

SOC 242, sec. 02 Sex and Gender Fall 2008, T,Th 12:30-1:45 Wales 224  
Prof. Noel-Anne Brennan  
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office hours: M, W, 11 AM -noon, Room 315 Roosevelt; or by appointment

**This syllabus is important, but it's not carved in stone. I reserve the right to change or modify it if we decide we need to. I do recommend that you actually read this syllabus, however, and refer to it from time to time. There is useful stuff here. Really. Any student with a documented disability is welcome to contact me early in the semester so that we may work out reasonable accommodations to support your success in this course. One should also contact Disability Services for Students, Office of Student Life, 330 Memorial Union, 874-2098.**

**Course requirements:**

**readings:** are intended to complement the lectures and discussions, and should be completed before the date for which they are assigned. Doing the reading will help you understand the lectures and participate in the discussions.

**Attendance and participation:** discussion is expected in this course, and your participation is encouraged. Everyone's opinion is welcome and will be respected. Attendance is also expected, and absences will affect your grade. There will be discussion and debate groups and you are expected to be prepared and to actively participate in at least six of them at 1% per discussion group for a total of 6%. Attendance and individual participation count for 9% of your grade. If you will be absent for an extended period of time, you need to talk to me.

**team presentation and paper:** you are required to participate in one team presentation of a preassigned topic, and to write an associated paper. The paper is to be your own individual work; the presentation is a collaboration with your team. The presentation will be informal, and should last approximately thirty to forty minutes, after which we will discuss the issues your team has presented. You will need to meet with your team **in advance** to prepare your presentation. Presentations are staggered throughout the semester. **Make sure you know which week your presentation is due, and be there and be prepared!** The presentation counts for 10% of your grade. **The paper** is to be your own individual work, not a team effort. Total length is about five to seven pages. ***You will need references for this paper and a bibliography,*** although your own opinions on your topic are expected as well. You will need at least three

scholarly, academic sources (books, journal articles; they can be online) and as many popular sources (newspaper or magazine articles or movies or youtube videos) as you like. Wikipedia does not count as a scholarly source, although it often has good links. Any of the standard reference sources are fine. For a list of possible reference formats plus examples, look here and pick the one you like:

<http://depts.gallaudet.edu/englishworks/writing/main/style.htm#cbe>

The paper counts for 20% of your final grade. ***\*Please do not email me your papers. I will not accept emailed papers except by prior arrangement.\****

**Exams:** there are three exams, two in class, and a take-home final. The in class exams are each worth 15% of your grade. The final will be a comprehensive take-home exam, open-book, and is worth 25% of your grade. I do not give routine make-up exams. If you miss an exam for a serious reason, you must contact me within forty-eight hours or run the risk of receiving an "F" for that exam.

**a note on cell phones: turn them off during class unless there is a really good reason not to; in that case clear it with me first.**

*If you need help for any reason during the semester, contact me! Sooner is better. I cannot and will not change your grade by allowing you to do extra work after the last class. This is not only against university policy, it isn't fair to the rest of the class.*

**Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism means not only copying a direct statement from a reference without quoting it but also rewording a text or using another author's ideas without crediting the source. If I catch you doing that, you fail the assignment with no chance of making it up and I notify the Dean. If you do it more than once, you will fail the course.**

**required reading:** Caplan, Paula J. and Jeremy B., Thinking Critically About Research on Sex and Gender; Longman, 1999; Disch, Estelle, Reconstructing Gender, Fifth Edition; McGraw-Hill, 2009. Reserved reading, articles noted in this syllabus. Reserved reading is available at the reserve desk in the library and online.

9/4: introduction; stereotypes

9/9-11: methods; culture, read: Caplan and Caplan chapters 1,3; Disch, p. 98, 112, 225

9/16-18: culture and gender; theories of gender, read: Caplan and Caplan 2; Disch, p.212; on reserve Blackwood

9/23-25: socialization; read: Caplan and Caplan 4,5,7, Disch, p. 257, 369, on reserve: Saltzberg and Chrisler

9/30-10/2: socialization and language; read: Caplan and Caplan 10; Disch, p. 226, 383 **TEAM PRESENTATION: Advertising and gender**

10/14-16:catch-up, exam review; **exam on the 16th.**

10/21-23: family and friends; read: Disch, p. 235, 325,350  
Caplan and Caplan 8

10/28-30: race, class and gender; read: Disch, p. 78, 83, 204, **TEAM PRESENTATION: Poverty; who are the poor?**

11/7: health; read: Caplan and Caplan 9,11; Disch, p. 585, 603, 615  
**TEAM PRESENTATION: GENDER AND HEALTH CONCERNS**

**11/4 NO CLASS! VOTE!** 11/6: catch-up, exam review

**11/11 NO CLASS; class meets on Wed 11/12 and Thurs.11/13**  
11/12: exam;11/13: violence, read: Disch, p. 504, 530

11/18-20: violence; read: Caplan and Caplan 6, Disch, p.552 **TEAM PRESENTATION: Domestic violence**

11/25: the workforce; read: Disch, p.433,451, 413  
**11/27 THANKSGIVING VACATION**

12/2-4: workforce; catch-up

12/9: last class, catch-up, exam review; read: Caplan 12; take-home final to be emailed out to you and due Monday Dec. 15