



**Course Outline**

**UNIVERSITY STUDIES**

**Sociology 301  
Sociology of Gender Roles  
Spring, 2014**

**3 CREDITS  
6 HOURS PER WEEK**

**INSTRUCTOR: Laura Roberts**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Laura Roberts  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (780) 791-4827  
**E-MAIL:** laura.roberts@keyano.ca  
**OFFICE NUMBER:** S211A

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday 3:00 – 4:00 PM  
Wednesday 3:00 – 4:00 PM

**HOURS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Monday & Wednesday 6:30-9:30 PM Room 205

**PRE-REQUISITE(S):**

None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a study of gender roles from the perspective of social inequality. It will examine the explanations of gender differences from an interdisciplinary perspective, with particular emphasis on sociological explanations. A brief look at historical as well as cross-cultural gender inequalities will also be attempted. The primary focus of this course is on gender differentiation which exists in major social institutions such as family, economy, polity, education and religion, with special reference to contemporary Canadian society.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The major objectives of this course are threefold: a) to inform students about research on gender (which is by no means exhaustive); b) to enable students to critically analyze their views about (particularly) womens' (but not excluding men) gender/sex roles and behaviors in the context of our everyday lives; and c) to enable them to think critically about the issues related to the broader theme of gender.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:**

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the major trends and problems related to gender in contemporary society;
2. Discuss and analyze sociological research on gender roles and behaviours through in-class and online discussions;
3. Critically analyze their views about (particularly) womens' (but not excluding men) gender/sex roles and behaviours in the context of our everyday lives;

4. Apply sociological research skills in the preparation of a research paper and in-class presentation related to topics of gender and gender roles in contemporary society;
5. Identify, evaluate and critically analyze solutions to selected problems related to gender in contemporary society through in-class and online discussions, as well as through in class activities and reflection papers.

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

This course will be largely taught by applying participatory learning tools and techniques, incorporating activities geared towards different learning styles and adhering to the main principles of Adult Education. Therefore, the class will incorporate a variety of learning activities, such as large and small discussion groups, reflection papers, and review of documentary films, in-class examinations, and quizzes. The variety of learning tools applied in this course will enrich student learning and also appeal to a wide variety of different learning styles.

You will be expected to critically engage yourself in the course materials, lectures, and discussions (both online and in-class). You might ask yourself, what does “critical engagement” mean? Well, this means that you will be actively processing what you are learning from week to week, by comparing the various perspectives and concepts you will be introduced to, by challenging what you think you know, and expanding on previous ideas.

In addition, to your “critical engagement” in the class, the following practices will make for a better classroom environment and go a long way towards building and deepening your understanding of the course materials:

- ✓ Read the assigned chapter(s) before class. When you do your readings, focus on understanding the key concepts, try to link examples to ideas, to understand differences and debates in approaches to sociology, to think about knowledge in context, and to ask probing questions about social life. Take notes. Read each chapter twice.
- ✓ Be present, listen, and think. *Turn off your cell phone* (or put it on ‘vibrate’ if necessary) and *turn off the wireless connection on your laptop*. Also be sure to *take notes* on main and supporting points during class.
- ✓ Make sure you attend all classes and contribute positively to the class environment. Engage with lecture material, ask questions, listen to what others have to say, and respectfully add to discussion.

## EVALUATION:

Assignment	Percentage	Due Date
<b>Seminar &amp; Class Participation</b>	<b>20%</b>	Throughout the Course
<b>Class Presentations &amp; Handout</b>	<b>15%</b>	Throughout the Course
<b>Mid-term Examination</b>	<b>20%</b>	June 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2014
<b>Research Paper</b>	<b>15%</b>	June 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
<b>Final Examination</b>	<b>30%</b>	TBA

**1) SEMINAR & CLASS PARTICIPATION (20%)**

Students will be expected to attend and actively participate in all classes. During class seminars students will be expected to demonstrate they are familiar with the week's required readings; students will be expected to discuss, and critically engage in the course materials. Participation will also include regular short response papers, online discussion forums, and quizzes.

