

Sociology 491/570 Fall 2005  
M 9:50-12:30  
Prof. Arlene Stein  
arlenes@rci.rutgers.edu  
Office hours: M1-2:30 (A345 Lucy Stone Hall)

## GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

This course will explore how social movements shape gender/sexual arrangements, focusing on the spectacular rise of religious/social conservatism in American society. We'll begin by trying to understand how conservatives have used the rubric of "family values" to frame their political appeals, looking at a case study of battles over sex education. Then we'll consider the social contexts in which such appeals have emerged, including changes in family structure and patterns of intimacy. In the second part of the course, we'll explore different ways that social scientists have tried to make sense of the rise of social conservatism, including psychological/cognitive analyses, status politics, religious beliefs/networks approaches, and political opportunities and resource mobilization. What do each of these approaches offer the analyst of the right? Are some approaches more valuable than others? Finally, we'll look at the centrality of the issue of marriage in conservative "family" campaigns, considering efforts to prohibit same-sex marriage and promote traditional marriage. What are the normative assumptions that operate within these campaigns? How have they mobilized, and what have been their successes, if any? We'll end with a discussion of whether or not the US is in the midst of a "culture war," and consider the challenges entailed in defining morality in a pluralistic, globalizing world.

Students are required to do all the reading by the date specified on the syllabus, and be prepared to discuss the readings in class. One or two students will co-facilitate each class session with me. Each week, all students will be responsible for emailing me a question about the readings (by Sunday 5pm), which I will print and hand out to the class on Monday. In addition, co-facilitators will prepare a brief presentation that highlights the analytic arguments, salient questions, and points of conflict and contradiction in the readings. Be sure to show how the articles/book reflects the themes of the course, drawing links with previous readings, discussions where appropriate; hand out questions for class discussion. Please do not summarize the readings.

The final paper should make a theoretical argument, analyze original empirical material, make an argument from secondary sources, or some combination of these. It should either use or address one (or more) of the theoretical perspectives or substantive concerns that we have considered in this course. In most cases this will mean drawing on one or more of the readings in the course as well as outside reading. See me if you would like suggested readings on a particular topic of interest. Each student will briefly discuss his/her paper at the final class session. The final paper will be due at the last session as well. Paper topics should be approved by me by week 6. Papers on topics that have not been pre-approved will not be accepted. No late papers will be accepted without prior approval. [Note: syllabus is subject to change.]

### Required Books:

J. Irvine, *Talk About Sex: Battles Over Sex Education in the US*  
C. Burack and J. Josephson, *Fundamental Differences*  
J. Stacey, *In the Name of the Family*

J. D. Hunter, *Culture Wars*  
R. Williams, *Cultural Wars in American Politics*  
G. Lakoff, *Moral Politics*  
J. Jakobsen and A. Pelligrini, *Love the Sin*  
S. Diamond, *Not by Politics Alone*

Books and course packet [P] are available at the Livingston College Bookstore.  
The remaining articles are available on the web, through Rutgers University Library databases,  
and various web sites, listed next to the readings below.

Grades are based, roughly, on the following:

1. Weekly questions (10%)
2. Co-facilitation of class (10%)
3. Class participation (20%)
4. Final paper (60%)

#### PART I. CONTESTING 'FAMILY VALUES'

1. Introduction (Sept. 12)
2. CASE STUDY #1: BATTLES OVER SEX EDUCATION (Sept. 19)

Janice Irvine, *Talk About Sex*

3. "POSTMODERN" FAMILIES AND INTIMACIES (Sept. 26)

J. Stacey, *In the Name of the Family*, ch. 1, 2, 5

- A. Giddens, "Love, Commitment and the Pure Relationship," in *The Transformation of Intimacy* (Stanford, 1992) [P]

4. THE TROUBLE WITH SEX (Oct. 3)

G. Rubin, "Thinking Sex" [P]

J. Jakobsen and A. Pellegrini, *Love the Sinner*, p. 1-73

P. Bearman and H. Brückner: Promising the Future: Virginity Pledges and First Intercourse, *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 106, No. 4 (Jan. 2001) [EBSCO]

J. Haaken and S. Lamb, "The Politics of Child Sexual Abuse Research, in *Fundamental Differences*

#### Part II. ACCOUNTING FOR SOCIAL CONSERVATISM

5. PSYCHOLOGICAL/COGNITIVE APPROACHES (Oct. 10)

John T. Jost, et al., "Political Conservatism as Motivated Social Cognition" *Psychological Bulletin*. Vol. 129, No. 3, 2003.

