

Sociology 3010 – Sociology of Gender
Winter 2009
Grande Prairie Regional College – Hinton Campus

Instructor: Nancy Robbins

Contact Info: nancypat@telus.net

Class Times: Mondays 11:30 to 2:20

Required Texts: Gender in Canada. Third Edition. Adie Nelson, 2006.

Additional readings are required and will be either posted on Blackboard or provided by the instructor.

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

Student Evaluation:

Weekly reading critique (7)	35%
Presentation & debate	20%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Feminist Theory Assignment	10%
Take Home Final Exam	25%

Weekly reading critique (Value: 35% or 5% each): Students are required to write **seven** reading critiques throughout the semester; each should be a maximum of five typewritten pages. These reading critiques are based on personal insights on the weekly assigned readings.

Part 1: Select a portion or statement in the weekly readings. This should be quoted on the page if space permits or paraphrased. This should be less than one half of a page.

Part 2: Summarize what the author is saying in your selected passage or quote. This should be about one page.

Part 3: Summarize your own opinions, comments, critiques or consensus with the selected passage or quote. Refer to your own experiences if necessary to elaborate your point. This should be at least two pages.

Selections can be as short as a quote within the reading or include entire sections of chapters in the text, for example.

Please note that you cannot critique an article that you have submitted as part of your presentation and debate; however, you can use presentation readings provided by other students.

Student confidentiality will be respected.
A bibliography and footnotes are expected.

Due: weekly beginning January 19, 2009

Feminist Theory Assignment (Value 10%): Choose a gender or women's issue that is important and personal to you. Describe the issue, why it is important and why it relates to your life. Which feminist theory best relates to your issue? What are your thoughts on this theory?

Due: February 9, 2009

Presentation & debate (Value 20%): Each student will select one topic from the list below to present to the class. Students are expected to provide support reading materials to their classmates one week prior to their presentation. Students are given freedom on how they wish to proceed with the presentation and how they interpret the provided topic. Each presentation is expected to be at least 20 minutes.

Grading for this presentation will be conducted by students and the instructor.

Please ensure that all necessary allowances are made to include videoconferencing students.

Presentation readings are to be provided one week prior to the presentation. Students must give the instructor a copy of the reading for the class. Students can provide an electronic reading, which will be posted on Blackboard or a photocopy for the class.

Each student can select their own topic; however, there is only one topic per student and topics are on a first come, first served basis. Topics cannot be changed once they are selected and students are asked not to change topics with other students to avoid confusion.

Students are expected to lead their colleagues in a discussion after their presentation. Guided questions are recommended to help facilitate discussion.

Students are responsible for their own audio-visual, handouts, photocopies, faxes, etc.

Presentation topics:

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|-------------|---|
| February 9 | Language & Communication (presentation readings due: February 2)
<i>Sexual Harassment in the workplace</i>
<i>Sexism in music videos</i> |
| February 23 | Sexuality & Dating (presentation readings due: February 9 - two weeks earlier due to Reading Week)
<i>Abortion</i>
<i>Male Contraceptives</i> |
| March 2 | Violence (presentation readings due: February 23)
<i>Husband abuse</i>
<i>Battered women's syndrome</i> |
| March 9 | Marriage, Parenting & Family (presentation readings due: March 2)
<i>Father's rights Movement</i>
<i>Surrogate Motherhood and In-vitro Fertilization</i> |
| March 16 | Work (presentation readings due: March 9)
<i>Affirmative action / employment equity</i>
<i>Pay equity</i> |
| March 23 | Education (presentation readings due: March 16)
<i>Same sex schools & classrooms</i>
<i>Women's Studies</i> |
| March 30 | Health / Aging (presentation readings due: March 23)
<i>HPV Vaccine</i>
<i>Hormone Replacement Therapy</i> |

April 6 **Ethnicity / Religion** (presentation readings due: March 30)
Veil wearing
Women and Catholicism

April 13 **Equality and Social Change** (presentation readings due: April 6)
Men and Feminism
Women's movement in the 2000's

Due: on date stated above

Annotated Bibliography (Value 10%): This annotated bibliography will give an overview of the sociological literature for your presentation topic. Students are expected to gather a minimum of ten and maximum of twenty sources.

Each resource should be annotated with a brief summary and its relevance to the presentation topic.

Correct bibliographic format is expected.

Due: March 2, 2009

Take Home Final Exam (Value 25%): The final exam for this course will be a take home exam. Students will receive a copy of the final exam in the final class of the course. The final exam will be due one week later.

Late exams will not be accepted. Failure to conform to this time schedule is a failure of the exam.

Exam is available: end of class, April 13, 2009
Exam due: 11:30 am, April 20, 2009

A few notes...

Due dates: Due dates are assigned for a reason. Note that extensions are RARELY given! However, if needed, please see me in advance to discuss why you cannot meet a deadline.

Submission of papers: Assignments and papers are to be typed, spell checked, stapled and neatly presented without any kind of plastic implements attached. They can be submitted to the instructor at the start of class or by fax to the YREC office in Hinton. Students are also required to email a copy of their paper to the instructor to nancypat@telus.net.

Please do not use the drop box under Blackboard as I will not receive it!

I will email you to let you know that I have received your assignment. If you don't hear from me, then I haven't received your paper – it is YOUR responsibility to follow up! If you are late submitting your paper, I will not make a special trip into Hinton to the YREC office to receive it!

