

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2025

SO3010 (A3 & VC): Sociology of Gender – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Michael Holland	PHONE:	780-539-2973
OFFICE:	C404	E-MAIL:	mholland@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-11:30 am; or by appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

An inquiry into contemporary and historical concepts, assumptions, and expressions of gender, and their political, personal, cultural, and social implications

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: SO1000.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Kaler, A. (2022). *Gender in society reader*. Oxford University Press.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus and Videoconference (VC).

Note: *Videoconference Student Requirements:* Technology (e.g., webcam, microphone, speakers), Class Participation (e.g., camera on during class, appropriate screen name)

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Explain the key debates, concepts, and theories in gender studies.
- Illustrate the causes and the consequences of gender inequality
- Discuss a range of movements, struggles, mechanisms, and approaches utilized to address gender inequality
- Locate, evaluate and use relevant literature as well as cite and acknowledge knowledge

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Weight
Weekly Discussion Posts	10 %
Gender and Media Assignment	30 %
Active Viewing Assignment (Film)	10 %
Midterm	20 %
Final Exam	30 %
Total	100 %

Weekly Discussion Posts

Throughout the semester, you will engage in weekly discussion posts designed to enhance your understanding of course materials and strengthen critical thinking skills. The class will be divided into two groups based on alphabetical order by last name: one half will respond to a question posed by the instructor, while the other half will reply to their classmates' posts. These roles will alternate each week.

Details about expectations, rubrics, and submission processes will be explained during the first few classes. Posts will be submitted through the myClass platform according to the outlined schedule.

Gender and Media Assignment

Over the semester, you will create a research project exploring the relationship between gender and media. You will choose a specific topic examining how media shapes, reflects, or challenges societal understandings of gender, identity, roles, norms, or representation. The project includes:

- **Topic Selection & Proposal (10%):** Submit a brief topic description, key questions, and significance.
- **Source Snapshot (15%):** Annotate 3-4 key sources with relevance explanations.
- **Research Summary (25%):** Submit a condensed report highlighting main findings.
- **Creative Presentation (30%):** Present findings through a digital poster, video, podcast, or multimedia project. Other formats must be approved by the instructor.
- **Peer Feedback & Reflection (20%):** Provide and receive constructive project feedback

Active Viewing Assignment

We will watch a film this semester related to the topic of gender. Students will engage in “active viewing,” meaning they will take notes during the film. The film will be shown in class, so students must be present during that time for credit unless they have access to the film at home (although, attending in-class is highly recommended for discussion purposes). The film will be announced early in the course.

Assignment Expectations:

- **Viewing Requirement:** Attend the in-class film screening. If unable to attend, ensure access to the film independently (with prior approval).
- **Note-Taking:** Take detailed notes during the film, focusing on key sociological themes related to inequality.
- **Participation in Discussion:** Engage in the post-film class discussion to deepen understanding of the film's sociological relevance.
- **Quiz & Discussion Submission:** Complete a quiz and submit a reflective discussion assignment by **11:59 PM the following day**

Midterm and Final Exam

Note: There are 2 options for the midterm and the final exam for the course. You may choose your preferred format.

Option A will be a closed-book exam written with the class that will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions.

Option B will be an open-book exam that consists of essay answer questions. These questions must be submitted on myClass by the completion time.

There will be a brief review in class before the tests and final exam respectively. These will test your knowledge and application of concepts, theories, and perspectives on the course material (textbook chapters, classroom lectures, discussions, and video clips). The final exam is cumulative but with an emphasis on ‘big picture ideas’ covered throughout the semester.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is less than C-.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Jan 6, 8	<i>Meet and Greet; intro to course</i>	Syllabus/course notes on myClass	
Jan 13, 15	<i>Gendered Ways of knowing Part 1</i>	Chapters 1, 2	Discussion Post 1
Jan 20, 22	<i>Gendered Ways of knowing Part 2</i>	Chapters 3, 4	Discussion Post 2
Jan 27, 29	<i>Gender, Racism, and Racialization Part 1</i>	Chapters 5-7	Discussion Post 3 Topic Selection & Proposal Due Jan 29 at 11:59 pm
Feb 3, 5	<i>Gender, Racism, and Racialization Part 2</i>	Chapters 8-9	Discussion Post 4
Feb 10, 12	<i>Gendered Bodies Part 1</i> Midterm review	Chapters 10-13	Discussion Post 5 Source Snapshot Due Feb 12 at 11:59 pm
Feb 17-Feb 19	Family Day & Winter Break – No Classes		
Feb 24	Midterm		
Feb 26, Mar 3	<i>Film (TBA)</i>	None	Active Viewing assignment due Mar 3 at 11:59 pm <i>No Discussion post</i>
Mar 5	<i>Gendered Families (Mar 6)</i>	Chapters 19-22	Discussion Post 6
Mar 10, 12	<i>Gendered Classroom</i>	Chapters 23-26	Discussion Post 7 Research Summary Due Mar 12 at 11:59 pm
Mar 17, 19	<i>Gendered Workplace</i>	Chapters 27-30	Discussion Post 8
Mar 24, 26	<i>Gender and Media</i>	Chapters 31-34	Discussion Post 9
Mar 31, Apr 2	<i>Gender and Violence</i>	Chapters 35-37	Discussion Post 10 Project Presentation Due April 2 at 11:59 pm
Apr 7, Apr 9	Final Review Course wrap up	All content post-midterm	Final Exam Scheduled by Registrar

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 6 – Classes Start

Jan 15 – Last day to add/drop.

Feb 17 – Family Day

Feb 18 – 21 - Winter Break

March 31 – Last Day to Withdraw

April 11 - Last day of classes

April 14 – 23 - Final Exam Period

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.

If at any point in the semester, you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your coursework, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Please contact me by e-mail for an appointment. **Furthermore, it is your responsibility to track your grades: Please do not contact the professor for such information.**

Submission & Late Policies: It is very important to complete your assignments on time. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day (including weekends). Incomplete tests and assignments will receive a grade of 0% unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me **in advance of any due date**. Extension requests are granted only well in advance of assignment due dates and with valid reasons.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

This course will make extensive use of our course website (myClass) to support your learning. You are expected to keep current with the content of the site, and I advise you to log on often.

Professional Conduct:

- Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.
- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, "How do I get an 'A'?", ask yourself "How can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?"
- Classroom etiquette:
 - Please do not be late for class.

- Avoid the use of cell phones except for course-related activities.
- **Do not disrupt the class**, especially when talking about things non-sociology related
- You will be given a warning and subsequent action will be taken if disruptive behaviour continues, including being asked to leave the class.
- Please only use your NWP e-mail account to contact me to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include “SO3010” (with your section) in the subject line (or I may never even receive your message).
- Finally, in our academic environment, please practice writing e-mails formally, as you will need to do so regularly. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!