

Sociology of Gender and Sexuality
920:571:01 Monday 1-3:40
Professor Arlene Stein —arlenes@rci.rutgers.edu
Office hours: MW4-5 — 045 Davison Hall

Gender encompasses bodies, subjectivities, social roles, kinship structures, sexualities, and more. The literature is now huge; this course is by no means a comprehensive survey of it. We will survey how sociologists have studied gender and sexuality, with a particular focus on psychoanalysis, feminism and queer theory. The contemporary study of gender and sexuality too often finds itself at an impasse, conceptualizing gender/sexuality either psychologically or sociologically. We'll look at different approaches, and possible ways of integrating them. The course is divided into three parts. In the first part, we will gain an understanding of different theoretical traditions. In the second part, we'll focus on sexuality and its relationship to gender. Finally, we'll consider growing literatures on bodies, the biosocial, and transgender studies.

Learning Goals:

1. To acquire a broad understanding of different theoretical and empirical approaches to understanding sex, gender and sexuality.
2. To critically analyze conceptual and empirical underpinnings of research on sex, gender, and sexuality.
3. To identify emerging debates and literatures in the study of sex, gender and sexuality.

Course requirements:

Class participation (20%). You must do all of the readings, come to class ready to discuss, ask questions, and engage the material in relevant and constructive ways. The success of the class depends upon the active participation of all students. Please be involved in class discussion *every week*. Be sure to read the memo distributed by the discussion leader sufficiently *before* class so that you are prepared to talk about the issues and questions posed in the memo. You should also have read and considered all of the assigned works so that you can raise your own questions and points for discussion.

Presentation/seminar leader (20%). Read, meet with Arlene, prepare presentation and organize discussion for the day. Assignments will be decided during the first week. To promote productive discussion, the week's facilitator is required to write a brief analytic overview of the reading (2 – 3 double-spaced pages) that you will post on Sakai by 6pm on the Saturday prior to our session. ***You should upload your memo into the "Discussion Leader Essays" folder at the bottom of the list in Resources on Sakai and have e-mail notification sent to the class. Please be sure to put the Week and topic in the title of the document.*** These overviews should highlight the core themes and arguments, salient questions, and points of contention in the materials. This will help focus discussion on: key points of argument and/or findings, assumptions of the work, strengths and weaknesses.

Post Two Thoughtful Questions Weekly (10%) on Sakai by 8pm the night before class. You don't have to post the day you are presenting.

Write a 15-25 page paper on a topic of your choice (which must be approved by Arlene in advance) and present a brief summary of it during the final week of the course. (50%) Each student will choose a topic that **must be approved by me by the 3rd week of the semester**. You may choose from the following three types of papers: a critical review and evaluation of the literature; a research proposal; or a paper that includes empirical analysis. Each student will make a 15 minute presentation of his or her paper to the class.

Required Books

Anne Fausto-Sterling, *Sexing the Body*

Suzanne Kessler and Wendy McKenna, *Gender: An Ethnomethodological Approach*

Henry Rubin, *Self-Made Men*

Eva Illouz, *Why Love Hurts*

Recommended Books (for those who need more foundation):

Raewyn Connell, *Gender: Short Introductions, 2nd edition*

Katherine Johnson, *Sexuality: A Psychosocial Manifesto*

All other readings are available where specified online, or Sakai.

Academic Misconduct: I encourage all students to familiarize themselves with the Rutgers University policies and procedures on academic honesty, available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>. All violations of academic integrity, for example, copying or plagiarizing others' work for your written assignments, will be referred to the appropriate authorities and sanctioned accordingly.

Students With Disabilities: In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me at the beginning of the semester. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Week Office of Student Disability Services and must provide verification of their eligibility for such accommodations.

Diversity Statement: The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.

I. Theorizing Gender

Jan. 25. Introduction

Donna Haraway, "Gender for a Marxist Dictionary" in *Simians, Cyborgs, Women*
http://monoskop.org/images/f/f3/Haraway_Donna_J_Simians_Cyborgs_and_Women_The_Reinvention_of_Nature.pdf

Karen Rosenberg and Judith Howard, "Finding Feminist Sociology: A Review Essay," *SIGNS*

Feb. 1: The Sex/Gender Distinction

Simone deBeauvoir, Introduction, *The Second Sex*

Ann Fausto-Sterling, "How to Build a Man," in *The Gender/Sexuality Reader*, ed. Lancaster and diLeonardo

Suzanne Kessler and Wendy McKenna, "Toward a Theory of Gender," in *Gender: An Ethnomethodological Approach*

Robert Stoller, "Biological Substrates of Sexual Behavior," in *The Transgender Studies Reader*