Questions regarding assignments: I am always available for questions by email or in person. Please be sure to consult with me prior to the due date.

Sources / Documentation / Plagiarism: Footnotes or endnotes are required for all written work. The MLA format is preferred; however, if you are more familiar with another method, please feel free to use it as long as it is consistent and correct.

Bibliographies are also required where applicable and must be done correctly. Please consult the reference book for assistance or ask me.

Taking something from the Internet? Be sure that your source is reliable and credible and not related to any hate group or illegal activity.

Written work is checked for plagiarism. Unsure what plagiarism is? Consult regulations set out by GPRC at the webpage below if you have any doubts. What happens if you are caught plagiarising? You fail the course – no debate.

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Student%20Misconduct%20Plagiarism%20and%20Cheating.pdf>

Class Participation and Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for this course. Please let me know in advance if you are unable to attend classes.

Behaviour in class: Students are required to be awake, without their cell phone ringing and paying attention in class. Please do not text or receive text messages during class. Please come to class prepared for the day's discussion and topic. Respect for your fellow students is a given. While you may disagree with your colleagues' opinions on specific issues, please show respect for and dignity toward each other.

Abuse of any kind will not be tolerated.

Blackboard: If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard or are lacking in confidence on what to do, please let me know ASAP and I will give you a brief tutorial to help you out. If you don't ask for help, I can't give it!

Information on Grades: Students will receive a percentage mark on all written work and exams in this course. You will also be given by either email or in person a breakdown of your marks on your written work.

At the end of term, your final percentage mark will be translated into a letter grade according to regulations stipulated by GPRC.

Grades will be made available to the student by email or in person in a timely fashion (usually next class). Marks are posted on Blackboard as soon as they are recorded so they may be available in less than a week. Please consult Blackboard before emailing me. If your mark is not on Blackboard, your work most likely has not yet been marked.

I am happy to discuss any grades at any point during the course and at the end of the course in person or by email. Grades are confidential and will only be discussed with the student.

Grades are not changed and are considered final. I am, however, willing to discuss any concerns that you have regarding grading as long as it is respectful and dignified. There are no re-writes or re-submissions of any work because of poor grades.

Alpha Grade	Percentage Range	Descriptor
A+	90-100	Excellent
A	85-89	
A-	80-84	Very Good
B+	76-79	
B	73-75	Good
B-	70-72	
C+	67-69	Satisfactory
C	64-66	
C-	60-63	
D+	55-59	Poor
D	50-54	Minimal Pass
F	0-49	Failure

Course Outline

*** subject to change*

January 12 **Introduction to the Sociology of Gender**

January 19 **Definitions / Nature versus Nurture Debate**

- Reading: chapter 1 and chapter 2
- Weekly Reading Critique

January 26 **Please note that this class is cancelled and rescheduled to Friday, January 30th**

Note: This class is on a Friday at 11:30 am.

January 30 **History / Theories**

- Reading: chapter 3
- Weekly Reading Critique

February 2 **Childhood & Adolescence**

- Reading: chapter 4 (pages 105-140)
- Weekly Reading Critique

February 9 **Language & Communication**

- Reading: chapter 5; presentation readings
- Presentations: Sexual Harassment in the workplace; Sexism in music videos
- Weekly Reading Critique
- Feminist Theory Assignment

February 16 **Reading week – no classes**

February 23 **Sexuality & Dating**

- Readings: chapter 7 (pages 264-306); presentation readings
- Presentations: Abortion; Male Contraceptives
- Weekly Reading Critique

- March 2 **Violence**
- Readings: chapter 7 (pages 306-317); chapter 8 (pages 361-365); presentation readings
 - Presentations: Husband abuse; Battered women's syndrome
 - Weekly Reading Critique
 - Annotated Bibliography due
- March 9 **Marriage, Parenting & Family**
- Reading: chapter 8 (pages 318-361); presentation readings
 - Presentations: Father's rights Movement; Surrogate Motherhood and In-vitro Fertilization
 - Weekly Reading Critique
- March 16 **Work**
- Reading: chapter 6; presentation readings
 - Presentations: Affirmative action / employment equity; Pay equity
 - Weekly Reading Critique
- March 23 **Education**
- Reading: chapter 4 (pages 140-156); selected readings from The Montreal Massacre; presentation readings
 - Presentations: Same sex schools & classrooms; Women's Studies
 - Weekly Reading Critique
- March 30 **Health / Aging**
- Reading: chapter 9; presentation readings
 - Presentations: HPV Vaccine; Hormone Replacement Therapy
 - Weekly Reading Critique
- April 6 **Ethnicity / Religion**
- Reading: Stuckley: Women and Religion: Female Spirituality, Feminist Theology, and Feminist Goddess Worship; Bannerji: Introducing Racism: Notes towards an Anti-Racist Feminism; Dua: Canadian Anti-Racist feminist Thought: Scratching the Surface of Racism; presentation readings
 - Presentations: Veil wearing; Women and Catholicism
 - Weekly Reading Critique
- April 13 **Equality and Social Change**
- Readings: chapter 10; Ryan: Mary Conway; presentation readings
 - Presentations: Men and Feminism; Women's movement in the 2000's
 - Weekly Reading Critique
 - Take Home final exam question distributed in class
- April 20 **Take home final exam due at 11:30 am**