

SOCIOLOGY 3010

Grande Prairie Regional College

GENDER

(Winter 1999)

Instructor: Alan Segal

Office: C410, 539-2011

Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays: 1 - 2pm
Wednesdays: 6 - 6:25pm
By appointment

GOALS:

To explore the variety of meanings and manifestations of gender in individual and social life.

Required Reading:

Gender in Canada - E.D. Nelson and Barrie Robinson

Politics of masculinities - Michael Messner

The end of masculinity - John MacInnes

The arena of masculinity - Brian Pronger

Assignments:

3 Journals - worth a maximum of 2 stanines. Each journal is to be one typewritten page or two handwritten pages. Anything pertaining to education, ideas introduced in class discussions or lectures, class interaction, etc., is suitable. Observations about, and suggestions for, the course are also suitable. No research is necessary or expected. The journals are an informal type of communication with me.

Major Assignment

This can be on any topic that interests you, even one not addressed in class discussions or lectures, providing it is relevant to the course. If you choose to write an essay, do not write a descriptive report. The essay must be an analytical exploration about the ideas you express. If you write an essay additional research is expected (for example books, articles, newspapers, journals). Be precise; reason rather than merely express opinion, and be grammatical. Grammatical mistakes may affect your mark. The required length is 2000 words. Your essay can, however, surpass the word limit. You must include a "Works Cited" section. Your mark will be reduced by a half-stanine for inadequate length. **Type and double-space** the essay. All disks or hard copies must clearly stipulate your name, ID number, date of submission of the essay, and the title of the essay. All assignments must be stapled.

If you write an essay and it is late, a half-stanine penalty per day will be in effect, including weekends. If you hand in your assignment late, have another faculty member or a full-time regular employee of the College sign and date it. In-text referencing and a "Works Cited" section are required, and all documentation must be in the MLA style. Should either reference section be omitted, your assignment will be reduced by 1 stanine per section.

If you opt for a different kind of major assignment, for example a fine arts project, critical thinking must still be evident. Consult with me about how this might be done.

The total of all stanine marks available for assignments is 15. Your marks will be totaled out of 15, a percentage will be obtained, and the percentage will be reconverted to a final stanine grade according to the following table.

Stanine Grade	Percentage Equivalent
9	90 - 100
8	80 - 89
7	72 - 79
6	65 - 71
5	57 - 64
4	50 - 56
3	45 - 49
2	26 - 44
1	0 - 25

NOTE: No class averaging will be done.

NOTE: BONUS possibility: Because class discussion is a vital aspect of this course, you may (but not necessarily will) receive a bonus mark for the **QUALITY** of your class discussion, based on a combination of the frequency and quality of the participation. You will be eligible only if you display

commitment to the course by doing your reading and completing the required assignments. The bonus mark will have a range of 1-3.

DISCUSSION SEQUENCE

1. General introduction

2. **GIC: Chapters 1 & 2**

Can you imagine a society of more than 2 genders? Why speak of gender as a tyrant? Have you ever experienced the tyranny of gender? Prepare to explain the different theories of gender. Which of them impresses you intellectually?

3. **GIC: Chapter 3**

Prepare to explain and discuss the various branches of feminist and other theories of gender.

4. **GIC: Chapters 4 & 5**

What do you perceive in your own histories that indicated, required, instilled, or encouraged particular gender awareness and behaviour?

5. **GIC: Chapters 6 - 8**

How do your own experiences of work, intimacy, and general relationships, underscore, challenge, or defy what is expressed in these chapters?

6. **GIC: Chapter 9**

7. **GIC: Chapter 10; Politics of masculinities: all of it**

How do these readings intersect race, sexuality, gender, and political and social change? Is change desirable or undesirable? Do some forms of change portend greater benefit than others?

8. End of masculinity: Chapters 1 & 5

What is the genesis of masculinity according to MacInnes? Why call his book "The end..."?

9. EOM: Chapters 2 - 4

What does MacInnes mean by the fetishism, crisis, and paradoxes of masculinity?

10. EOM: Chapters 6 - 8

In what ways, and for what reasons, does MacInnes link patriarchy, Hobbes, and the personal?

11. Arena of masculinity: Preface, Chapters 1 & 2

Outline Pronger's basic ideas

12. AOM: Chapters 3 & 4

Why does Pronger write of mythology? What is his view of it, and how does it connect or not with your other readings?

13. AOM: Chapters 4 - 6

Do your experiences in and with athletic culture jibe with Pronger's analysis of it? Does Pronger's introducing of a gay perspective of this arena contribute or not to our ongoing investigation of gender?