

**SOC 225**  
Sociology of Women

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“This is no simple reform. It really is a revolution. Sex and race because they are easy and visible differences have been the primary ways of organizing human beings into superior and inferior groups and into the cheap labour in which this system still depends...” Gloria Steinem

**Fullerton College Course Description**

This class includes identification and analysis of the status of women in American society, and a survey of the cultural, social, psychological and economic history of women. Contemporary issues and their relation to the role definition of women today are explored.

**Student Learning Goals**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand and assess contemporary positions of women globally, and relate contemporary and historical statuses of women.
- Identify socialization, specifically surrounding gender roles, and discuss the impact socialization has on individuals.
- Use the Sociological Imagination as a tool of thought.
- Understand the basic foundations of theory in the field of Sociology (Structural Functionalism, Social Conflict and Symbolic Interactionism) and how they directly relate to women in work, religion, family, sexuality, economics, as well as other aspects of women's roles in the world.

**Course Overview**

This course will cover a range of topics surrounding women and women's issues in contemporary societies. Although there is no prerequisite for this course, a basic knowledge in the subject of sociology is recommended. Topics for discussion will include: women and reproductive rights, women and healthcare, the feminization of poverty, global comparisons of maternity issues, women's work, women's wages, women's sexuality, body image and identities, the education of women, issues surrounding Title IX, women and politics, feminism and its current identity, women and religion, women and race, and women and social movements. Throughout the semester, the class will return to a few central questions. How is sexism enabled in contemporary societies? How does the socialization of women impact their standing in society? How does gender affect our lives?

**Required Texts and Supplies**

- Margaret Anderson, Thinking About Women, Ninth Edition.
- June Hannom: Feminism; A Short History of a Big Idea

-2 Scantrons, #882

-2 Blue Book Exam notebooks

**GRADING:**

**Exams (2) 350 points**

Exams will cover readings, class discussions & lectures, and class presentations. The midterm exam will consist of 25 multiple choice questions worth 4 points each, and 5 short essay questions worth 10 points each. Thus the midterm exam will be worth 150 points. The Final exam will be cumulative and will consist of 50 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each and 5 short answer questions worth 20 points each. The final exam will be worth 200 points.

**Group Presentation 150 points**

Group presentations will be based on quality of research, professionalism and creativity of presentation, working knowledge of the topic, and provocative questions posed to the class after the presentation. Group presentations should not exceed 20 minutes so that time is allotted for class discussion after. Students will be able to choose their own group of no more than 5, and topics will be chosen from a provided list. Group presentations will be worth 150 points total.

**Reading Logs 375 points**

Writing is one of the most useful skills one should acquire from their education. Thus, writing will be emphasized heavily in this class. Most Mondays you will have a reading log due. The weekly topic is listed in the class schedule. Logs will be no less than 2 pages in length and should demonstrate a clear understanding of the reading, as well as student application of critical thinking skills to that reading. Reading logs will be worth 25 points each.

**Class Participation 125 points**

Students should come to class on time prepared to learn. This means completing the readings, completing assignments, participating in class discussions, offering valuable questions, and exhibiting respectful behavior. Class participation for the semester is worth 125 points.

**Grading Policy**

Students should record and keep up with their graded assignments throughout the semester. The following chart will allow you to record your grades as you receive them. Grades will be calculated by percentage as follows:

Reading Log 1= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 2= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 3= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 4= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 5= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 6= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 7= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 8= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 9= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 10= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 11= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 12= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 13= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 14= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

Reading Log 15= \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

**Reading Log Total= \_\_\_\_\_/375 points**

**Midterm Exam = \_\_\_\_\_/150 points**

**Group Presentation= \_\_\_\_\_/150 points**

**Participation= \_\_\_\_\_/125 points (To receive participation grade, see me during office hours)**

**Final Exam= \_\_\_\_\_/200 points**

**TOTAL POINTS = \_\_\_\_\_/1000 points -- FINAL PERCENTAGE = \_\_\_\_\_**

**GRADING STANDARDS:**

A= 90-100% • B= 80-89% • C= 70-79% • D= 60-69% • F= ≤ 59%

Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing and presenting material which demonstrates their level of knowledge and which is used to determine grades. Such standards are founded on basic concepts of integrity and honesty. These include, but are not limited to the following areas:

**1. Students shall not plagiarize, which is defined as**

**A. stealing or passing off as one's own the ideas or words of another, or**

**B. using a creative production without crediting the source.**

**The following cases constitute plagiarism:**

- **paraphrasing published material without acknowledging the source,**
- **making significant use of an idea or a particular arrangement of ideas, e.g., outlines,**
- **writing a paper after consultation with persons who provide suitable ideas and incorporating these ideas into the paper without acknowledgment, or**
- **submitting under one's own name term papers or other reports which have been prepared by others.**

2. Students shall not cheat, which is defined as

A. using notes, aids, or the help of other students on tests or exams in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor, or

B. misreporting or altering the data in laboratory or research projects involving the collection of data.

3. Students shall not furnish materials or information in order to enable another student to plagiarize or cheat. Instructors may deal with academic dishonesty in one or more of the following ways:

1. Assign an appropriate academic penalty such as an oral reprimand or point reduction.
2. Assign an "F" on all or part of a particular paper, project, or exam.
3. Report to the appropriate administrators, with notification of same to the student(s), for disciplinary action by the College. Such a report will be accompanied by supporting evidence and documentation.

### **Attendance**

In order to gain full participation points, regular attendance is imperative. Class lectures and discussions will be incorporated in mid term and final exams. Further, attendance means physical and mental presence in class. Adding thoughtful input and asking penetrating questions are required as part of attendance. Late arrival and early departure from class will result in deductions from your participation grade. Students are allowed 2 unexcused absences per semester. Students who must miss more than the allotted days need to meet with the professor for explanation.

