

Course Syllabus

Course: Sociology 355-200 (The Sociology of Gender)

Fall 2021

Web Course Delivery (class is online only)

Instructor: Dr. Steve Groce

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Text: *Women, Men, and Society* (6th edition) by Claire M. Renzetti, Daniel J. Curran and Shana L. Maier. Additional reading material comes in the form of articles online at my web page. Follow the course outline to know which articles you need to read for which class meetings.

Note: Different versions of Adobe Acrobat react somewhat differently to .pdf files. If you try to open an article from the web page and you get either a blank page or an error message, try the following.

- 1) right click on the link
- 2) click "Save Target As"
- 3) save to your desktop
- 4) either double click on the icon on your desktop, or open Acrobat and then open the file from within Acrobat

Course Objectives:

Our major objective this semester is to examine how women's and men's roles and identities in our society, in every society, are socially constructed. I want you to come away from this class with a greater appreciation for the pervasive influence of gender in your own life and in the very organization and working of society. I would also like you to gain an understanding of the diversity and complexity of gendered experiences in terms of social class, race, sexual preference, and age. We will examine everything from patterns of interaction between men and women at the micro level to the gendered nature of social institutions at the macro level. Please note that this course is an approved elective for the Women's Studies minor.

Attendance:

Since this is a virtual class, any discussion of attendance is unnecessary.

Grade Determination:

I will assign grades on the basis of: 1) three in-class examinations (taken online, all discussion, open-book, open-note format); 2) three out-of-class projects; and 3) weekly discussion questions on Blackboard

I expect you to take exams and turn projects on the days designated in this syllabus. I accept only legitimate, documented excuses. In all other cases I will deduct one letter grade for each day an assignment is late. You will submit your projects and exams to me via email.

I grade on the standard ten-point scale (90-100=A, 80-89=B, etc.). You will have five grades this semester, all of which carry the same weight--the three exams, your overall grade on weekly discussion questions, and the average of your three project grades.

Office Hours:

Again, since this is a virtual class, I will not be coming to campus for office hours. If we need to talk, please call/text me at 270-799-2152. I will also do my best to respond promptly to emails.

Students With Disabilities:

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

The Learning Center (TLC) (located in the Academic Advising and Retention Center, DUC-A330)

Should you require academic assistance with this, or any other, course, there are several places that can provide you with help. TLC tutors in most major undergraduate subjects and course levels throughout the week. To make an appointment, or to request a tutor for a specific class, call 745-6254 or stop by DUC A330. Log on to TLC's website at www.wku.edu/tlc <<http://www.wku.edu/tlc>> to find out more. TLC hours: M-Thur. 8am-9pm, Fri. 8am-4pm, Sat.-Closed, and Sundays 4pm-9pm.

WKU Covid-19 Syllabus Statement

All students are strongly encouraged to [get the COVID-19 vaccine](#). Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in [Kentucky](#), the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center ([SARC](#)): [270-745-5004](#) (voice), [270-745-3030](#) (TTY), or [270-288-0597](#) (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

Tentative Schedule

Week of Aug. 23-27 Introduction; Sociological Perspectives on Gender (Renzetti and Curran, pp. 2-29)

Additional Readings:

Cecilia Ridgeway, "Framed Before We Know It. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/GenderAsPrimaryFrame.pdf>

Murray Webster Jr. and Lisa Slattery Rashotte, "Fixed Roles and Situated Actions"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Fixed Roles and Situated Actions.pdf>

Sociological Perspectives on Gender

Additional Readings:

Tavris, "The Mismeasure of Women"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/tavrisMismeasure.pdf>

Andrew P. Smiler and Susan A. Gelman, "Determinants of Gender Essentialism in College Students"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Determinants of Gender Essentialism in College Students.pdf>

Week of Aug. 30-Sept. 3 Sex, Biology, and Culture (Renzetti and Curran, pp. 31-54);

Film: "Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric"

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10154790608436005>

Additional Readings:

Alda, "What Every Woman Should Know. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/aldawhateverwomanshouldknow.pdf>

Steinem, "If Men Could Menstruate"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/ifmencouldmenstruate.pdf>

Blackledge, "The Function of the Orgasm"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/FunctionofOrgasm.pdf>

