

Soc 393(01) Topics in Sociological Analysis: Masculinities
MW4 2:15 pm – 3:35 pm
HSB 204 (C/D)

Professor Arlene Stein
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Office hours: W1-2, and by appt (045 Davison Hall)

What does it mean to be a man? How do societies structure masculinity? How have understandings of manhood changed over time? This course examines the sociology of gender through the lens of contemporary masculinities. Sociologists suggest that masculinity is not simply a matter of biology and natural processes, but that it is socially constructed, and takes different forms. In this course we will employ an intersectional analysis that is attentive to the ways that masculinities vary by race, class, and historical and cultural contexts. One of the main themes of the course is the contemporary politics of masculinity. How might the current political shift to the right in the United States (and elsewhere) be related to gender?

We will look at how sociologists (and historians and psychologists, to a lesser extent) have analyzed varied forms of masculinity in different cultural contexts. How does masculinity develop over the course of a life? What is the relationship between normative masculinity and heterosexuality, and between masculinity and violence? How do masculinities vary by class, race, and ethnicity? We'll also consider gender and sexual nonconformity in relation to homosexualities and transmasculinities, and how they may challenge dominant understandings of masculinity. Finally, we'll explore the possible futures of masculinities and the question if whether can we "build" better men?

Course Requirements

Attendance (15%)
Group Presentation (20%)
Gender Autobiography (10%)
Take-Home Midterm Exam (25%)
Final Exam (or paper) (30%)

At various points I will also ask you to hand in short answers to questions or submit media clips. While these will not be graded, they will figure into your attendance grade.

Required Books

CJ Pascoe and Tristan Bridges, *Exploring Masculinities* (PB)
Michael Kimmel, *Angry White Men*
All other readings available online or on Sakai.

Learning Goals

1. To understand how a sociological perspective can enhance our understanding of gender and masculinity.

2. To develop the skills necessary to read and evaluate social science research in an intelligent and critical manner.
3. To consider major classical and contemporary theorists of gender.
4. To learn how to analyze the social construction of contemporary masculinities.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

You are expected to come to class on time and stay until the end. If you are going to be late or you need to leave early, please send me an email to let me know in advance. Please respect your classmates; this means you should be actively listening to the lectures and discussions, and not reading other materials or writing notes to your friends. Unless we are looking at one of the readings online, computers, tablets, and cell phones will not be permitted in class. Eating in class is not permitted.

Attendance: Absences (as well as arriving late or leaving early) will negatively affect your final grade.

I expect students to attend every class, complete the assigned reading, participate fully in class discussions, and hand each assignment in on time. In addition, I expect every one of you to respect other students in all of our discussions.

Plagiarism: All work completed for this class must be your own. If you cheat (hand in your friend's work or copy directly from the internet or a book, etc.) you will (at the very least) fail the class and your name will be registered with the University. For guidelines and the see Academic Integrity Policy:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Since what counts as plagiarism is not always clear, I quote the definition given in Rutgers' policy:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.

- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other nontextual material from other sources without proper attribution.

Students often assume that because information is available on the Web it is public information, does not need to be formally referenced, and can be used without attribution. This is a mistake. *All* information and ideas that you derive from other sources, whether written, spoken, or electronic, must be attributed to their original source. Such sources include not just written or electronic materials, but people with whom you may discuss your ideas, such as your roommate, friends, or family members. They deserve credit for their contributions too!

Self-Reporting Absence Application: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

I cannot give make-ups for missed exams or quizzes except with a doctor's note.

Students with Disabilities: I will make every effort to accommodate students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me as soon as possible.

Pronouns and Names: Please let the instructor/class members know what name you'd like to go by in this class and your preferred pronoun.

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus.

Jan. 17. Introduction

Pascoe and Bridges, "What is Masculinity?" (*PB*), p. 1-6
<http://dialmformusicology.com/2014/01/08/how-to-read-academic-writing/>

Susan Dynarski, "Laptops are Great But Not During a Lecture or Meeting"
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/22/business/laptops-not-during-lecture-or-meeting.html>

** By Jan. 20: email me a media image of masculinity; be prepared to talk about its significance briefly in class next week. Emails should include subject line: "Masculinity image."

Jan. 22. Masculinity as a Social Construction; Reading Academic Writing

Pascoe and Bridges, p. 12-13

Michael Kimmel, *Angry White Men*, Introduction

"How to Read Academic Writing"

<https://dialmformusicology.com/2014/01/08/how-to-read-academic-writing/>

Jan. 24. Accounting for Male Rage

Michael Kimmel, *Angry White Men*, Chap. 1

HISTORICIZING MASCULINITY

Jan. 29. Race, Class and Manhood

Pascoe and Bridges (PB), p. 37-47 (skim)

Gail Bederman, "Remaking Manhood Through Race and Civilization" (PB)

January 31. In class: "The Crown" (season 2, Episode 9).

