

**SOC 223/WMST 223: Women and Men in Contemporary Society, Spring 2012**  
**Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50am, Faner 1326**  
**Instructor: Kristi Brownfield**

If you need to contact me:

Faner Hall 3433

Mon: 11am-1pm / Tues: 1pm-3pm / Wed: 8am-10am or by appointment

kabrownf@siu.edu (preferred) or 453-7620 (office)

Sociology Dept. Phone: 453-2494

Class blog: <http://soc223.wordpress.com> (be sure to check this page frequently for updates, reading lists, and other information – you will also have an assignment based on the blog)

This class is cross-listed between Sociology and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. It can count toward a major/minor in Sociology or a minor in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

**Required Texts:**

Kramer, Laura. 2011. *The Sociology of Gender: A Brief Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Spade, Joan Z. and Catherine G. Valentine. 2011. "The Kaleidoscope of Gender: Prisms, Patterns, and Possibilities." Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will be able to: (a) demonstrate an understanding of such concepts as gender, discrimination, feminism, and patriarchy; (b) display basic knowledge of gender's significance in U.S. history, culture, and social structure; (c) demonstrate critical thinking about the dialogue emerging from different theories and perspectives pertaining to gender, race, class, and sexuality; and (d) apply concepts from personal and/or family experience to analyze gender as a form of human mutuality that must be understood to enhance the common good.

Gender is in everything we do: what we wear, what media we consume, our interactions and relationships, and even in who we believe ourselves to be. This course is designed to introduce you to a new way of looking at the world – and the instances of gender in it – than you may have been previously exposed to. When you leave this class at the end of the semester, you should be able to think critically and question the assumptions you had about gender and what “being a man” or “being a woman” means. We will explore what we know about gender and how we know what we know through readings, discussions, observations, movies, and online blogs and other websites.

**Plagiarism:**

See the student handbook for a definition of plagiarism. Taking another person’s work and passing it off as your own will not be tolerated in this class. You will receive an immediate zero for plagiarized work. The second attempt at plagiarism will be reported to the university and I reserve the right to give a failing grade for the course at that point.

**Electronics:**

Electronics are welcome and, on some days, will be encouraged in this class. However, your electronics use should be *related to* this class and should not be disruptive to other students. This means please turn off cell phone ringers. Do not play music or videos. No headphones. Be respectful of the classroom

as a learning environment. Please note that if you're being disruptive or I notice your inattention you will be required to write a thousand-word essay about a sociological concept of my choosing.

**Acknowledging Differences:**

During the semester students will be able to share thoughts, opinions, and beliefs about their own experiences. We will also read articles and books that will offer academic perspectives. The differences in these perspectives will add depth and richness to this course. Please be respectful of those differences.

**Support Services Available:**

The university does have a policy in place to help accommodate religious observance by students. Please read the policy online in the catalog: <http://registrar.siu.edu/pdf/ugradcatalog1112.pdf>

To meet the expectations of this course, persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations are encouraged to bring this to my attention as soon as possible. Written documentation of the disability should be submitted during the first week of the semester along with a request for special accommodations. Contact the SIU Disability Support Services (DSS) to facilitate requests:

Woody Hall B-150, Carbondale, IL 62901, Mail Code: 4705  
DSSsiu@siu.edu Ph: (618) 453-5738 Fax: (618) 453-5700 TTY: (618) 453-2293

Saluki Cares: The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIUC will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. To make a referral to Saluki Cares click, call, or send: [www.salukicare.siu.edu](http://www.salukicare.siu.edu); (618) 453-5714, or [siucare@siu.edu](mailto:siucare@siu.edu).

Writing Center: I urge you to take advantage of SIUC's writing center throughout the semester. They offer free tutoring services to improve writing skills. You can find more information online: <http://write.siu.edu/>

**Emergency Procedures:**

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, on BERT's website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety's website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu), and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

The instructor will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The BERT Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

Midterm Exam: 100 points  
Final Exam: 100 points

Blog Discussion Participation: 10 points each x 12 weeks = 120 points  
Response Papers: 20 points each x 4 papers = 80 points  
In-class Exercises, Quizzes: 50 points  
Presentations: 25 points each x 2 presentations = 50 points  
Total possible points: 500 points

**Grading Scale:**

450 or above – A  
400 to 449 – B  
350 to 399 – C  
300 to 349 – D  
299 or below – F

*Participation and Attendance:*

I expect students to attend class every day and to come to class on Mondays having reviewed the assigned readings for that week, which we will discuss as the week progresses. I keep track of attendance, participation in classroom discussions, and visits to my office, all of which I take into consideration if your final grade is borderline. The more often you are here, participate, and come see me if needed, the more likely I am to raise a borderline grade. The more frequently you are absent without telling me why, or you come in late, the less likely I am to raise a borderline grade. Do not be late for class. Being late is disruptive and disrespectful.

