



Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information, <https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

SOC 597: Sociology of Gender

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER
2022
7/11 to 8/11 2022

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: (Name & Title) Dr. Nicole Farris, Associate Professor, Coordinator MS Sociology Program
Office Location: Ferguson Room 218
Office Hours: N/A
Office Phone: 903-886-5169
Office Fax: 903-886-5330
University Email Address: Nicole.Farris@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**
Communication Response Time: 24 to 48 hours, Monday through Friday, 8 to 5

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Dude, You're a Fag, CJ Pascoe ISBN: 9780520271487
Contesting Intersex, Georgiann Davis ISBN: 9781479887040
The New Gender Paradox, Judith Lorber, ISBN: 978-1509544363

The instructor will also distribute other readings as necessary- most likely via email or on the course website.

Software Required Access to the course website
Optional Texts and/or Materials None

Course Description

We are born male or female. We become masculine or feminine. This course will explore the social and cultural construction of gender differences, focusing on contemporary issues. This course will provide an in-depth focus on sexuality, intersexuality, and transgendered people. The course begins with a description of the sociological approach to the study of men and women and how it differs from other perspectives.

We will examine the ways that boys/men and girls/women are socialized differently. Next we will explore gender differences in social institutions including the family and the workplace.

By the end of this course you should be able to understand and apply:

- (1) a sociological approach to the study of men and women, which includes attention to women and men of different cultures, race and ethnicities, sexual orientations, and social classes;
- (2) the social construction of gender in social institutions;
- (3) the social construction of gender in relationships and in interactions;
- (4) sociological methods and theories; and,
- (5) sociological concepts and theories to your personal experiences and to your observations of others.

You should also be able to engage in **critical thinking**. Critical thinkers are able to
-understand many sides to an issue, even if they disagree with the arguments presented;
-analyze course material actively; and
-set aside their personal beliefs and values in order to understand issues from a scientific perspective.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Students will be able to sufficiently analyze and synthesize theoretical knowledge in Sociology of Gender. Assessed Through: Final Grades
2. Students will be able to critically think about complex gender related concepts/knowledge. Assessed through: discussion posts.
3. Students will be able to communicate, express, and discuss complex gender related concepts sufficiently. Assessed through: discussions, assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Ability to navigate the learning management system and a general knowledge of computers and the internet.

Instructional Methods

This course will be conducted entirely via the web. All components of this class are online. We will not meet any time as a class. This course is only administered through D2L. If you need help using D2L, please see the technology services staff for help.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Examples include: Regularly logging into the course website, amount of weekly study and participation time expected, etc.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

900-1000 =A

800-899=B

700-799=C

600-699=D

500-0=F

Assessments

Weekly Discussions 10@ 30pts each	300
Exams 2@150 pts each	300
Article Critiques 4@100	400

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The best way to contact me is by email (Nicole.Farris@tamuc.edu). When you do so, please include your name, which section you are in, and your message. I check email during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm) and I will try to respond within 24 to 48 hours.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Students are expected to hand in assignments on time. If, due to some emergency or illness, this proves impossible, students are required to contact me by way of explanation before assignments are due, and, if necessary, provide evidence of illness.

READINGS: You are expected to complete all readings on time and be prepared to discuss them in class. **There is a lot of reading in this course, none of which is optional.** If you get behind, it will be difficult to catch up. You need to complete the readings prior to the class session in which they will be discussed. You will learn more if you do so. I highly recommend that you take careful notes on the assigned readings so that you can learn more, retain information, and prepare for exams.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Weekly Discussions: A handout with the requirements for the weekly discussions and the grading rubric will be uploaded on eCollege.

Article Reviews: You will be responsible for locating and reviewing four (4) academic journal articles throughout the term. These articles can be on whatever you choose, as long as the subject pertains to gender. You can find more information on how to access academic journal articles through the library webpage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUSeDiKx45c>

Information for the article reviews will be uploaded on D2L.

EXAMS: There will be two (2) exams (one midterm, one final) given over the course of the semester. The exams will be multiple choice and short answer/essay. Each exam will cover material from class/lectures/discussions and readings from your books.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Some important information about the sociology of gender that you should understand in order to master the objectives of this course:

1) *The scientific objectives of sociological research.* Sociologists conduct research in a scientific, objective, and value-free way. Sociologists focus on describing prevalent behaviors or attitudes in societies and explaining these attitudes and behaviors theoretically. The studies you will read about are not personal opinions or political ideologies. Sociologists, like other social scientists, keep their own values and personal biases out of their studies of human behavior. As an example: When sociologists study attitudes about abortion, they do not state whether abortion is 'right' or 'wrong.' Rather, these researchers describe prevalent attitudes about abortion and explain why these attitudes exist.

2) *The goals of sociology when studying men and women.* There are different approaches to studying men and women (biology, sociology, psychology, etc.). Each discipline is going to ask different questions and interpret similar facts differently. Consider this example: If a police officer, firefighter, and architect examine a house, they are going to ask different, but equally important questions ("You need a bolt on your front door." "You need to remove that fire hazard." "You need to work on the foundation of your house.") Each person has the same set of "facts," but ask different yet equally important questions about that same set of facts. In contrast to some scientific disciplines, sociologists look for patterns, not exceptions. A major goal of the sociological study of men and women is to examine the most common or most typical values, behaviors and attitudes (even though exceptions are important).

3) *Sociological studies vs. personal/individual experiences.* Students read about some findings from sociological studies and think, "That doesn't apply to me. It can't be true." Just because you, personally, have not experienced something does not detract from

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

the sociological insight. Some studies might not apply to your personal experience but these studies do indicate social facts about patterns in behavior or attitudes.

4) *Some people will feel threatened by or antagonistic towards the course material because sociologists examine gender inequality and behaviors and attitudes that we take for granted. People have very strong feelings about relationships between and among men and women. Many people feel threatened or hostile when they hear about certain gender issues. It makes sense: gender is a part of our core identity. Biology has something to do with who we are as men and women but sociologists do not focus on the biological aspects. Sociologists focus on environment, group membership, social structure, and interactions (all of these terms will be explained during the course).*

5) *Sociologists do not blame or judge any groups. Sociologists do not judge groups, even when studying issues such as domestic violence or rape. As an example, instead of judging men who engage in violence towards women, sociologists will ask, “What are rates of domestic violence? How do these rates vary by region or culture? Why do women or men who have been abused feel ashamed of it? How do laws about domestic violence influence our attitudes about it? What do beliefs about masculinity have to do with domestic violence?”*

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR 7/11 to 8/11

**** All assignments are due Sunday night
at 11:59pm CST. Please note the
exception for the final week of class ****

Graduate Students:

Lectures 1 and 2: Lorber Chapter 1 and 2; Complete Discussion 1&2	Due: 7/17
Lectures 3, 4 and 5: Lorber; Begin Pascoe; Complete Discussion 3 &4; Article Review 1 Due	Due: 7/24
Lectures 6, 7 & 8: Complete Pascoe; Begin Davis; Complete Discussions 5, 6, 7; Article Review 2 Due; Exam 1 Due	Due: 7/31
Lectures 9 and 10: Continue Davis; Complete Discussions 8 & 9; Article Review 3 Due	Due: 8/7
Lecture 11: Complete Davis; Complete Discussion 10; Article Review 4 Due; Exam 2 Due	Due: 8/11

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.