

**McMaster University**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 2HH3 Sociology of Gender**  
**September -December 2018**  
**Wednesday 7:00pm-9:00pm**  
**Class Location: BSB B135**

**Tutorials: Wed 6:00pm-7:00pm BSB 136**  
**Wed 9:00pm-10:00pm BSB 136**

**Course Instructor:** Dr. Lina Samuel

**Email:** [lsamuel@mcmaster.ca](mailto:lsamuel@mcmaster.ca)

**Office Hours:** Thursday 1:30pm-2:20pm (please make an appointment)

**Office:** KTH-632

**Office Phone Number:** ext 23617

**Course Description:**

This course explores the sociology of gender. We will examine the ways in which gender has evolved historically across space and time. In doing so, we will explore feminist and other theoretical models as they are applied to the study of gender. A sociological perspective brings attention to the different ways in which individuals and groups are positioned in society, and sociological theories regarding gender shed light on the ways in which masculinity and femininity have been constructed in society. We begin by deconstructing dominant concepts in the sociology of gender and the theoretical perspectives that inform the study of gender. We continue with a substantive examination of socialization, and how it takes place through institutions such as the family, the school, and the workplace. We also look at the ways in which gender has been represented in popular discourse and advertising, and further how this representation influences the kinds of activities we choose and the social relationships we establish throughout our lives. We end the course with a continuing examination of the contemporary global plight of women and girls across cultures.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

Through this course, students will:

- Debate and apply sociological theories to analyze the sociology of gender;
- Explore the complexity and diversity of gender construction both historically and spatially;
- Examine historical, social, political, economic forces which shape the gender;
- Be familiar with contemporary quantitative and qualitative research on gender in Canada and globally;
- Think about the ways in social movements have, and can, transform existing gender relations

**Learning Outcomes for Sociology 2HH3**

This course addresses three University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (see, <http://ccl.mcmaster.ca/COU/degree/undergraduate.html>). By the end of the course the student

will be able to critically evaluate the current literature and sociological research in the sociology of gender. Students will be able to critically evaluate the sociological theories that inform the sociology of gender. Finally, students will be able to understand and discuss the historical and social construction of gender.

**Course Format:** 1- 2 hour lecture, once per week (Wednesday) and 50 minute tutorial.

**Grading:** The grading for the course is based on three in-class tests, film reviews, attendance and participation.

**Evaluation:**

**Term 1 Test: (25%)**

**Term 2 Test: (25%)**

**Term 3 Test: (25%)**

**All term tests are the full class period**

**Attendance and Participation 10% (Tas will take attendance each week)**

**Film Review Reflections (15%) (3 marks each for 5 film reviews)**

**Textbook for course:**

Kimmel, Michael S. and Jacqueline Holler. 2017. *The Gendered Society 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian edition*. New York: Oxford University Press

It is important you keep up with the readings. I encourage students to ask questions and discuss work with other students. For the tests you will be responsible for **both** the required readings as well as lecture material.

**Procedures and Rules**

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## **DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

Do NOT fax assignments. Please see your instructor for the most appropriate way to submit assignments.

The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers.

### **1a. Missed tests**

**Students who miss a term test will be assigned a mark of zero for that test unless their absence is supported by university approved documentation.**

The McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self-reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days **and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work.** Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of **1 Academic Work Missed request per term.** It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent more than 3 days, **exceed 1 request per term,** or are absent for a reason other than medical, you **MUST** visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

If your Request is APPROVED and a make-up test is required, you will write the make-up test on the **designated date selected by the instructor.** No student is automatically entitled to a second make up test. It is your responsibility to write the tests on the day in which they are scheduled.

Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (eg. class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and

communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

It is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

### **1b.Late assignments**

- You are expected to complete assignments on time.

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class lecture on the due date. Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of **5%** per day. The Penalty period does include weekends and holidays. **Please make every effort to hand assignments in on the due date.**

Please come see the instructor if you are experiencing any difficulty with the assignment or the material presented in class. Only hard copies will be graded.

Please note that only McMaster emails will be considered official. Emails from other addresses may disappear into the black hole of spam filters.

- You are expected to keep a back-up, hard copy of your assignment in case it is lost.
- **Accommodation provision:**  
Medical Certificate must state that you were ill on the due date of the assignment for a one day extension. For a longer extension you must prove that you were sick during a longer period or prove an exceptional, unforeseen circumstance.