While there is no official attendance policy -- you will lose points on classroom activities by not being here. These activities cannot be made up and must be completed in class on the day they are assigned. In class activities will count for ten percent of your grade! Further, missing lectures and discussions will result in lower grades on the assignments you have to complete outside of class. If you want a good grade in this class, be in your seats.

*Midterm and Final Exams:*

You will have 2 take home exams during the semester, each worth 100 points. The exams will be a mix of short answer questions and essay. Exams should be typed using 12-point, double-spaced font. Our exams will cover material from the readings, lectures, class discussions, movies, or online materials and *will be cumulative*. Do your own work! No blocks of quotes from the course materials! No use of Wikipedia!

*Blog Discussion Participation:*

Students are expected to finish all the readings before class and participate in the discussion of the reading materials in class. In addition to in class discussions, the readings will be posted weekly on the class blog. Everyone is expected to post a 250-word response analyzing aspects of the readings due by 9am on Fridays. Some suggested topics to write about:

- Questions the readings raised for you
- Videos, articles, or other interesting internet-based material that is related to the readings (along with a discussion of how they are related)
- Applying sociological theories and ideas in the readings to gender in your life (e.g., how you act, popular culture you consume, etc.)
- Responses and thoughts – connected to the readings – to things other people have posted to the group

You are required to post to the blog at least twelve times. To post on the blog, you may register a (free) Wordpress.com account. You do not have to use your full name, or even your real name, when you do this, so long as I know which account is yours! So, if you decide to name your account 'soc223student' that's fine but I need to know that the person posting under the name 'soc223student' is actually "John Smith." You may also post comments using your Twitter or Facebook accounts, if you have them. I will ask you to turn in your account names on a sheet of paper on Monday 08/23/2011 (week two).

#### *Response Papers:*

There will be four short out-of-class writing assignments due on Mondays, each worth 20 points, this semester as well. These assignments will range from one to three pages long. These are reflective writing assignments; I want to read your honest reactions to the topics we discuss in each unit as well as your thoughts about the class discussions and how your classmates view the world – especially if their viewpoint is different from yours!

#### *Exercises and Quizzes:*

There will be a variety of different in-class exercises throughout the semester. Examples of these activities may be formal debates, gender scavenger hunts, media content analysis, and so forth. There will be no make-ups for these assignments so if you are not in class the day the assignment is given, you will receive no points!

#### *Presentations:*

You will be asked to give two presentations throughout the course of the semester: a short, 3-5 minute presentation and a longer 5-7 minute presentation. These presentations will be timed so please make sure you are prepared.

The first presentation will be on an element of popular culture relating specifically to gender you wish to share with the class. This could be a clip from a movie, a segment from a television show, song lyrics, a book, advertising, a set of clothing or an outfit, or even a video game. Your presentation should include a sample from your source (lasting no more than 90 seconds if this is a video clip) and then a short discussion of: (1) how your element relates to the course and (2) what you thought of the element. I will demonstrate the format on the first class period. Fridays will be set aside for presentations and will begin during week 2 (01/27/2012).

Your longer presentations will follow the same format as the individual presentations, but I will assign each student a particular concept we have or will have discussed in the course. Students must then find an element they think is a good example of that concept. So, for example, if you are assigned the concept of "power," you might want to talk about the presentation of a president on the television show *24*.

At the time you are scheduled to present you must turn in a typed sheet of paper with your name, the element you are presenting (with appropriate links, if it is available online), and a brief (no more than a paragraph) summary of your presentation.

#### **Turning Work In:**

I ask that students turn their work in digitally through email [kabrownf@siu.edu]. All work should be sent by 9:00am on the day that it is due. Assignments should be turned in as PDF or Word (.doc or .docx) files. No other formats will be accepted. **No late work will be accepted.**

**Tentative Course Schedule:** (topics/readings subject to change)

KOG: Kaleidoscope of Gender

SOG: Sociology of Gender

**Week 1 (01/18, 01/20): Course introduction**

Readings: SOG Introduction

**Week 2 (01/23, 01/25, 01/27): Introduction to sex and gender**

Readings: KOG: 1 (Risman), 2 (Lucal), 3 (Preves), 4 (Sapolsky)

View: Barbie & Ken & American Girl doll pictures

[<http://www.flickr.com/photos/22691138@N05/sets/72157603693131721/>]

Listen to: <http://www.studio360.org/2009/feb/13/barbie/> – NPR's American Icon show on Barbie

**Week 3 (01/30, 02/01, 02/03): Learning and doing gender**

Readings: SOG 3

Pascoe: Becoming Mr. Cougar (website)

KOG: 19 (Gilbert)