**2) CLASS PRESENTATIONS & HANDOUT (15%)**

Students will be expected to prepare two presentations. One presentation will be based on one of the week's topics, it will be expected to be approximately 10-15 minutes in length and include a handout. A second presentation will be based on one of the assigned readings, the students will be expected to choose one of the academic articles assigned and present it to the class. Students will be graded on both their presentation skills and the content of their presentation.

**2) IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAM (20%) – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**

The mid-term exam will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, definitions, and short essay questions. The exam will be administered in class for the full period, and will cover materials from the first half of the course.

**4) RESEARCH PAPER (20%) – June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

A detailed handout regarding the requirements of the research paper will be distributed in class and posted to Moodle.

**5) FINAL EXAMINATION (30%) – June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

The final exam will consist of multiple choice questions, fill-in-the-blank questions, true/false questions, and short essay questions. The exam will cover all course materials with emphasis on the later topics covered in class.

**GRADING SYSTEM:**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>
<b>A+</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>A</b>	Excellent	<b>4</b>
<b>A-</b>		<b>3.7</b>
<b>B+</b>		<b>3.3</b>
<b>B</b>	Good	<b>3</b>
<b>B-</b>		<b>2.7</b>
<b>C+</b>		<b>2.3</b>
<b>C</b>	Satisfactory	<b>2</b>
<b>C-</b>		<b>1.7</b>
<b>D+</b>		<b>1.3</b>
<b>D</b>	Minimal Pass	<b>1</b>
<b>F</b>	Failure	<b>0</b>

**Students intending to transfer to other institutions must receive a minimum grade of 'C-' in order to have their courses transferred for credit. Transfer information on each course is available at the [Alberta Council on Admission and Transfers](#).**

## MISSED CLASSES

Regular attendance is recorded for all classes and is essential for optimal performance in this course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or other legitimate reasons, notify your instructor by e-mail. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from another student. The instructor will not provide notes.

## LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be docked 0.3 points for each day (including weekends) that they are late. In cases of potentially excusable late assignment submissions due to illness or other legitimate reasons, notify your instructor by e-mail.

## TEXT(S)/MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Margaret L. Anderson and Dana Hyshock Witham. (2011). *Thinking about Women: Sociological Perspectives on Sex and Gender, 9th edition*, Toronto: Pearson.

Additional required readings will be posted to Moodle. Be sure to check Moodle regularly for updates regarding additional readings.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

May 15	Last day to drop course(s) for academic program. Courses dropped after this date receive a grade of W.
May 19	College closed (Victoria Day)
May 27	Last day to withdraw from course(s) with 50% refund of tuition fees
May 30	Last day to withdraw from course(s) without academic penalty. Courses dropped after this date receive a grade of WF.
June 2	Midterm Exam
June 9	Term Paper Due
June 18	Final Exam
June 20	Last day of Spring Semester for academic programs

## MOODLE

Go to <http://ilearn.keyano.ca>

This course is supported through Moodle. Assignments, readings, powerpoint presentations, and handouts will be posted on Moodle. Students will be expected to post all assignments on Moodle.

## Access to Moodle

Go to <http://ilearn.keyano.ca>. Log in information will be provided by your instructor. For further instructions please see the Moodle handout. Go to Log In. Type in your student ID number with the dashes in the user name box (000-00-0000). Repeat the same ID number in the password box. A course syllabus will be posted in Moodle. Please check your Moodle frequently. Also, check the S-drive for detailed course outlines.

## Equality, Equity, and Respect

The Keyano College is committed to providing an environment of equality, equity, and respect for all people within the College community. All members of this community are considered partners in developing teaching and learning contexts that are welcoming to all. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to use inclusive language to create a classroom atmosphere in which students' experiences and views are treated with equal respect and valued in relation to their gender, ethnic and cultural background, and sexual orientation.

*Students should consult:*

[http://www.keyano.ca/Committees/IRA/Individual\\_Rights\\_Policy.asp](http://www.keyano.ca/Committees/IRA/Individual_Rights_Policy.asp)

## Plagiarism and Cheating

Every student expects to be treated and evaluated fairly in a course. Plagiarism and cheating robs everyone of this right.