Feb. 8: Gendered Selves

Jessica Benjamin, "Intersubjectivity," in *The Bonds of Love*

Nancy Chodorow, "The Sexual Sociology of Adult Life," in *The Reproduction of Mothering*

Nancy Chodorow, "Gender as a Personal and Cultural Construction," *SIGNS*

Kessler and McKenna, "Development Aspects of Gender" in *Gender: An Ethnomethodological Approach*

Adrienne Harris, "Gender Narratives in Psychoanalysis," in *Gender as Soft Assembly*

Feb. 15. Doing/Organizing Gender

Candace West and Don Zimmerman, "Doing Gender," *Gender & Society*

Barrie Thorne, *Gender Play*, excerpt

RW Connell, "The Social Organization of Masculinity," in *Masculinities*

Karin Martin, "Becoming a Gendered Body," *American Sociological Review*

Feb. 22. States, Markets, Institutions

Joan Acker, "Inequality Regimes: Gender, Class, and Race in Organizations," *Gender & Society*

Elizabeth Armstrong, et al, "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape," in *Social Problems*

Leslie Salzinger, "Revealing the Unmarked," in *Ethnography*

Rosabeth Moss Kanter, "Men and Women of the Corporation"

Kimberly Hoang, Introduction, *Dealing in Desire*
<http://www.ucpress.edu/content/chapters/12178.intro.pdf>

Feb. 29. Intersectional and Postcolonial Approaches

Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought*, excerpt

Saba Mahmood, "Feminist Theory, Embodiment, and the Docile Agent," *Cultural Anthropology*

Leslie McCall, "The Complexity of Intersectionality," *SIGNS*

Julie Bettie, "Women without Class," *SIGNS*

Judith Gerson, "Family Matters: German Jewish Masculinities Among Nazi Era Refugees," in *Jewish Masculinities*, ed. Baader, Gillerman, Lerner

II. Sexualities and Beyond

March 7. Overviews and Classics

William Simon and John Gagnon, "A Sexual Scripts Approach," in *Theories of Human Sexuality*, ed. Geer and O'Donahue.

Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*, 1-28

Ken Plummer, "Homosexual Categories," in *The Making of the Modern Homosexual*
<https://kenplummer.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/homosexual-categories-some-research-problems-in-the-labelling-perspective-of-homosexuality.pdf>

Arlene Stein, "Three Models of Sexuality: Drives, Identities, and Practices," *Sociological Theory*

Carole Vance, Social Construction Theory: Problems in the History of Sexuality,” in *Homosexuality, Which Homosexuality?* ed. D. Altman.

SPRING BREAK

March 21. Feminism, Sexuality and Power

Catherine MacKinnon, “Sexuality,” in *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality Vol. 1*, excerpt

Gayle Rubin, “Thinking Sex,” in *The Lesbian/Gay Studies Reader*, ed. Abelove et al.

Judith Butler, “Against Proper Objects,” *differences*

March 28. Queer Theory, Queering Sociology

Michael Warner, *The Trouble with Normal*, excerpt

Cathy Cohen, Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics? in *Black Queer Studies*, Patrick Johnson, ed.

CJ Pascoe, “Dude You’re a Fag,” *Sexualities*

Joshua Gamson and Dawne Moon, “The Sociology of Sexualities: Queer and Beyond,” *Annual Review of Sociology*

Ghassan Moussawi “Queering Beirut, the ‘Paris of the Middle East’: Fractal Orientalism and Essentialized Masculinities in Contemporary Gay Travelogues,” *Gender, Place & Culture*

April 4. Intimacies

Eva Illouz, *Why Love Hurts*

III. Bodies and Binaries

April 11. Revisiting the Sex/Gender Distinction

Ann Fausto-Sterling, *Sexing the Body*

Shannon Davis and Barbara Risman, “Feminists Wrestle with Testosterone,” *Social Science Research*

April 18. Transgender Lives

Suzanne Kessler and Wendy McKenna, "Gender Construction in Everyday Life," in *Gender: An Ethnomethodological Approach*

Henry Rubin, *Self-Made Men*, excerpt.

Judith Butler, "Doing Justice to Someone: Sex Reassignment and Allegories of Transsexuality," in the *Transgender Studies Reader*

Don Kulick, Introduction, *Travesti: Sex, Gender, and Culture Among Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes*

April 25. Summing Up

No reading. Come ready to pose questions, offer summary statements, and reflect upon the readings we've discussed.

May 2. Presentations

FINAL PAPER DUE – May 10 (UPLOAD TO SAKAI BY 5:00 PM)