

Sociology of Gender 133
Spring 2023
Class #:21520

Prof. Eliza Brown (she/her)
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Office hours: Thursdays 2:00-4:00pm SSB 499
<https://calendly.com/elizaclaibrown>

Class meets in Morgan 101
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:20pm

Course Description:

This course introduces key concepts and debates in the sociology of gender. We will examine gender at the level of individual identity, social interactions, and institutions. This course is grounded in key theoretical approaches and expands to contemporary research on gender inequalities and intersectionalities. We will read texts about the role of gender in a variety of contexts, including within different nations, racial and ethnic groups, age cohorts, and economic positions.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Articulate theories about the sex/gender system and its collapse, “doing” gender, gender performance and recognition, and reproducing gender.
- Apply classic sociological theories about gender to various contexts and contemporary cases such as gender at school, work, and in the family.
- Understand an intersectional approach that brings together gender with social categories and processes including disability, race and ethnicity, sexualities, class, immigration status, and more.

Office Hours

Students are encouraged to come to office hours (a one-on-one conversation outside of class) to discuss course material and assignments. You can book office hours at the following URL:
<https://calendly.com/elizaclaibrown>

Grades are based on:

In-Class Assignments (12 assigned, 9 counted):	30%
In-Class Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	40%

Required Texts:

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. *Sexing the body: Gender politics and the construction of sexuality*. Basic Books, 2020.
Collins, Patricia Hill, and Sirma Bilge. *Intersectionality*. John Wiley & Sons, 2020.

All other readings will be posted on *bcourses*.

Course Policies

Missed In-Class Assignments and Exams

There are no make-ups for in-class assignments. However, in recognition that students may miss class due to illness or emergencies, I will be dropping the three lowest scores from in-class assignments, which will include '0's given out for missed class. There will be an in-class assignment on either Tuesday or Thursday of each week. Thus, there are 12 in-class assignments, two of which are a quiz format, but only 9 of these will be counted in the final grade. For students who miss the midterm exam due to illness or emergency, there will be one make-up session scheduled.

Honor Code

The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." The expectation is that you will adhere to this code. Read the entire [Berkeley Honor Code](#) for more information.

AI

To maintain a sense of fairness and promote independent learning, we are having all in-class assignments and examinations. Students are of course welcome to use AI to accompany the readings to help them understand course material.

Collaboration and Independence

Reviewing lecture and reading materials can be enjoyable and enriching things to do with fellow students. This is recommended. However, all in-class assignments are to be completed independently and should be the result of one's own independent work, unless specifically designated as a group activity.

Incomplete Grades

Students who have substantially completed the course but for serious extenuating circumstances, are unable to complete the final exam, may request an Incomplete grade. This request must be submitted in writing to the instructor. According to the policy of the university, Incomplete grades must be made up within the first three weeks of the next semester.

University Resources and Policies

Accessibility

If you require course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability, contact [UC Berkeley's Disabled Students' Program \(DSP\)](#). Please notify me via email of the accommodations you would like to use.

Sexual Violence and Harassment

If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support from an advocate through the [Center for Advocacy Resources and Education \(CARE\)](#). You can also report sexual harassment, sexual violence, or gender discrimination directly to the University's Title IX Office, the Office for Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination 6 at ask

ophd@berkeley.edu. Faculty can assist you in making a report or accessing resources as needed. Please note: All professors, lecturers, and teaching assistants are considered Responsible Employees under the UC Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment policy. This means they must notify the Title IX office following a disclosure of sexual violence or sexual harassment. For more information about mandated reporting, visit <https://svsh.berkeley.edu/responsibleemployee>

Economic, Food, and Housing Support

If you are in need of economic, food, or housing support, you can find help at [The Basic Needs Center](#). You may be eligible for money to buy groceries via [CalFresh](#). If you are in need of food immediately, please contact the [UC Berkeley Food Pantry](#).

The UC Berkeley Financial Aid Office also offers [Short-Term Emergency Loans](#), and provides a way to request a [Cost of Attendance Adjustment](#). There is also an [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#), which aims to help stabilize housing for undergraduate and graduate students in emergency financial situations by providing them with a month's rent.

Childcare

Student parents are eligible for up to 64 subsidized hours of subsidized [BackUp Childcare](#) per fiscal year. Any parenting students who cannot find childcare are welcome to bring their children to class.

Mental Health Resources

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#): Individual, group, and career counseling for students, crisis drop-in, and after hours assistance.

[Social Services \(SOS\)](#): Counseling and case management for students presenting with alcohol/drug, sexual assault/rape, relationship or other violence concerns; chronic or newly diagnosed medical conditions, pregnancy, medical withdrawals. Support and resources for family housing residents at University Village.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Sex/Gender System

Tuesday January 16

Class 1: Sex/Gender System: Cultural Beliefs

- Ridgeway, Cecilia L., and Shelley J. Correll. "Unpacking the gender system: A theoretical perspective on gender beliefs and social relations." *Gender & society* 18, no. 4 (2004): 510-531.

Thursday January 18

Class 2: Sex/Gender System: Political Economy

- Rubin, Gayle. "The traffic in women: Notes on the " political economy" of sex." (1975).

Week 2: Doing Gender

Tuesday January 23

Class 3: “Doing” Gender

- West, Candace, and Don H. Zimmerman. "Doing gender." *Gender & society* 1, no. 2 (1987): 125-151.