### **Students with Special Needs**

In accordance with Federal and State regulations, procedural language has been established to address the provision of educational accommodations to students with disabilities who are otherwise qualified to participate in the College's courses, programs and activities. Copies of the procedure are available in all Division Offices and Student Services areas.

### **Class Conduct**

Because controversial and sensitive topics are covered, respect is a necessity in this learning space. Debates should be healthy and calm. Listening skills are of utmost importance in higher learning. Additionally, please be considerate of your speaking time in class so that all may have time to add to the discussion. Those who raise their voice, use degrading language, dismiss fellow student's ideas in demeaning ways, or participate in any other disrespectful acts or speech will be instructed to leave the class. Students are expected to refrain from using cell phones, PDA's, or any other electronic devices in class. Recording of lectures and discussions is not allowed. Violation of these class polices will result in dismissal of the student from the class.

### **Semester Schedule**

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT (Read assigned chapter before class)
Week 1 8/16-8/18	Introduction to the Sociology of Women What is Sociology	Review course syllabus and course requirements. Review plagiarism, and the Academic Honesty Policy. Discuss expectations of students for this class.
Week 2 8/23-8/25	Studying women and defining feminism.	Chapter 1: Studying Women Log 1: Discuss Symbolic Interaction Theory and relate it to "Doing Gender." In what ways do we see these replicated in our society?
Week 3 8/30-9/1	Gender, sex, culture. Nature v Nurture	Chapter 2: The Social Construction of Gender Log 2: What are social institutions and how do they contribute to the maintenance of gender roles? <b>GROUP ROSTER &amp; TOPIC DUE 9/1</b>
Week 4 9/6-9/8 <b>No class 9/6</b>	Gender, Language Mass Media, & Knowledge	Chapter 3: Gender, Culture and the Media Log 3: Compare "Reflection Hypothesis" with the "social construction of knowledge." How does gender based labor division effect media representations?
Week 5 9/13-9/15	Sexual Orientation Social Construction of Sexuality	Chapter 4: Sexuality and Intimate Relationships Log 4: What is sexual politics? Is this still a relevant power structure? How does sexual politics intersect with rape?
Week 6 9/20-9/22	Defining work Poverty and Welfare	Chapter 5: Gender, Work, and the Economy Log 5: Compare Human Capital Theory with Dual Labor Market Theory. How do these relate to the number of women living in poverty?
Week 7 9/27-9/29	Race, Gender, and Families Diversity of Families	Chapter 6: Gender and Families Log 6: Discuss how Human Agency affects family structures. Evaluate your own life to pull a possible example. <b>GROUP 1 PRESENTATION 9/29</b>
<b>Week 8</b> <b>10/4-10/6</b>	<b>MID TERM EXAM</b> <b>Scantron</b> <b>Blue Book</b> <b>Exam return/review</b>	<b>Monday exam.</b> <b>Wednesday, exams returned &amp; reviewed. Keep your exam as study materials for the final.</b>
Week 9 10/11- 10/13	Politics of Reproduction Health Care System	Chapter 7: Women, Health, & Reproduction Log 7: Are reproduction and reproductive politics in the US controlled by men? Provide backing information/data for your answer. <b>GROUP 2 PRESENTATION 10/13</b>
Week 10 10/18-10/20	Soc. Perspectives on Religion Women and Religiosity	Chapter 8; Women & Religion Log 8: Discuss Durkheim's Collective Consciousness. How has religion both oppressed and empowered women? <b>GROUP 3 PRESENTATION 10/20</b>
Week 11 10/25-10/27	Soc. Perspectives on Crime Women as Criminals	Chapter 9: Women, Crime, and Deviance Log 9: Discuss the sociological explanations for rape. What are the major social contributors to rape? <b>GROUP 4 PRESENTATION 10/27</b>
Week 12 11/1-11/3	Women & Higher Ed. Gender & Science	Chapter 10: Gender, Education, and Science Log 10: What is Title IX? How has it impacted women? Is it still necessary? <b>GROUP 5 PRESENTATION 11/3</b>
Week 13 11/8-11/10	Women in Govt. Women's Movement	Chapter 11: Women, Power, and Politics Log 11: Discuss the three waves of feminism? How does the third wave of feminism differ from the previous two? Are we still in the third wave of feminism? <b>GROUP 6 PRESENTATION 11/10</b>

Week 14 11/15-11/17	Liberal Feminism Liberalism as a Basis of Modern Feminism	Chapter 12: Women and Social Reform Log 12: Define and discuss Liberalism as a "basis of modern feminism." What are the critiques of liberal feminism? <b>GROUP 7 PRESENTATION 11/17</b>
Week 15 11/22-11/24	Radical Feminism Queer Theory	Chapter 13: Contemporary Frameworks in Feminist Theory Log 13: How does False and Class Consciousness differ. How does "the social image of the family" differ from actual family structures, and thus determine women to be the proletariat? <b>GROUP 8 PRESENTATION 11/24</b>
Week 16 11/29-12/1	Class Review	Review of chapters covered. Log 14: "The personal is political." What does this mean and how did it effect the feminist movement? <b>GROUPS 9 (11/29) &amp; 10 PRESENTATIONS (12/1)</b>
Week 17 12/8	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> Scantron Blue Book	<b>Log 15: (Due on exam day) Discuss a topic from the semester that has particularly interested you, or a topic you have found to be in disagreement with. Provide backing information/data to support your opinions.</b>