M. Milburn, et al, "Childhood Punishment, Denial, and Political Attitudes," in *Political Psychology* 16: 447-478

<http://psych.umb.edu/faculty/milburn/milburn.htm>

G. Lakoff, *Moral Politics*, selections

6. STATUS POLITICS APPROACHES (Oct. 17)

R. Hofstadter, "The Pseudo-Conservative Revolt" in *The Radical Right*, ed. D. Bell [P]

Wald, Owen, and Hill, "Evangelical Politics and Status Issues," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 28 (1989) Jan: 1-16 [EBSCO]

K. Luker, "Motherhood and Morality in America," 192-215 in *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood* (California, 1984) [P]

Val Burris, "Small Business, Status Politics, and the Social Base of New Christian Right Activism," in *Critical Sociology*, 27, 1.

<http://sociology.uoregon.edu/faculty/burris.php>

7. RELIGIOUS BELIEFS/NETWORKS APPROACHES (Oct. 24)

J. Himmelstein, "The Social Basis of Antifeminism: Religious Networks and Culture," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 1986, Vol. 25, No. 1.

Bruce Lawrence, "From Fundamentalism to Fundamentalisms," pp. 88-100 in P. Heelas, ed. *Religion, Modernity and Postmodernity* (Blackwell, 1998) [P]

Christian Smith, "Making Sense of Christian America," in *Christian America?*

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/reader/0520234707/ref=sib\\_rdr\\_ex/102-2496016-1749711?%5Fencoding=UTF8&p=S00W&j=0#reader-page](http://www.amazon.com/gp/reader/0520234707/ref=sib_rdr_ex/102-2496016-1749711?%5Fencoding=UTF8&p=S00W&j=0#reader-page)

Charles S. Liebman, "Extremism as a Religious Norm," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 22 (1) 1983:75-86 [EBSCO]

J. Jakobsen and A. Pellegrini, *Love the Sin*, 1-44

8. POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES, MOBILIZING STRUCTURES, FRAMING PROCESSES (Oct. 31)

S. Diamond, *Not By Politics Alone*

PART III. CASE STUDY #2: THE BATTLE OVER MARRIAGE

9. OPPOSING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE (Nov. 7)

Barry Adam, "The Defense of Marriage Act and American Exceptionalism," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 12.2 (2003) 259-276.

J. Stacey and T. Biblarz, "(How) Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter?" in *Fundamental Differences*

Arlene Stein, "Make Room for Daddy," *Gender & Society* Vol. 19, No. 5, Oct. 2005:1-20 [P]

J. Jakobsen and A. Pellegrini, *Love the Sin*, 75-126

10. PROMOTING TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE (Nov. 14)

G. Mink, "From Welfare to Wedlock," in *Fundamental Differences*

N. Campbell, "Reading the Rhetoric of 'Compassionate Conservatism,'" in *Fundamental Differences*

J. Fitzgerald, "A Liberal Dose of Conservatism," in *Fundamental Differences*

Kathryn Edin, "Few Good Men," *American Prospect*, 1/03/00  
<http://www.prospect.org/print/V11/4/edin-k.html>

J. Stacey, *In the Name of the Family*, ch. 4

Institute for American Values, "Can Government Strengthen Marriage?"  
<http://www.marriagemovement.org/gov/gov.php> [download PDF]

PART IV. DOES THIS MEAN WAR?

11. THE CULTURE WAR THESIS CONSIDERED (Nov. 21)

James Davison Hunter, *Culture War*, selections

12. CRITIQUES OF THE CULTURE WAR THESIS (Nov. 28)

R. Williams, *Cultural Wars in American Politics*, selections

13. DEFINING MORALITY IN AN AGE OF UNCERTAINTY (Dec. 5)

J. Hunter, *Culture War*, pp. 295-325

J. Jakobsen and A. Pellegrini, "Valuing Sex," in *Love the Sin*

K. Plummer, "The Square of Intimate Citizenship," *Citizenship Studies*, Vol. 5, No. 3, 2001 [EBSCO]

Benjamin Barber, Introduction, *Jihad vs McWorld: How Globalism and Tribalism Are Shaping the World* (Ballantine, 1985), pp. 3-20 [P]

14. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS (Dec. 12) – FINAL PAPERS DUE