Thursday January 25

Class 4: Doing Racialized Gender

- Pyke, Karen D., and Denise L. Johnson. "Asian American Women And Racialized Femininities: “Doing” Gender across Cultural Worlds." *Gender & Society* 17, no. 1 (2003): 33-53.

Week 3: Gender Categorization

Tuesday January 30

Class 5: Determining Gender/Sexuality

- Westbrook, Laurel, and Kristen Schilt. "Doing gender, determining gender: Transgender people, gender panics, and the maintenance of the sex/gender/sexuality system." *Gender & Society* 28, no. 1 (2014): 32-57.

Thursday February 1

Class 6: Determining Gender/Sex Before Birth

- Bhatia, Rajani. *Gender before birth: Sex selection in a transnational context*. University of Washington Press, 2018. Introduction.

Week 4: Unraveling Sex/Gender Divide

Tuesday February 6

Class 7: Constructing Sex

- Fausto-Sterling, Anne. *Sexing the body: Gender politics and the construction of sexuality*. Basic Books, 2020. Chapters 1-4 (OK to read first edition instead of second edition)

Thursday February 8

Class 8: “Born this Way”

- <https://radiolab.org/podcast/born-way>

Week 5: Black Feminist Thought

Tuesday February 13

Class 9: Intersectionality

- Collins, Patricia Hill, and Sirma Bilge. *Intersectionality*. John Wiley & Sons, 2020. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 (OK to read first edition instead of second)

Thursday February 15

Class 10: Combahee River Collective

- Smith, Barbara 1983. Combahee River Collective Statement (PDF)

Week 6: Masculinities

Tuesday February 20

Class 11: Hegemonic Masculinity

- Connell, Robert W., and James W. Messerschmidt. "Hegemonic masculinity: Rethinking the concept." *Gender & society* 19, no. 6 (2005): 829-859

Thursday February 22

Class 12: Learning Masculinity

- Pascoe, Cheri Jo. "'Dude, you're a fag': Adolescent masculinity and the fag discourse." *Sexualities* 8, no. 3 (2005): 329-346.

Week 7: Midterm

Tuesday February 27

Class 13: Review

Thursday February 29

Class 14: In-Class Midterm Exam

Week 8: Gender and History

Tuesday March 5

Class 15: Gender Identification and Historical change

- Lagos, Danya. "Has there been a transgender tipping point? Gender identification differences in US cohorts born between 1935 and 2001." *American Journal of Sociology* 128, no. 1 (2022): 94-143.

Thursday March 7

Class 16: Changing Policy on Gender

- Ferguson, Jason L. "The Great Refusal: The West, the Rest, and the New Regulations on Homosexuality, 1970–2015." *American Journal of Sociology* 128, no. 3 (2022): 680-727.

Week 9: Gender and the State

Class 17: The State and Reproductive Rights

Tuesday March 12

- Cohen, David S., and Carole Joffe. *Obstacle course: The everyday struggle to get an abortion in America*. University of California Press, 2020. Introduction.

Class 18: The State and Gender-Based Violence

Thursday March 14

- Sweet, Paige. *The Politics of surviving: How women navigate domestic violence and its aftermath*. University of California Press, 2021. Introduction.

Week 10: Local Genders

Tuesday March 19

Class 19: Gender in Communities

- Moore, Mignon R. "Lipstick or timberlands? Meanings of gender presentation in black lesbian communities." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 32, no. 1 (2006): 113-139.

Thursday March 21

Class 20: Changing Community, Changing Gender

- Carrillo, Héctor, and Jorge Fontdevila. "Border crossings and shifting sexualities among Mexican gay immigrant men: Beyond monolithic conceptions." *Sexualities* 17, no. 8 (2014): 919-938.

Week 11 – SPRING BREAK

Week 12: Gendered Labor

Tuesday April 2

Class 21: Women's Work?

- Calarco, Jessica McCrory, Emily Meanwell, Elizabeth M. Anderson, and Amelia S. Knopf. "By default: How mothers in different-sex dual-earner couples account for inequalities in pandemic parenting." *Socius* 7 (2021): 23780231211038783.

Thursday April 4

Class 22: Wages for Housework

- Federici, Silvia. "Wages against Housework"

Week 13: Gender at Work

Tuesday April 9

Class 23: Gender in the Factory

- Salzinger, Leslie. *Genders in production: Making workers in Mexico's global factories*. University of California Press, 2003. Chapter 2: Producing Women, Gender on the Line

Thursday April 11

Class 24: Gender at the Office

- Schilt, Kristen. "Just one of the guys? How transmen make gender visible at work." *Gender & Society* 20, no. 4 (2006): 465-490.

Week 14: Gendered Romance and Dating

Tuesday April 16: Persistence of Gendered Dating

- Lamont, Ellen. *The mating game: How gender still shapes how we date*. University of California Press, 2020. Chapter 1.

Thursday April 18: Managing Gendered Dating

- Brown, Eliza, and Mary Patrick. "Time, anticipation, and the life course: egg freezing as temporarily disentangling romance and reproduction." *American Sociological Review* 83, no. 5 (2018): 959-982.

Week 15: Measuring Gender

Tuesday April 23

- CLASS CANCELLED

Thursday April 25

- Final Review