View: Jane Austen Fight Club [<http://www.funnyordie.com/videos/efeb4dc1b6/jane-austen-s-fight-club>]

**Week 4 (02/06, 02/08, 02/10): Gender and intersections**

Readings: KOG: 7 (Collins), 8 (Pyke and Johnson), 9 (McCall)

View: black womyn: leah

[[http://www.youtube.com/watch?playnext=1&index=0&feature=Playlist&v=ICWODR\\_bnCs&list=PL613F012AODEB5826](http://www.youtube.com/watch?playnext=1&index=0&feature=Playlist&v=ICWODR_bnCs&list=PL613F012AODEB5826)]

*Response Paper 1 Due: 02/06/2012*

**Week 5 (02/13, 02/15, 02/17): Gender and culture**

Readings: SOG 2

KOG: 17 (Baker-Sperry and Grauerholz), 20 (Ezell), 21 (Nelson), 22 (Nakano Glenn), 24 (Kim and Chung)

View: Collection of Twilight parodies and spoofs [<http://www.squidoo.com/twilight-spoof>], Ladies, Don't Let Anyone Tell You You're Not Awesome by Sarah Rees Brennan

[<http://sarahtales.livejournal.com/188663.html>]

**Week 6 (02/20, 02/22, 02/24): Gender and (other) culture**

Readings: KOG: 10 (Helliwell), 11 (Newland), 13 (George), 14 (Lepowsky)

Read: Yes, This Woman is a "Mail-Order Bride" [<http://www.glamour.com/sex-love-life/2009/06/yes-this-woman-is-a-mail-order-bride>]

**Week 7 (02/27, 02/29, 03/02): Gender and the body**

Readings: KOG: 26 (Mernissi), 27 Sasson-Levy), 30 (Lois)

Watch: Killing Us Softly 4 (in-class, 03/02 – presentations will be completed on Wednesday)

View: Onslaught/Beauty Pressure [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ei6JvKOW60I>],

*Response Paper 2 Due: 02/27/2012*

**Week 8 (03/05, 03/07, 03/09): Gender and sexuality**

**Midterm exam due: 03/09/2012**

Readings: KOG: 12 (Collins), 23 Calasanti and King), 28 (Trautner), 29 (Gavey, McPhillips, and Doherty), 40 (Dunne)

Read: More women than men being dismissed from the military for being gay  
[[http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/10/09/military.gays.dismissals/index.html?eref=rss\\_topstories](http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/10/09/military.gays.dismissals/index.html?eref=rss_topstories)]

View: Classic Disney Movies [<http://www.cracked.com/funny-4485-classic-disney-movies/>]

View: The 10 Most Important Things They Didn't Teach You in School  
[[http://www.cracked.com/article\\_18611\\_the-10-most-important-things-they-didnt-teach-you-in-school.html](http://www.cracked.com/article_18611_the-10-most-important-things-they-didnt-teach-you-in-school.html)]

Week 9 (03/12, 03/14, 03/16): NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK

**Week 10 (03/19, 03/21, 03/23): Gender and family**

Readings: SOG 4

KOG: 16 (Kane), 25 (Firminger), 37 (Tichenor), 38 (Hill), 39 (Coltrane, Parke, and Adams), 41 (Shows and Gerstel)

Read: Raising Katie [<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2009/04/22/raising-katie.html>]

*Response Paper 3 Due: 03/19/2012*

**Week 11 (03/26, 03/28): Gender and education – NO CLASS ON 03/30**

Readings: SOG 5

KOG: 15 (MCGuffey and Rich), 18 (Carter)

View: SIUC's gender stats (students: <http://www.irs.siu.edu/quickfacts/gender.aspx> / faculty and staff: <http://www.irs.siu.edu/quickfacts/fulltimeemptenure.aspx>)

**Week 12: (04/02, 04/04, 04/06): Gender and work**

Readings: SOG 6

KOG: 31 (Acker), 32 (Roth), 33 (England), 34 (McKay), 35 (Moore), 36 (Gerson)

Read: A Labor Market Punishing to Mothers

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/04/business/economy/04leonhardt.html>]

**Week 13: (04/09, 04/11, 04/13): Gender and technology**

Readings: TBA

**Week 14: (04/16, 04/18, 04/20): Gender and politics**

Readings: SOG 7

*Response Paper 4 Due: 04/16/2012*

**Week 15: (04/23, 04/25, 04/27): Gender and boundaries**

Readings: KOG: 42 (Armstrong, Hamilton, and Sweeney), 43 (Messner and Bozada-Deas), 44 (Anderson and Umberson), 45 (Quinn)

**Week 16: (04/30, 05/02, 05/04): Undoing gender**

**Final exam due: 05/04/2012**

Readings: SOG 8

KOG: 46 (Desai), 47 (Smith), 48 (Connell), 49 (Johnson)