

# **Sociology 312: Sociology of Gender**

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## **Course Introduction**

This course is an introduction to the sociological analysis of sex and gender roles in contemporary American society. Using a sociological lens, we will examine how gender shapes, and is shaped by, a variety of institutions, such as families, schools, and the workplace. Through readings, lectures, videos, and discussions/debates, we will explore theories and research on gender roles. The primary focus is on sex and gender within the United States, although global arenas will also be explored. Lectures and assigned work will focus on topics that include the relationship between historical context and gender; constructing gender and sexuality; gendered intimate relationships; gendered sexual behavior and desire; contemporary political movements regarding sex, gender, and sexuality; sexual objectification, gender, and power; gender and sexualities; race/ethnicity and gender; and social class and gender. Students will gain a thorough understanding of diverse viewpoints of sex and gender from both macro and micro sociological perspectives.

## **Learning Objectives**

The goals of this course are:

- To understand how sex and gender organize social life through an analysis of several major agents of socialization, including the family, the workplace, and the media.
- To learn about the consequences of gender, sex, and sexualities for intimate relationships and health.
- To identify documented examples of gender inequality in contemporary American society and critically analyze possible explanations for their origins and persistence.
- To think critically about our own participation in patterns, practices, and institutions that perpetuate gender inequality.
- To sharpen our ability to engage in candid, respectful dialogue about issues that may be sensitive or controversial.

## **Readings**

There is only one required text for the course, available at North Light Books and in the campus bookstore. Some additional required readings may be handed out in class:

Kimmel, Michael. 2013. *The Gendered Society* (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Older editions of the text (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) are also acceptable but be mindful of updated information and different pages and chapter organization.

**This information is subject to change.**