

**Women and Men in Contemporary Society**  
**SOC 223/WMST 223**  
**Summer Semester 2010**  
**Monday-Friday 11:00-12:00pm**

**Instructor: Kristi Brownfield**

Office: Faner Hall 3433

Office Hours:

Monday: 9:00am-11:00am

Tuesday: 12:00pm-2:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am-11:00am

Other times by appointment

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Class delicious: <http://delicious.com/siucsoc223>

**Required Texts:**

Nagel, Joane. 2003. *Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality: Intimate Intersections, Forbidden Frontiers*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Rosenblum, Karen E. and Toni-Michelle C. Travis. 2008. "The Meaning of Difference: American Constructions of Race, Sex and Gender, Social Class, Sexual Orientation, and Disability." Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.

**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.

This course is designed to introduce students to a wider world than what they 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 may have had about people who are different from you. We will explore different cultures, what we know about those cultures and *how* we know what we know through readings, discussion, 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.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

Midterm Exam -- 100 points  
Final Exam -- 100 points  
Journals -- 30 points x 7 weeks = 210 points  
In-class Exercises, Quizzes – 50 points  
Presentations – 10 points x 2 presentations = 20 points  
Attendance -- 20 points  
Total possible points: -- 500 points

The grading scale will be:

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

**Attendance and Tardiness:**

Attendance is mandatory for this course. Everyone will begin with 20 points for attendance. Each unexcused absence will cost you 4 points. After five absences, your points will be completely gone. If you are absent more than 8 times over the course of the semester, you will receive an automatic failing grade. Please make every effort to be here! You should be aware that not attending class will mean that you will do poorly in this course. The material on the exams will not come directly out of the books and will often be based on lecture! If you are not here to participate in class, you will be missing out.

Do not be late for class. Being late is disruptive and disrespectful. If you are not on time, you will not be recorded on the attendance sheet and will receive an absence.

If you have a legitimate concern about being on time regularly, please come talk to me as soon as possible!

**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. Do your own work! No blocks of quotes from the course materials! No use of Wikipedia!

**Exercises and Quizzes:**

There will be a variety of different in-class exercises throughout the semester. They will be focused on the readings due at the start of class. If you are doing the readings weekly, these assignments will be easy! The assignments will range from quizzes to group work.

**Journals:**

You will be expected to keep a journal throughout this class. Your journal will be due each Monday and should include six entries per week. Five of those entries should be your reactions to class readings and discussion. The sixth entry should include a reference to a news story (local, national, or international) that is related to gender. Explain the news story (with appropriate links and citations) and how the story relates to the class. Each entry should be at least one page long. I may also give you directed writing assignments to include in your journal instead of one of the regular five entries.

**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, an advertisement, a set of clothing or an outfit, or even a video game. Your presentation should include a sample from your source (try Youtube for video clips), lasting no more than 90 seconds 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.

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 your group is 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 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.

**Late Work:**

Turn in your assignments when they are due! I do **NOT** accept late work. If, for some reason, you are unable to be in class to turn your assignments in, you may submit them through email as a document file. Hard copy is ALWAYS preferred.

**Schedule:** (topics/readings subject to change, readings always due on Mondays)

Week 1 (06/14/2010-06/18/2010): Introduction to sex and gender

What Gender Are You exercise

Readings:

Nagel: introduction and chapter 1

Rosenblum and Travis: Framework essay (pg. 2-39), chapters 9-11

Week 2 (06/21/2010-06/25/2010): Learning and doing gender

Breaking a gender norm exercise

First journals due

Readings:

Nagel: chapter 2

Rosenblum and Travis: chapters 3-7

Week 3 (06/28/2010-07/02/2010): Gender and education

Second journals due

Readings:

Rosenblum and Travis: chapters 25, 32, 38, 39, 45, 46

Pascoe: Becoming Mr. Cougar (available on Blackboard)

Week 4 (07/06/2010-07/09/2010): Gender and sexuality

**No class Monday 07/05/2010**

Third journals due

Readings:

Nagel: chapter 3

Rosenblum and Travis: chapters 17-20, 33-35

Week 5 (07/12/2010-07/16/2010): Gender and crime

**Midterm exam due 07/16/2010**

Fourth journals due

Readings:

Nagel: chapter 4

Rosenblum and Travis: 12-16, 21-23, 36-37

Week 6 (07/19/2010-07/23/2010): Gender and culture

Content analysis assignment due

Fifth journals due

Readings:

Nagel: chapter 5

Rosenblum and Travis: Framework essay (pg. 194-220)

Week 7 (07/26/2010-07/30/2010): Gender and technology

Blog assignment due

Sixth journals due

Readings:

Nagel: chapters 6-7

Rosenblum and Travis: chapters 24, 26-29

Week 8 (08/02/2010-08/06/2010): Undoing gender

**Final exam due 08/06/2010**

Seventh journals due

Readings:

Nagel: chapter 8, conclusion

Rosenblum and Travis: Framework essay (pg. 334-351)

Deutsch: Undoing Gender (available on Blackboard)

**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.