commitments that are scheduled in advance, I will grant an extension on writing assignments to anyone who requests one at least 48 hours in advance. You may request an extension in person or via email. I do not grant last minute extensions.

Note: Either the course TA or I will be happy to discuss your paper with you prior to the due date. If you are uncertain whether your song choices or topic is appropriate, I strongly suggest you discuss your plans with one of us before turning in the paper. We will also read a draft of your paper. If you would like one of us to read a draft, bring a hard copy to our office hours (or make an appointment outside of office hours). We will read your draft and provide you with comments. We will not read and comment on drafts sent via email.
BOOK REVIEW
(Graduate Students Enrolled in SOC 525/WS 525 Only)

Task

Choose one of the empirical studies listed below. Write a five-page paper in which you provide a critical analysis of the text.

Sources

You may choose from the following texts (you can buy a copy or borrow one from the library):


You may draw on course readings or outside sources; however, drawing on outside sources is strongly discouraged. You should only incorporate outside sources if it enhances your analysis. Any sources that you consult should be cited. Any time you take a direct quote, as well as when you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported. You must cite your sources and include a references section at the end of the paper only if you use sources other than the text you are reviewing.

Components of the Assignment

There are two parts to the book review: summary and critique. The summary should provide a brief overview of the theoretical framework, research methodology, main findings, and overall argument of the text. This should be accomplished in one short paragraph. You may return to an analysis of these points in the following paragraphs. In your critique of the text, discuss the theoretical, methodological, and empirical contribution of the text. The primary purpose of the book review is to provide an original and critical response rather than a summary of the text. Use examples and quotes to support the points of your critique (in this short paper, limit your use of quotes and use only short quotes).
COMPONENTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT (continued)

Note that your personal experiences or reactions are not appropriate for a sociological analysis. Assignments should provide in-depth analysis and fully explain all ideas. It is best to choose just a few points to make rather than make superficial comments on many topics.

Some questions you might consider in your response:

- What were the strongest points or arguments made? What made them persuasive? What evidence was used? (Be sure you are not simply summarizing points from the reading.)
- What were the weakest points or arguments made? Why were they not persuasive? What was lacking from the evidence provided? What kind of evidence might have been more useful? What issues or perspectives related to the topic were not addressed? What would have been gained by including these issues or perspectives?
- To what degree does this reading incorporate an intersectional perspective? How might the author(s) have more fully examined the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, etc?
- What are the policy implications of the text? What might activists learn from this reading and how might that shape their political strategies?
- Were the research methods appropriate for answering the research question? How might the findings have differed with a different method, sample, or sampling strategy?

Note: Assignments should show clear and concise writing and appropriate proofreading; assignments will not receive full credit if they show significant problems with grammar, spelling, word use, typos, awkward sentences and/or improper formatting.

FORMATTING

- Times New Roman, size 12 font,
- One inch margins all around, paragraphs indented half an inch
- All double spaced with no extra blank lines
- Heading in upper right corner (name, date, assignment name)
- Page number in bottom right corner
- Minimum of four pages, maximum of five pages
- Print double sided if possible

DUE DATES AND SUBMITTING THE ASSIGNMENTS

Book reviews are due in hard copy by **October 26 by 5:30pm**. Late assignments will be penalized five points per day and late papers will not be accepted after 10 days. Papers may be turned in during class or put in the instructor’s mailbox (Sociology department lobby, Cramer Hall 217). In order to accommodate students who may have multiple assignments or exams due around the same time, or other kinds of commitments that are scheduled in advance, I will grant an extension on writing assignments to anyone who requests one at least 48 hours in advance. You may request an extension in person or via email. I do not grant last minute extensions.
FINAL PAPER GUIDELINES  
(ALL STUDENTS)

TASK

For the final paper, you will write and submit a paper to the “Forum” section of the Journal of Gender Studies. This paper must follow the guidelines described by the journal (see below).

SOURCES

All sources should be properly cited. Any time you take a direct quote, as well as when you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. For citing sources, refer to the journal’s requirements http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/cjgsauth.asp. You should also refer to the recently published article in the journal as examples, available online through the library e-reserves for this course.

COMPONENTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The Journal of Gender Studies provides the following guidelines for “Forum” paper submissions:

“Forum welcomes shorter pieces of writing and is open to a wide variety of forms. Submissions should be approximately 1500 words in length [approximately 5 pages double spaced], though slightly longer pieces will be considered. The writing may focus on a sense of engagement through interviews, jointly written pieces arguing opposing views, or responses to earlier articles. It may be questioning in discussing the problems and potential of work in progress or committed in the form of a position piece on a topical issue. It may be the personal voice of creative writing or a reflection on a transforming text or event in the field of gender or impersonal in the presentation of data useful to researchers in that field. Forum is a public space for lively and diverse voices.” http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/cjgsauth.asp

As noted above, a wide variety of styles of writing might be applicable for a Forum paper. Some options most feasible for students in this course:

1. A discussion of a current social issue. You might consider a new law or policy or a current event related to politics or culture. This type of assignment can be either description and analysis or you can take a position on the issue.
2. A personal reflection. Be sure that there is some sociological analysis of gender in this reflection.
3. A report on empirical research you have conducted. This is primarily applicable to graduate students who are in the process of completing a thesis or dissertation. I do not advise that you engage in a new empirical research project as this is likely to be more time consuming than intended for the final paper for this course.
COMPONENTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT (continued)

4. A response to a previous article published in the *Journal of Gender Studies* (the archive of articles can be found online through the PSU library). Some questions you might consider in your response:

- What were the strongest points or arguments made? What made them persuasive? What evidence was used? (Be sure you are not simply summarizing points from the reading.)
- What were the weakest points or arguments made? Why were they not persuasive? What was lacking from the evidence provided? What kind of evidence might have been more useful? What issues or perspectives related to the topic were not addressed? What would have been gained by including these issues or perspectives?
- To what degree does this reading incorporate an intersectional perspective? How might the author(s) have more fully examined the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, etc?
- What are the policy implications of the article? What might activists learn from this reading and how might that shape their political strategies?
- Were the research methods appropriate for answering the research question? How might the findings have differed with a different method, sample, or sampling strategy?

FORMATTING

For formatting of your paper, refer to the journal’s website: [http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/cjgsauth.asp](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/cjgsauth.asp)

See examples of Forum articles available through PSU library e-reserves for this course.

DUE DATES AND SUBMITTING THE ASSIGNMENTS

Papers are due at the time of the scheduled final exam for the course **Wednesday December 7 at 3:30pm**. Late papers will be penalized five points per day and late papers will not be accepted after the end of finals week.

Final papers must be submitted in two ways. First, papers must be turned in during class or put in the instructor’s mailbox (Sociology department lobby, Cramer Hall 217). Second, papers must be submitted to the journal, using their online submission process (see [http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cjgs](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cjgs)). You will receive a confirmation email, forward that email to the instructor and the course TA. You must submit your paper in both ways before you will receive credit for the paper and a final grade for the course.

Note: Either the course TA or I will be happy to discuss your paper with you prior to the due date. If you are uncertain whether your paper format or topic is appropriate, I strongly suggest you discuss your plans with one of us before turning in the paper. We will also read a draft of your paper. If you would like one of us to read a draft, bring a hard copy to our office hours (or make an appointment outside of office hours). We will read your draft and provide you with comments. We will *not* read and comment on drafts sent via email.