Gender and Anthropological Evidence (Renzetti and Curran, pp. 56-71)

Additional Readings:

Mead, (Ward) "Sex and Temperament"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/worldfulofwomen37-54.pdf>

Helliwell, "It's Only a Penis"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/helliwellitsonlyapenis.pdf>

Week of Sept. 6-10 Gender Socialization (Renzetti and Curran, pp. 73-98)

Additional Readings:

Wood, "The Origins and Implications of Gendered Identities"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/woodoriginsandimplications.pdf>

Duckworth and Trautner "Gender Goals: Defining Masculinity. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Masculinity and Peer Pressure in Sexual Activity.pdf>

Denny, "Comparing Gender Messages in Girl Scout and Boy Scout Handbooks"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/GirlScoutsBoyScoutsGenderMessages.pdf>

Merten, "Going With"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Goingwithmerten.pdf>

Tiggermann and Hodgson, "The Hairlessness Norm Extended. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/The Hairlessness Norm.pdf>

Musto, "Athletes In the Pool, Girls and Boys On Deck. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Athletes In the Pool, Girls and Boys On Deck.pdf>

Week of Sept. 13-17 Gender Socialization Assign Project #1 (Monday, Sept. 13)

Additional Readings:

Hesse-Biber, "Becoming a Certain Body"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Becoming a Certain Body.pdf>

Mackey and La Greca, "Does This Make Me Look Fat? Peer Crowd and Peer Contributions to Adolescent Girls' Weight Control Behaviors"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Does this make me look fat.pdf>

Brown and Graham, "Body Satisfaction In Gym-Active Males. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Body Satisfaction in Gym Active Males.pdf>

Fine, "The Dirty Play of Little Boys"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/dirtyplayoflittleboys.pdf>

Messner, "Boyhood, Organized Sports, . . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Boyhood and Sports.pdf>

Gruys, "Does This Make Me Look Fat? Aesthetic Labor and Fat Talk as Emotional Labor in a Women's Plus-Size Clothing Store"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Fat Talk as Emotional Labor.pdf>

Film: "Wrestling With Manhood" Link:

<https://www.kanopy.com/product/wrestling-manhood-0>

Week of Sept. 20-24; Gender and Sexuality Project #1 due (Monday, Sept. 21)

Additional Readings:

Waskul, Vannini and Wiesen, "Women and Their Clitoris"

http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Women_and_Their_Clitoris.pdf

Litewka, "The Socialized Penis"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/malesexuality.pdf>

Franklin, "Men's Sexuality"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Franklinmen'ssexuality.pdf>

Frankel and Curtis, "What's in a Purse? Maybe a Woman's Reputation"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/PursesCondomsWomen'sReputations.pdf>

Dallessandro, James-Hawkins and Sennott "Strategic Silence: College Men. . ."

[http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/College Men and Contraceptive Decisions.pdf](http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/College_Men_and_Contraceptive_Decisions.pdf)

Sweeney, "Masculine Status, Sexual Performance and the Sexual Stigmatization of Women"

[http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Masculine Status, Sexual Performance, and Sexual Stigmatization.pdf](http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Masculine_Status,_Sexual_Performance,_and_Sexual_Stigmatization.pdf)

Messner, "Sexuality and Sexual Identity"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/sexualityandsexualidentity.pdf>

Film: "Sex, Lies and Videotape" (available on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, 123movies, etc.)

Week of Sept. 27-Oct. 1 Exam #1 (online)

Week of Oct. 4-8 Language and Gender (Renzetti and Curran, pp. 144-149)

Additional Reading:

Tannen, "You Just Don't Understand. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/youjustdontunderstand.pdf>

Lee and McCabe "Who Speaks and Who Listens: Revisiting the Chilly Climate. . ."

