SOCIOLOGY OF SEX & GENDER - 171

John Felice Rome Center
Fall Semester 2020
Tuesday & Thursday 2:15pm-3:30pm
Dr. Sarah F. Maclaren Ph.D
E-mail: smaclaran@luc.edu
Classroom:
Office hour: Tuesday 3.30pm-4.30pm/ by appointment

Course Description

This class is an introduction to the sociology of sex and gender. We will see how sociologists study sex and gender. We will also explore pivotal areas connected to the sociological study of gender: the social construction of sex and gender; the relationships between gender and social institutions; how gender is related to power, religion and politics. First, we will study the social construction of sex and gender in order to analyze the meanings of concepts such as male/female, men/women, gender non-conformity adopting a cross-national perspective. Then, we will analyze how social institutions such as family, educational settings, politics and religion have shaped ideas of gender depending on the contexts in which they have developed. Next, we will look into how gender is connected to social, ethnic, economic and political issues. We will also see how gender is related to power, discrimination and inequality which affect people’s personal lives. Finally, we will also analyze sex and gender in Italy focusing on what kind of ideas were constructed in Italian ‘traditional’ society and how they transformed when Italy became an ‘industrial’ and then a ‘post-industrial’ country.

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes: (Social and Cultural Knowledge)

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. situate their pre-conceived experiences of the naturalness of gender in a particular historical and cultural context
2. demonstrate a global understanding of differences of gender in societies and cultures, and awareness of how they vary according to the society in which they develop
3. define the processes through which sex and gender are socially constructed as well as their relationships with social institutions
4. identity how gender norms about men, women, masculinities, femininities, and gender non-conformity are socially constructed
5. explain how other factors such as class and race have created gender inequality
6. develop sociological awareness that can help to analyze how societies are organized around sex and gender, and how gender shapes each individual and society as a whole.
7. explain what type of gender norms were created in Italian traditional society and how these norms have changed since the post-WW2 period to today
8. demonstrate an understanding of how the Italian norms of sex and gender stem from the familial, social, cultural, religious and political contexts in which they developed.
Required Text / Materials

There are no required books to purchase. The main textbook and other materials are available at libraries.luc.edu or are on Sakai.


Featuring extensive revisions and updates, the Second Edition of *The Sociology of Gender: An Introduction to Theory and Research* presents an introductory overview of gender theory and research and continues to offer a unique and compelling approach to one of the most important topics in the field of sociology. Features extensive revisions and updates and incorporates recent cross-national research on gender. Expands and develops frameworks introduced in first edition. Treats gender as a multilevel system operating at the individual, interactional, and institutional levels. Stresses conceptual and theoretical issues in the sociology of gender. Offers an accessible yet intellectually sophisticated approach to current gender theory and research. Includes pedagogical features designed to encourage critical thinking and debate.

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets twice a week, thus a total of two unexcused absence(s) will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in a lowering of your final grade. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in 1% lowering of the final course grade, for every absence after the “approved limit”.

The Assessment & Grading Components

Course grading:

- The final grade will be calculated as follows:
  - Attendance and class participation 30%
  - Midterm 20%
  - Review 10%
  - Research project 20%
  - Final examination 20%

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100:</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-93:</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89:</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>84-86:</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>70-73:</td>
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<td>67-69:</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-66:</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>59 or lower:</td>
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Graded Assignments:
Please read the JFRC policies about how unexcused absences will affect your final grade.

1. Attendance and Participation (30%):
All the students are expected to attend class and participate in discussion. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class session. Students need to complete the assigned readings and participate in class discussions and activities. The assigned reading materials must be read before (not only after) the lessons as the grade on class participation depends on demonstrating that the texts have been studied. Discussions on the topics dealt with are highly encouraged and are an integral part of the course.

2. Midterm exam (20%):
The midterm exam will consist of short answer questions on the course readings, other materials and topics covered in the first part of the course.

3. Review (10%):
Each student will write a review on a book, an article, a film or a documentary on gender. This provides an opportunity to either explore a subject from the course in more depth or to pursue material not covered in the course. The review will be 6,000 characters long. **Deadline: November 3**

4. Research project (20%):
The students are required to write a critical essay. This is NOT an opinion paper. Your paper must be supported by theory and/or substantive research that has been considered in class. The essay will be 10,000 characters long (including spaces, footnotes and bibliography) **Deadline: November 24**

5. Final exam (20%):
The final exam will consist of answer questions based on the readings and discussions covered in the second part of the course.

**Academic Honesty**
Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml). You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

**Late or Missed Assignments**
Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

**Accessibility Accommodations**
Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.
Course Schedule:

1. Sept. 1
   Introduction to course and syllabus

2. Sept. 3
   Introduction to the theoretical framework of Sociology of Sex and Gender

3. Sept. 8
   Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, Introduction to the Sociology of Gender

4. Sept. 10
   Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, Introduction to the Sociology of Gender

5. Sept. 15
   Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, The Gendered Person

6. Sept. 17
   Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, The Gendered Person

7. Sept. 22
   Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, Gender in Interaction and Institutions

8. Sept. 24
   Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, Gender in Interaction and Institutions

9. Sept. 29
   Documentary

10. Oct. 1
    Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, Work and Family as Gendered Institutions

11. Oct. 6
    Critical Thinking Discussion

12. Oct. 8
    REVIEW

    MIDTERM TEST

14. Oct. 15
    Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, Work and Family as Gendered Institutions

15. Oct. 27
    Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, Gender, Childhood and Family Life
16. Oct. 29
Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, Gender, Childhood and Family Life

17. Oct. 30 (Friday)
Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, Gendered Jobs and Gendered Workers

18. Nov. 3
Film/Documentary
**DEADLINE REVIEW**

19. Nov. 5
Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, Gendered Jobs and Gendered Workers

20. Nov. 10
Wharton, *The Sociology of Gender*, Deconstructing Gender Differences and Inequalities

21. Nov. 12
Gender Roles in Italy and Their Transformation
Worksheet Provided

22. Nov. 17
Gender Roles in Italy
Read:
Chiara Saraceno, ‘The Italian Family from the 1960s to the present’, in *Modern Italy*, vol. 9, 1, 2004, pp. 47-57 (available from luc.edu library)

23. Nov. 19
Gender Roles in Italy

25. Nov. 24
Film/Documentary on Gender Roles in Italy
**Deadline Research Project**

26. Dec. 1
**Critical Thinking Discussion**

27. Dec. 3
**REVIEW**

28. Dec. 8 or 10
**FINAL**