

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO  
OFFICE OF EXTENDED STUDIES  
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
SUMMER 2010

Soc 221-942: Sociology of Gender  
TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

May 17-June 25, 2010

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*Required Readings:*

Claire Renzetti & Daniel Curran. 2002. *Women, Men, and Society* (5<sup>th</sup> edition). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Books are available at the UC Bookstore, OR you can get them online.

Course Objectives (as per Liberal Arts Core requirements)

THE STUDENT WILL:

1. Understand the interrelation of knowledge, including the historical frameworks, methodologies, and research findings of relevant disciplines.
2. Understand that the area of inquiry is broad in scope rather than narrow.
3. Demonstrate critical and independent thought
4. Demonstrate skills in oral and written expression.
5. Produce scholarship.
6. Demonstrate cultural understanding.
7. Demonstrate the ability to integrate perspectives.
8. Identify issues involved in human welfare and survival.

*About This Course:*

Expect that it will be controversial. ". . .[C]ontroversy is necessary, because knowledge is advanced through controversy: Controversy leads to debate, debate stirs reflection, reflection leads to research, and research leads to refinement of ideas." I intend to jar your preconceptions. I intend for you to make important personal and political decisions by appraising critically the values and assumptions into which we all have been indoctrinated and which many of us have never thought to challenge. As a result you may rethink -- or solidify -- personally held views. More so than most academic courses, this one deals with issues relevant to everyday life and, for that reason, I'll try to mirror life's familiar "gendered" scenarios in order that we may interpret things in new ways.

*About the format of this class:*

You'll be graded on 2 kinds of tasks: **essays & discussions**

**ESSAYS.** You'll be writing several short essays in response to readings from the text as well as online articles to which I'll direct your attention. We will NOT meet online at some specified time; instead I will post reading assignments and essay due dates, giving you plenty of time to read, write, and post your submissions. I'll leave it to you to structure your own time productively.

Be forewarned, though, that your essays cannot be simply a restatement, or revision, or paraphrase, or summary of that which you read. Holding you accountable for reflecting on assigned readings, your essays will be 2-paragraph responses to questions posed by me, questions that you'll not be able to answer successfully without conceptual mastery of the relevant issues. As college students you've learned, regrettably, to cover as many pages as possible with verbiage --meaningful or not -- in hopes that somewhere therein you've included what the teacher is looking for. This, unfortunately, does not cultivate critical thinking skills or concise expression of carefully honed insights. Limiting your

essays to 2 paragraphs, forces you to (a) know what the point is & (b) get to it quickly.

Reading for conceptual mastery requires more than just throwing your eyes on the page -- yellow highlighter poised and ready -- declaring yourself done when your eyes reach the bottom. The point of reading is to identify the crux of the argument being advanced which, after mulling over, should suggest implications and, from them, practical applications. It's the practical application to an issue once problematized, that I'll be looking for in your essays. Not to worry: I'll post a sample question & response before we begin so you'll know just what I have in mind. Essay due dates will be generous; therefore, **I won't accept late papers.**

**DISCUSSIONS.** Additionally, there'll be a "discussion" component, requiring you to track down & critique not just articles you locate online, but you'll critique comments made by others in your class regarding articles they'll be critiquing. I'll explain this graded component much more fully once the class gets underway. But for now just know that you'll be graded in 2 ways: first on your short **weekly essays** & second on your posted **Discussions.**

#### *Grading Scheme:*

Grades are based on the degree to which you articulate, develop, and support your claims. Essay questions are intended to direct your attention to *particular* issues; therefore, essays that fail to address specifically the questions asked will receive poor grades, as will responses that fail to reflect the scholarship that informs this course. Respond to all parts of the question asked; essay questions contain no superfluous words so don't ignore any of them.

You may earn up to 180 points (6 **essays** @ 25pts/each & 3 **discussions** @ 10pts/each). To calculate your grade at any time during the semester, divide the total points you have earned by the total (up to that point) points possible. Percentages translate into the following letter grades: 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; less than 60%=F. I give minus & plus grades.

#### *General Guidelines:*

In lieu of lectures I will, whenever possible, include articles that extend & amplify some aspect of an issue that I want you to probe more deeply. In order to keep costs down, textbooks, even the best ones, cut short many discussions that would benefit from a closer scrutiny. Be mindful, then, that responses to essay questions must reflect not only the very general textbook coverage, but must reflect, at least equally importantly, the more finely tuned discussions as advanced in the articles. You won't be responsible to track down these articles yourselves; I'll do my best to find relevant readings online, the websites for which I'll include in your reading assignments.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
Week 1	Men and Women: What's the Difference & Gender and Spirituality	Ch 2 Ch 11
Week 2	The Great Communicators: Language and the Mass Media	Ch 6
Week 3	Gender & Intimate Relationships	Ch 7
Week 4	The Crisis in Masculinity	online
Week 5	Gender, Employment, and the Economy	Ch 8
Week 6	Gender and Health	Ch 12

#### **Library Services for Distance Education and Off-Campus Students: Obtaining Materials from UNC Libraries**

Off-campus students residing within 50 miles of the UNC campus are required to come to the

library and borrow materials in person. Students residing more than 50 miles from campus may request that materials be delivered to them. All requests must include complete citations. We will supply materials from the UNC Libraries, as well as materials from other libraries obtained via Interlibrary Loan. Articles will be delivered via email. Books will be mailed first class. Delivery time by U.S. postal service is approximately 1 week. It is the responsibility of the student to return books by the date due. UNC does not pay return postage on books. For information on document delivery, call (970) 351-1446.

Requests for materials may be made through the following methods:

Online: <http://www.unco.edu/library/forms/distancerequest.htm>

By email: [library.ocp@unco.edu](mailto:library.ocp@unco.edu)

By fax: (970) 351-2540

### **Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

### **Honor Code**

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: *Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility*. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

### **UNC's Policies**

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbook/index.html>

### **Notice**

The Office of Extended Studies reserves the right to cancel or reschedule courses based upon enrollment. Enrolled students will be contacted with information of any change.

### **Student Satisfaction Evaluation**

Participants will be asked to evaluate the workshop for instructors' knowledge, interest and enthusiasm as well as providing additional information on classes or topics which you would like to see developed as a future offering from UNC.

### **Course Withdrawal Information**

In accordance with University and Colorado Department of Higher Education policy, if you drop this class after the course starts you will be assessed a drop fee. The drop fee is pro-rated up to the half-way point in the class. You are legally responsible for payment of full tuition once 50% of this course has been concluded. In order to be eligible to receive any refund of tuition, you must contact the Office of Extended Studies (1-800-232-1749) to formally withdraw from your class. Your refund, if applicable, will be based on the date of contact with our office. Withdrawals received via telephone during non-business hours will be processed and dated on the next working day. Failure to notify us will result in UNC tuition being owed even though you do not attend or complete the coursework.