[http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Gendered Interactions in College Classrooms.pdf](http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Gendered_Interactions_in_College_Classrooms.pdf)

Film: "He Said, She Said: Gender, Language and Communication" Link:

<https://www.kanopy.com/product/he-said-she-said-0>

Week of Oct. 11-15 Language and Gender; Assign Project #2 (Monday, Oct. 12)

Additional Reading:

Henley and Kramarae, "Gender, Power and Miscommunication"

[http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Gender, Power and Miscommunication.pdf](http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Gender,_Power_and_Miscommunication.pdf)

Week of Oct. 18-22 Gender and Deviance; Project #2 due (Monday, Oct. 19)

Additional Readings:

Lyons and Willot, "Alcohol Consumption, Gender Identities. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Women and Alcohol Consumption.pdf>

Stroud, "Good Guys With Guns: Hegemonic Masculinity and Concealed Handguns"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Good Guys With Guns.pdf>

Hlavka, "Normalizing Sexual Violence. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Normalizing Sexual Violence.pdf>

Armstrong, *et al*, "'Good Girls': Gender, Social Class, and Slut Discourse. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Slut Discourse on Campus.pdf>

Film: "Thelma and Louise" (available on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, 123movies, etc.)

Week of Oct. 25-29 Men and Women in the Family (Renzetti and Curran, pp. 171-213)

Additional Readings:

Walzer, "Thinking About the Baby"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/walzerthinkingaboutthebaby.pdf>

Tichenor, "Thinking About Gender and Power in Marriage"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Gender and Power in Marriage.pdf>

Rahilly, "The Gender Binary Meets the Gender-Variant Child. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/The Gender Binary Meets The Gender Variant Child.pdf>

Kane, "No Way My Boys Are Going To Be Like That. . ."

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Parents and Their Children's Gender Nonconformity.pdf>

Work and Gender (Renzetti and Curran, pp. 217-253)

Additional Readings:

Lorber, "Guarding the Gates: The Micropolitics of Gender"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/LorberGuardingtheGates.pdf>

McLaughlin, Uggen and Blackstone "The Economic and Career Effects of Sexual Harassment On Working Women"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/EconomicandCareerEffectsofSexualHarassment.pdf>

Hart, "The Penalties For Self-Reporting Sexual Harassment"

<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/The Penalties For Self-Reporting Sexual Harassment.pdf>

Week of Nov. 1-5 Exam #2 (online)

**Week of Nov. 8-12 Gender and Education (Renzetti and Curran, pp. 101-141); Assign
Project #3 (Monday, Nov. 9)**

Additional Reading:

Hamilton, "The Revised Mrs.: Gender Complimentarity at College"
[http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/The Revised Mrs.pdf](http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/The%20Revised%20Mrs.pdf)

Women, Men, and the Mass Media (Renzetti and Curran, pp. 149-168);

Additional Readings:

McCabe, et al., "Gender in Twentieth-Century Children's Books"
<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/GenderInChildren'sBooks.pdf>

Felmate and Brackett, "*The Simpsons, Family Guy, and South Park*. . ."
[http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/The Simpsons, Family Guy, and South Park.pdf](http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/The%20Simpsons,%20Family%20Guy,%20and%20South%20Park.pdf)

Barriga, Shapiro and Jhaveri, "Media Context, Female Body. . ."
[http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Media Context and Female Body Size.pdf](http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Media%20Context%20and%20Female%20Body%20Size.pdf)

Week of Nov. 15-19 Project #3 due (Monday, Nov. 16)

Gender and Health (Renzetti and Curran, pp. 366-418)

Additional Readings:

Hegelson, "Sexism, Feminism and Medicalism: Decade Review of Literature on
Gender and Illness. . ."
<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/GenderandIllness.pdf>

Satow, "'Macho Men' and Preventive Health Care. . ."
<http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/MachoMenandHealthCare.pdf>

Film: "The Business of Being Born" Link:
<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3w7cvw>

Nov. 22-26 No Assignments (Thanksgiving holidays)

Week of Nov. 29-Dec. 3 Race, Class, and Gender; Film

Additional Reading :

Ridgeway and Kricheli-Katz, "Intersecting Cultural Beliefs in Social Relations:
Gender, Race and Class Binds and Freedoms"
[http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Gender, Race, and Class Binds and Freedoms.pdf](http://people.wku.edu/steve.groce/Gender,%20Race,%20and%20Class%20Binds%20and%20Freedoms.pdf)

Film: "The Color Purple" (available on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, 123movies, etc.)

Week of Dec. 6-10 Final Exam (online)