Feb. 5. Psychologists and the Idea of "Normal" Men

Barbara Ehrenreich, "Breadwinners and Losers" (PB)

WHERE DOES MASCULINITY COME FROM? COMPARING THEORIES

Feb. 7. The Psychodynamics of Families

Nancy Chodorow, "Sexual Sociology of Adult Life" (sakai)

Feb. 12. Gender Socialization

Douglas Hartmann, "The Sanctity of Sunday Football: Why Men Love Sports" (sakai)

Deborah Rigney, "Boys vs. Girls" (sakai)

Pascoe and Bridges, p. 6-12

Feb. 14. Patriarchal Power

Cynthia Enloe, "Pink Pussy Hats vs. Patriarchy" (sakai)

bell hooks, "Patriarchal Power" <https://www.exposingtruth.com/understanding-patriarchy/>

***GENDER BIOGRAPHY DUE

Feb. 19. Organizing Masculinity

Raewyn Connell, "The Social Organization of Masculinity" (PB)

Feb. 20. Organizing Masculinity—continued

Ying-Chao Kao and Heng-Dar Bih, "Masculinity in Ambiguity: Constructing Taiwanese Masculine Identities Between Great Powers" (sakai)

Guest speaker: Ying-Chao Kao, Rutgers Department of Sociology

FROM BOYS TO MEN

Feb. 28. Masculinity and the Life Course

Richard Mora, "Latino Boys, Masculinity, and Puberty" (PB)

Michael Kimmel, "Gendering the Transition to Adulthood" (PB)

** March 1. 4:30-6pm. Michael Kimmel on "Angry White Men" at Institute for Research on Women, Rutgers. Extra Credit opportunity!

March 5. Sexuality

C. J. Pascoe, "Guys are Just Homophobic" (sakai)

Stephen Marche, "The Unexamined Brutality of the Male Libido,"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/25/opinion/sunday/harassment-men-libido-masculinity.html>. Letters in response:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/02/opinion/sunday/men-women-sex.html>

March 7. Sexuality-continued

Ghassan Moussawi, "Not 'Straight,' But Still a Man" (sakai)

Jane Ward, "Dude-Sex: White Masculinities and 'Authentic' Heterosexuality Among Dudes Who Have Sex With Dudes" (PB)

****TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE**

SPRING BREAK

During break: watch "Moonlight" – director Barry Jenkins. Available for rental on Amazon.

March 19. Read: Michael Boyce Gillespie, "One Step Ahead: A Conversation with Barry Jenkins" <https://filmquarterly.org/2017/02/28/one-step-ahead-a-conversation-with-barry-jenkins/>

MASCULINITY, POWER AND INSTITUTIONS

March 21/28. Men and Violence

Michael Kimmel, *Angry White Men*, ch. 2

Cynthia Enloe, "Beyond Steve Canyon and Rambo" (sakai)

George Mosse, "Shell Shock as a Social Disease" (PB)

April 2. Race, Masculinity, and Criminalization

Victor Rios and Rachel Sarabia, "Synthesized Masculinities: The Mechanics of Manhood Among Delinquent Boys," in PB

Justin Wolfers, David Leonhardt and Kevin Quealy, "1.5 Million Missing Black Men" https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/04/20/upshot/missing-black-men.html?_r=0

April 4. Are White Men Victims?

Michael Kimmel, *Angry White Men*, ch. 3

Raka Ray, "Trumpism and the White Working Class" <http://isa-global-dialogue.net/trumpism-and-the-white-male-working-class/>

Recommended: Michael Messner, "On Patriarchs and Losers: Rethinking Men's Interests," PB

April 9. Violence Against Women

M. Kimmel, *Angry White Men*, ch. 5

New York Times, "We Asked 615 Men How They Conduct Themselves at Work" <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/28/upshot/sexual-harassment-survey-600-men.html>

Jessica Bennett, "The Click Moment: How the Weinstein Scandal Unleashed a Tsunami," <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/05/us/sexual-harassment-weinstein-trump.html>

Emily Steel, "At VICE, Cutting-Edge Media and Allegations of Old School Sexual Harrassment," https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/23/business/media/vice-sexual-harassment.html?_r=0

BEYOND THE BINARIES

April 11. Male Femininity

Karl Bryant, "William's Doll and Me," PB

April 16. Film: "Paris is Burning"

V. Taylor and L. Rupp, "Learning from Drag Queens" (sakai)

April 18. Female Masculinity

J. Jack Halberstam, "An Introduction to Female Masculinity," PB

April 23. Transmasculinities

Arlene Stein, "Transitioning Out Loud and Online" (sakai)

Miriam Abelson, "Negotiating Vulnerability and Fear" (PB)

April 25. Transmasculinities—continued.

Amos Mac, "Masculinity Means"
<https://medium.com/matter/masculinity-means-7c11e2d976b4>

Laurel Westbrook and Kirsten Schilt, "Penis Panics: Biological Maleness, Social Masculinity, and the Matrix of Perceived Sexual Threat" (PB)

April 30. Changing Men

Michael Kimmel, *Angry White Men*, Epilogue

Aneta Stepien, "Why We need to Stop Talking About a Masculinity Crisis"
<https://theconversation.com/why-we-need-to-stop-talking-about-a-masculinity-crisis-88713>

Susan Faludi, "The Patriarchs are Falling, the Patriarchy is Stronger than Ever"
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/28/opinion/sunday/patriarchy-feminism-metoo.html>

Blythe Roberson, "Disney Princes Reimagined as Feminist Allies"

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/11/20/disney-princes-reimagined-as-feminist-allies>

**Final exam: Tuesday May 8, 12pm