



Soc 597: 01W: Sociology of Gender
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Farris, Professor
Office Location: Ferguson 218
Office Hours: On Campus: T/Th: 8:00am to 9:30am on campus; Wednesday 10-Noon online and by appointment
Office Fax: 903-886-5330
University Email Address: Nicole.Farris@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**
Communication Response Time: 24-48 Hours, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: **Contesting Intersex**

Author: Davis

Edition: 15

Published Date: 2015

ISBN: 9781479887040

Publisher: Ingram Pub

Price:

- New: \$37.50
- Used: \$30.00
- Digital: \$40.00 (VitalSource, Lifetime Digital Rights)

Dude, You're a Fag (with New Preface)

Author: Pascoe

Edition: (Rev) 12

Published Date: 2012

ISBN: 9780520271487

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Publisher: Ingram Pub

Price:

- New: \$37.45
- Used: \$30.00
- Digital: \$27.95 (VitalSource, Lifetime Digital Rights)

The Handmaid's Tale

Author: Atwood

Edition: 86

Published Date: 1986

ISBN: 9780385490818

Publisher: Penguin Random House

Price:

- New: \$18.00
- Used: \$14.40

Living a Feminist Life

Author: Ahmed

Edition: 17

Published Date: 2017

ISBN: 9780822363194

Publisher: Duke University Press

Price:

- New: \$36.20
- Used: \$29.00

The New Gender Paradox

Author: Lorber

Edition: 22

Published Date: 2022

ISBN: 9781509544363

Publisher: Wiley

Software Required: Access to course website- you need to have an active email username and password. I will post your grades to the course website, as well as your discussions, assignments, and supplemental articles that I see fit to include in lecture.

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

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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, assignment

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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.

Read all announcements posted at the Home Page of the course and read all e-mails sent by me at your My Leo account in the eCollege. If you have problem with your email system, please contact the Instructional Technology office. Do follow university deadlines in schedules given at the university's website and in the undergraduate catalog.

A Note on AI/ChatGPT Use

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their

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instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

For this course, the use of AI is NOT allowed. The use of AI will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment for the first offense. The second offense will result in a grade of F for the course and submission to the academic dishonesty committee.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

GRADING

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

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900-1000 =A

800-899=B

700-799=C

600-699=D

500-0=F

Assessments

Weekly Discussions 10@ 50pts each 500

Reading Responses: 5@100 pts each 500

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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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

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>

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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 assignments.*

Late Assignments:

Students who need extra time may submit assignments (excluding discussion board postings) up to one week after the assignment due date. Discussion board submissions will not be accepted for credit after the deadline except in extenuating circumstances.

A penalty of 10 percent of the total value of the assignment will be applied to the grade achieved on the late assignment regardless of the day of the week on which the work is submitted.

Students who submit assignments more than one week late will receive a grade of zero on the assignment unless they have made prior arrangements with the instructor.

Weekly Discussions: A handout with the requirements for the weekly discussions and the grading rubric will be available on the course webpage. NOTE: Online discussions should not be viewed as similar to a discussion around the dinner table with friends or family where everybody expresses their views, opinions, and beliefs on some topic which they know absolutely nothing about. Online discussions should reflect critical thinking and contain complete sentences that are grammatically correct. This is an academic course and your discussion topics will be linked directly to reading assignments. Your posts, as such, should reflect a certain amount of knowledge on the topic based on research, facts, and data. Cite your sources where appropriate. It is fine to critique, interpret, and occasionally interject an opinion or two, but for the most part, this should be an academic and intellectual discussion of the topic at hand. Always be polite and courteous when responding to someone else's comments or questions. The use of AI/Chat GPT is prohibited.

Reading Responses: There will be 5 book critiques worth 100 points each. These should be 3-4 pages in length (typed, double spaced) and submitted to the appropriate Folder. See guidelines for writing reviews and see the course schedule for due dates of each review. The use of AI/Chat GPT is prohibited.

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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.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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 [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

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

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](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.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:

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Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

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. 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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

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The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

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Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

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

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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 sociological insight. Some studies might not apply to your personal experience but

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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

Everything will be due at 11:59pm via D2L unless otherwise stated.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

| Week | Topic | Read | Assignments | Due Date |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|

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|----------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1: 1/13 | Introduction | Lorber Ch 1-2 | Discussion 1 (50 points) | 1/19 11:59pm |
| 2: 1/20 | Ideas | Lorber Ch 3-4 | Discussion 2 (50 points) | 1/26 11:59pm |
| 3: 1/27 | Ideas/Bodies | Davis Ch 1-2 | Discussion 3 (50 points) | 2/2 11:59pm |
| 4: 2/3 | Bodies/Performances | Davis Ch 3-4 | Discussion 4 (50 points) | 2/9 11:59pm |
| 5: 2/10 | Performances/Intersections | Finish Davis | Critical Response: Davis (100 points) | 2/16 11:59pm |
| 6: 2/17 | Intersections/Inequalities: Masculinities | Pascoe Ch 1-2 | Discussion 5 (50 points) | 2/23 11:59pm |
| 7: 2/24 | Inequalities: Masculinities | Pascoe Ch 3-4 | Discussion 6 (50 points) | 3/2 11:59pm |
| 8: 3/3 | Inequalities: Masculinities | Finish Pascoe | Critical Response (100 points) | 3/9 11:59pm |
| 3/10 | SPRING BREAK | Begin Atwood Introduction to p. 66 | NOTHING DUE | |
| 9: 3/17 | Inequalities: Femininities | Atwood: p. 67 to 148 | NOTHING DUE (read read read) | 3/23 11:59pm |
| 10: 3/24 | Inequalities: Femininities Institutions/Sexualities | Atwood p. 149 to 196 | Discussion 7 (50 points) | 3/30 11:59pm |
| 11: 3/31 | Inequalities/Institutions | Atwood p. 197 to 256 | Discussion 8 (50 points) | 4/6 11:59pm |

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|----------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 12: 4/7 | Families/Future | Finish Atwood | Critical Response Atwood (100 points) | 4/13 11:59pm |
| 13: 4/14 | Future | Ahmed Part 1 | Discussion 9 (50 points) | 4/20 11:59pm |
| 14: 4/21 | Future | Ahmed Part 2 | Discussion 10 (50 points) | 4/27 11:59pm |
| 15: 4/28 | Future/Wrap Up | Finish Ahmed | Critical Response Ahmed(100 points) | 5/4 11:59pm |

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