

# Women & Men in Contemporary Society

**Course Number:** SOC 223/WMST 223

**Instructor:** Margaret Cooper

**Contact Information:**

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**Textbook:** Renzetti, Claire M., & Curran, Daniel J. 2003. Women, Men, and Society (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

**Purpose of Course:** This goal of this course is to familiarize the student with issues and theories related to men and women in society. Students will learn about the social construction of gender, gender socialization, inequality and current social issues which affect men and women. Topics include: marriage and family, gender communication, crime and deviance, and health issues.

**Course Objectives:** Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of such sociological concepts as gender, discrimination, feminism, and patriarchy.
- 2) Display basic knowledge of gender's significance in U.S. history, culture, and social structure
- 3) Demonstrate critical thinking about the dialogue emerging from different theories and perspectives pertaining to gender, sexuality, race, and class.
- 4) Apply sociological 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

**Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Statement:**

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](mailto:DSSsiu@siu.edu) Ph: (618) 453-5738 Fax: (618) 453-5700 TTY: (618) 453-2293

**Emergency Procedures:**

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some 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, available on the BERT'S website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Public Safety's website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines. Know how to respond to each type of emergency. Instructors 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 Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

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**Examinations and Quizzes:** There will be four exams in the class. Each will cover approximately three chapters and all material from class during the time period since the last test. Tests will consist of multiple choice questions, true/false and short answer questions. The final test will not be comprehensive. Anyone not taking a test on its assigned day without prior excuse from the instructor must take the test during the time allotted for the final exam. In addition, you are responsible for obtaining your own book and your own notes. You are responsible for class material even on days which you are absent. Please contact another student in the class for notes if you absent.

**Assignments/Quizzes:** There will be quizzes and in-class assignments. These will be worth fifty points.

**Student led discussions:** Each of you will be responsible for leading a class discussion on an assigned reading/topic. Dates available for discussions and topics will be handed out in class. On this day, you will write up a brief summary of your issue and you will have three questions for class discussion. This will be worth fifty points.

**Grading:** Your final evaluation will be determined by the total number of points you accumulate this semester. Grades are calculated out of 500 available points.

Four examinations worth 100 points each = 400 points

Assignments: 50 points

Student led discussion: 50 points

Total points available = 500 points

A = 450+

B = 400-449

C = 350-399

D = 300-349

F = 299 and below

### Tentative Schedule

Week 1:

Mon., Jan 12

Introduction

Wed., Jan 14

Sociology and Gender

Fri., Jan 16

continued

Week 2:  
Mon. Jan 19 MLK DAY; NO CLASS  
Wed. Jan 21 NO CLASS  
Fri. Jan 23 ch. 1---Studying Gender: An Overview

Week 3: Chapter 1---Studying Gender: An Overview

Week 4: Chapter 2---Biology, Sex and Gender: The Interaction of Nature and Environment

Week 5: Chapter 3---Ancestors and Neighbors: Social Constructions of Gender and Other Times, in Other Places

Week 6: Monday Feb 16 TEST 1  
Wednesday Feb 18 ch. 4---Early Childhood Gender Socialization  
Friday---continued

Week 7: Chapter 5—Schools and Gender

Week 8: Chapter 6---Language and Media Friday, March 6, TEST 2

Week 9: SPRING BREAK!!! NO CLASS.

Week 10: chapter 7---Gender and Intimate Relationships

Week 11: chapter 8---Gender, Employment and the Economy

Week 12: chapter 9---Gender, Crime and Justice

Week 13: Monday (Apr 6) Review, Wednesday (April 8) TEST 2, Friday (Apr 10) Film

Week 14: chapter 10---Gender, Politics, Government and the Military

Week 15: chapter 11---Gender and Spirituality

Week 16: chapter 12---Gender and Health

Final Exam: Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 pm.