**2. Grade appeals.** The instructor and teaching assistant(s) take(s) the marking of assignments very seriously, and will work diligently to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Nonetheless, mistakes and oversights occasionally happen. If you believe that to be the case, you must adhere to the following rules:

- If it is a mathematical error simply alert the instructor of the error
- In the case of more substantive appeals, you must:
  1. Wait at least 24 hours after receiving your mark.
  2. Carefully re-read your assignment, all assignment guidelines and marking schemes and the grader's comments.

If you wish to appeal your assignment grade:

- A. You must submit to the instructor a written explanation of why you think your mark should be altered. Please note statements such as "I need a higher grade to apply to X" are not compelling. Also, please note that upon re-grade your mark may go down, stay the same, or go up.

B. Attach to your written explanation your original assignment, including all of the original comments. Submit a hardcopy of the package to the instructor during office hours or after the lecture.

C. You will receive a response via email or in person about your re-grade.

**3. Electronic communication and electronic learning technology:** Email communication is rapid, convenient, and efficient—and you are encouraged to use it to enhance your learning and experience in the course. With that said, it is essential that you follow a few rules:

- Assignments will not be accepted via email. You must submit hard copies of your assignments
- All emails must include the course code (Soc. 2HH3) in the subject line.
- All emails should be signed with the student's full name and student number.
- Emails from students will generally be answered within 24 hours of receipt.
- Treat emails as you would any other professional communication.
- All general questions about the course that are NOT addressed on the syllabus and course website should be asked in class. If you cannot figure something out, chances are your inquiry will be useful for the entire class.

**Emails that do not follow these guidelines will not receive a response.**

#### **4. Classroom etiquette**

Students are expected to arrive at class on time. Laptops are allowed in class and should be used for taking notes. Other uses, emailing, web surfing will result in the student's being required to turn off the laptop and it may affect your final grade.

**Coming to lectures late, leaving early, not attending tutorials will impact your final grade.**

**Videotaping and recording lectures is strictly forbidden without written permission from the instructor.**

**Lecture Schedule: (Subject to minor adjustments)**

**(Film Reflections should be no more than 4-5 pages double spaced connecting to both film and lecture material. Film Review Questions will be posted on Avenue prior to the lecture)**

**Wednesday Sept. 5 Lecture 1 (we will have a full lecture)**

Introduction to the Course, Course Expectations and Assessments

Chapter 1 Introduction: Human Beings An Engendered Species

**Wednesday Sept 12 Lecture 2**

Chapter 3 “So that explains it”: Psychoanalytic and Development Perspectives on Gender

Plus: Chapter 2: pages 34-35 “As Nature Made Him”

Documentary: *Dr. Money and the Boy with No Penis* (Film reflection due next class)

**Wednesday Sept 19 Lecture 3**

Chapter 4 Spanning the World: Culture Constructs and Gender Differences

Chapter 5 The Social Construction of Gender Differences

(\*this is a lengthy lecture)

**Wednesday Sept 26**

**Test 1 (Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5)**

**Wednesday Oct 3 Lecture 4**

Chapter 6 The Gendered Family

**FALL BREAK OCTOBER 8 - 14**

**Wednesday Oct 17 Lecture 5**

Chapter 8 The Gendered World of Work

Documentary: *DISH Women and the Art of Waitressing* (Film Reflection due next class)

**Wednesday Oct 24 Lecture 6**

Chapter 7 The Gendered Classroom: Formal Education and the Hidden Curriculum

Documentary: *Her Brilliant Career* (Film Reflection due next class prior to Test 2)

**Wednesday Oct 31**

**Test 2 (Chapters 6, 8, 7)**

**Wednesday Nov 7 Lecture 7**

Chapter 9 The Gendered Media: Difference and Domination, Glamourized and Contested

Documentary: *Killing Her Softly 4* (Film Reflection due next class)

**Wednesday Nov 14 Lecture 8**

Chapter 12 Sexualities Gendered Desires

**Wednesday Nov 21 Lecture 9**

Chapter 13 The Gender of Violence: Domination’s Endgame

Documentary: *It's A Girl* (Film Reflection due next class prior to Test 3)

**Wednesday Nov 28**

**Test 3 (Chapters 9, 12, 13)**

**Wednesday Dec 5**

Final Office hours and Picking up remaining Film Reflections, Closing Comments  
Any issues with the course or assessments please come see me ASAP.

*Have restful winter break! Hope to see some of you in the Winter 2019!*