No student may submit words, ideas, or data of another student or person as his or her own in any writing, project, assignment, quiz, electronic presentation, exam, etc. Any work used that is not the student's own must be clearly cited as belonging to someone else. There are penalties for using other's work and not citing it. The Student's Rights & Responsibilities document clearly outlines these penalties and the appeal process.

- No learner can obtain information from another student during an exam.
- No learner can bring unauthorized information (paper or electronic) into an exam or quiz.
- No student can submit work done in another course for grading in this course without the written prior approval of the course instructor.
- No student can submit copyright protected or commercially produced materials as part or all of an assignment without proper citation & permission.

## TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

Please Note: This course outline may be modified to facilitate unforeseen time constraints. Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change. Additional readings, videos, relevant links, and other resources will be posted to Moodle.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENTS</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
May 12	<b>Introduction to Socy 301 Course</b> <b>Matrix of Domination</b>		<b>Response Paper #1 Assigned</b>	
May 14	<b>Gender, Culture, and Sex</b> <b>The Feminist Perspective</b> <b>The Social Construction of Gender</b>	Chapters 1 & 2  Judith Butler <i>Performative Acts and</i>	<b>Response Paper #1 Due</b>  <b>Response</b>	Video: <i>Tough Guise: Violence, Media &amp; the Crisis in</i>

		<i>Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory</i>	<b>Paper #2 Assigned</b>	<i>Masculinity</i>
<b>MAY 19</b>	<b>VICTORIA</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>COLLEGE</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
May 21	<b>Gender, Culture and the Media</b>	Chapter 3  Curtis Forgel & Andrea Quinlan. <i>Lady Gaga and Feminism: A Critical Debate.</i>	<b>Response Paper #2 Due</b>  <b>Response Paper #3 Assigned</b>	<i>Video: Killing us Softly by Jean Kilbourne</i>
May 26	<b>Sexuality and Intimate Relationships</b>  <b>Gender and Families</b>	Chapter 4 & 6  Elizabeth Arveda Kissling. <i>On the Rag on Screen: Menarche in Film and Television</i>		
May 28	<b>Women, Health, and Reproduction</b>	Chapter 7  Susan Bordo. <i>Anorexia Nervosa: Psychopathology as the Crystallisation of Culture</i>	<b>Response Paper #3 Due</b>	
June 2	<b>MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS</b>		<b>EXAM</b>	
June 4	<b>Gender and Social Institutions</b>  <b>Gender, Work, and the Economy</b>	Chapter 5  Marilyn Waring <i>Counting for Nothing: What Men Value and What Women are Worth (Chapter 1)</i>	<b>Response Paper #4 Assigned</b>	<i>Video: Who's Counting?</i>
June 9	<b>Gender, Education, and Science</b>  <b>Gender, Crime, and Deviance</b>	Chapter 10 & 9  Fred Evers, John Livernois and Maureen Mancuso. <i>Where are the Boys? Gender Imbalance in Higher Education</i>  Sherene Razack <i>Gendered Racial Violence and</i>	<b>Research Paper Due</b>	<i>Video: Black Venus</i>

		<i>Spatialised Justice: The Murder of Pamela George</i>		
June 11	<b>Women, Power, and Politics</b>  <b>Women and Religion</b>	Chapter 11 & 8  Alia Al-Saji. <i>The racialization of Muslim veils: A philosophical analysis</i>		Video: <i>Miss Representation</i> Guest Speaker: <i>Hugh Gordon</i>
June 16	<b>Gender and Social Change: Frameworks of Feminism</b> <b>Women and Social Reform: Liberal Feminism &amp; Radical Femiminism</b>	Chapter 12 & 13  Chandra Mohanty <i>Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses</i>		Video: <i>Sisters in the Struggle</i>
June 18	<b>FINAL EXAM IN CLASS</b> (3 hours)		EXAM	

**Notes:**

1. Weekly breakdowns are tentative.
2. Additional readings and/or other resources may be added to Moodle or distributed in class.







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**Laura Roberts, Instructor**

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**Date**

**Reviewed and approved by:**

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**Louis Dingley, Chairperson**

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**Date**

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**Guy Harmer, Dean**

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**Date**