

SO3010(A3): 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:	Fridays 10-11 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):

Completed the following:
SO1000 - Introductory Sociology (3)

COREQUISITE(S):

None

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

All readings for this course are available on myClass for free via open-access.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Explain how gender is socially constructed and performed.
- Analyze hegemonic masculinity and emphasized femininity as systems of power.

- Apply sociological concepts to everyday life, media, and digital culture.
- Examine how blocked gender pathways contribute to resentment, isolation, and violence.
- Critically evaluate how gender operates across institutions such as family, work, media, and education.

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.alberta.ca>

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a 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:

Discussions	15%
Doing Gender: Micro-Analysis Portfolio	15%
Film Analysis – The Power of the Dog	15%
Digital Gender & Grievance Project (Proposal 5% + Final 20%)	25%
Take-Home Final Exam	30%

Discussions

Each week, you will respond to a short discussion prompt that connects the readings, lectures, or videos to real-world examples. These are brief, applied reflections designed to help you think sociologically about gender. These are low stakes but consistent, and they reward engagement rather than perfection.

Doing Gender: Micro-Analysis Portfolio

You will complete three short micro-analyses where you observe and describe moments in everyday life where gender is performed, challenged, or reinforced. These may come from social interactions, media, work, school, or public spaces. This assignment helps you apply “doing gender” to real situations.

Film Analysis – The Power of the Dog

You will write a short sociological analysis (about 1.5–2 pages) of The Power of the Dog, focusing on how masculinity, power, gender performance, and emotion are

portrayed in the film. You will use course concepts to explain how gender is constructed and challenged in the story. No outside sources required. The film will be shown in class.

Digital Gender & Grievance Project (Proposal + Final)

This project explores how gender plays out in online spaces. You will first submit a short proposal outlining your chosen topic (e.g., incels, femcels, manosphere, online femininities, microcelebrity, harassment, TikTok norms, gaming culture, etc.). Then you will complete a final digital or written project that applies sociological concepts from the course. Creativity is welcome, but a clear sociological explanation is required.

Final Exam (Take-Home):

The final exam is a take-home, open-book written exam. You will answer big-picture questions using course readings, lectures, discussions, and film materials. The goal is to demonstrate your understanding of key themes in the sociology of gender and your ability to apply course concepts to real examples.

Note: Full instructions and marking rubrics for all assessments will be provided early in the semester.

GRADING CRITERIA:

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

Grading Chart

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:

Week	Topic	Required Readings	Assessments Due
Week 1 Jan 7	Course Overview & Introduction to Gender <i>What counts as "gender," and who gets to decide?</i> Tasks: Icebreaker, concept mapping, course expectations	—	—
Week 2 Jan 12, 14	Doing Gender <i>How is gender performed in everyday life?</i> Tasks: Observation activity	West & Zimmerman (1987), Doing Gender	Weekly Discussion 1
Week 3 Jan 19, 21	Masculinities <i>How do dominant and alternative masculinities shape social relations?</i> Tasks: Masculinity sorting activity	Connell & Messerschmidt (2005), Hegemonic Masculinity	Weekly Discussion 2
Week 4 Jan 26, 28	Femininities & the Body <i>How are femininities shaped through expectations, discipline, and appearance?</i> Tasks: Body norms analysis	Bartky (1990), "Foucault, Femininity..."	Weekly Discussion 3
Week 5 Feb 2, 4	Gender, Sexuality & Power <i>How do gender and sexuality intersect in identity and emotion?</i> Tasks: Performativity application	Butler (1990), Gender Trouble (Intro excerpt)	Weekly Discussion 4
Week 6 Feb 9, 11	Film Week – <i>The Power of the Dog</i> <i>How does film help us understand gender, power, and emotion?</i> Tasks: Film viewing & guided notes	—	Weekly Discussion 5
Week 7	No classes (NWP Winter Break: Feb. 17–21, 2026)		

Week 8 Feb 23, 25	Analyzing Masculinity <i>Exploring hegemonic, fragile, and resisted masculinities</i> Tasks: Film concept mapping	Pascoe (2007), Dude, You're a Fag (Intro)	Film Analysis Due + Weekly Discussion 6
Week 9 Mar 2, 4	Gender & Digital Cultures How do online spaces shape gendered identities and grievances? Tasks: Topic brainstorming	Ging (2019), Alphas, Betas & Incels	Digital Proposal Due + Weekly Discussion 7
Week 10 Mar 9, 11	Microcelebrity & Online Femininities <i>What does gender look like in influencer culture?</i> Tasks: Social media analysis	Abidin (2016), Microcelebrity & Femininity	Weekly Discussion 8
Week 11 Mar 16, 18	Gender, Work & Emotional Labour <i>Why is emotional labour gendered, and how does it affect workers?</i> Tasks: Workplace role analysis	Hochschild (1983), The Managed Heart (excerpt)	Weekly Discussion 9
Week 12 Mar 23, 25	Gender, Violence & Social Control <i>How do gender norms shape vulnerability and harm?</i> Tasks: Case study analysis	Anderson (2005), Gender & Violence	Weekly Discussion 10
Week 13 Mar 30, Apr 1	Intersectionality <i>How do race, class, Indigeneity, and sexuality interact with gender?</i> Tasks: Intersectionality mapping	Crenshaw (1991), Mapping the Margins	Weekly Discussion 11
Week 14 Apr 6, 8	Contemporary Gender Debates	Pearce et al. (2020), The Transgender	Micro-Analysis Portfolio Due +

	<i>How do gender norms influence current social and political debates?</i> Tasks: Debate prep	Moment	Weekly Discussion 12
Week 15 Apr 13	Course Wrap-Up & Exam Review <i>How can sociology help us rethink gender today?</i> Tasks: Study Guide review	–	Digital Project Final Due
Final Exam Period	Final Exam Week Open-book take-home exam period	–	

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course. Your grades are posted to myClass, so please be sure you are tracking them there. If you believe there is an error, please let your instructor know.

Submission, Late Policies, & Issues of Intellectual Concern:

- Meeting deadlines is a key professional skill. Please complete your assignments on time. If you anticipate any issues, contact me in advance so we can discuss possible options. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Late assignments received will be deducted 5% for every late day (including weekends!).
- Incomplete 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 well in advance of any due date.
- In cases where submitted work shows concerning patterns or raises questions about how it was created and the level of intellectual effort involved, you may be required to complete an oral examination about the work at my discretion. Failure to participate in the oral examination will result in a grade of 0 for the assessment. If, following the oral examination, I still have concerns about the work, the academic misconduct provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked below) may be applied.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and

Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Attendance:

Because many activities take place during class time, regular attendance is important. Missed in-class work cannot be made up. If you need to leave class early, please let me know before class begins whenever possible. Repeated early departures without notice may affect your participation grade. Emergencies are, of course, understood.

Devices:

Phones and laptops should be put away during lectures and discussions, unless we are using them for a class activity (polls, worksheets, readings, etc.) or there is an emergency. Off-task device use may impact your participation grade and can be distracting for those around you.

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, and I ask that you afford me and your classmates 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?"
- Please only use your NWP email account to contact me to avoid having your message blocked by spam filters.
- Always include "SO3010" in the subject line, or I may not receive your message.
- Please practice writing emails formally. For example, use a simple greeting, avoid slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name.

Use of AI-Generated Content:

You are expected to complete all course work using your own understanding and effort. Submitting work that is primarily generated by AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Gemini, or similar tools) without permission is considered a form of academic misconduct. Your assignments must reflect your own thinking, interpretation, and engagement with the course material. AI tools may be used in limited ways, such as for brainstorming, outlining, or basic grammar checking, but not for generating full

answers or analysis. If you use AI in any way, you must clearly acknowledge how it was used in your submission. If you are unsure whether a tool is appropriate, please check with me first.