

WST 2612: Social Science Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality (17E7)

Fall 2021

Instructor

Dr. Constance L. Shehan (she, her, hers)

Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology

Email: cshehan@ufl.edu

Phone: The best way to contact me is by email. If you would like to talk by phone, please email me and we'll set up a time for a phone call.

Office: 102 Ustler Hall (*I will not be working in my campus office this semester.*)

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00. (These will be held on Zoom)

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Beth Holden, MA student in the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research. You can contact Beth through Canvas.

Course Description

This course, offered through the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research, focuses on social science perspectives on gender and sexualities. I am a sociologist, so I will emphasize sociological perspectives on gender. When studying gender from a sociological perspective, we recognize that gender is not only an important dimension of individual identity but also a major dimension of the social structure. In this course we will look at sociological theories of gender, the way gender acts as an organizing principle in our everyday lives, the role of gender in our social institutions (e.g., work, family, media, and politics), and how gender inequality is created and experienced. When we examine gender, we must also consider race, social class, and sexuality. This approach is what we call an *intersectional perspective*. In this class we will examine the ways in which gender intersects with race, ethnicity, social class, sexual identity, and age to produce different gendered experiences, and therefore different forms of inequality within U.S. society.

Course Format

This course is structured as a synchronous on-line class. It meets via Zoom on Monday 4th and 5th periods and Wednesday 5th period. The Zoom link appears on the Canvas website – see **Zoom Conferences** in left hand margin.

Student Learning Objectives for Social Science Courses

Social sciences courses are designed so that -- if you complete all assignments satisfactorily -- you will achieve the following learning outcomes in content, communication, and critical thinking:

Content: *Demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories, and methodologies used within the discipline.*

Communication: *Communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline.*

Critical Thinking: *Analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.*

Course Specific Objectives

- 1) Learn basic sociological concepts and theories through their application to the study of gender.
- 2) Recognize that observed gender-related differences in people's lives are influenced by societal forces. This is referred to as the social construction of gender in everyday lives.
- 3) Understand the ways in which people's life experiences vary by gender, race, ethnicity, social class, sexual identity, and age.
- 4) Explore the ways in which gender is built into social institutions, such as the family, the economy, government and politics, and the mass media.
- 5) Examine the ways in which gender, along with race, ethnicity, and social class, shapes the distribution of valued resources, power, and privilege in ways that systematically tend to benefit white men over white women and BIPOC women and men.

General Education and Writing Requirements Fulfilled by this Course

This course is a **Social and Behavioral Sciences (S)** subject area course in the UF General Education Program. It also satisfies a **Diversity** requirement and a **2000-word writing requirement**. Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

Required Text

***Questioning Gender: A Sociological Exploration*, by Robyn Ryle. Sage Publications.**

Please note that this course will be participating in the **UF All Access program**. UF All Access will provide you with your required text *digitally* at a reduced price and will offer you the ability to pay using your student account. This option will be available starting one week prior to the semester starting and ending three weeks after the first day of class. Login at the following website and Opt-In to gain access to your required course materials:

<https://www.bsd.ufl.edu/G1CO/IPay1f/start.aspx?TASK=INCLUDED>

Course Assignments and Requirements

More information about both of these is available on the Canvas web-site.

1) QUIZZES: There will be a reading quiz for each module of the course, based only on the chapter from the text that is assigned for the module. These are “open-book” quizzes. However, you are expected to do the quizzes on your own. An outline for each chapter is provided on Canvas. I encourage you to refer to the outline as you read and study the chapters.

Each quiz will have 20 multiple-choice and/or TF questions focusing on key terms, people, and ideas from the chapter. Each quiz will be worth 20 points.

You will access the quizzes through Canvas. They will open at 12:01am on Fridays and close at 11:59pm on Fridays. Once you open a quiz, you will have 40 minutes to complete it. Be sure to start the quiz at least an hour before midnight on Fridays. Otherwise, you may be kicked off Canvas before you complete your quiz.

(If you are registered with the Disability Resource Center and have accommodations that allow you more time on assignments, please let me know as early as you can.)

Total points from this component: 200

[There are 11 modules in the course. But only your 10 highest quiz scores will be counted toward your course grade.]

2) REACTION PAPERS: Documentaries are a core component of this course. You are expected to carefully watch every one that is assigned. You are required to write reaction papers for *five* of these documentaries (of your choice). You will find a list of the documentaries, along with a brief description, on Canvas. Check the Pages tab.

On Canvas (on the Assignments page), there will be a note sheet that provides background information and key questions for each documentary. Note sheets will direct your attention to a number of key points that will help you apply key concepts and theoretical perspectives from the assigned materials in the module. We will do a brief in-class discussion on Mondays immediately following the Sunday on which each paper was due.

Due dates (and more detailed information) are provided on Canvas. Each reaction paper is worth 100 points.

The total points from this component: 500

Your course grade will be based on a total of 700 points. The following chart shows you how many points are required for each letter grade.

Assignments	Total Points
Quizzes	200
Reaction Papers	500
Total	700

Earned Point Range	Letter Grade Earned
651 and above	A
630 - 650	A-
609 - 629	B+
588 -- 608	B
560 -- 587	B-
539 -- 559	C+
518 -- 538	C
490 -- 517	C-
469 -- 489	D+
448 -- 468	D
420 -- 447	D-
Below 420	E

*More information about grades and UF's grading policies is available in the Undergraduate Catalog <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies>.

MINIMUM TECHNICAL SKILLS: To complete your tasks in this course, you will need a basic understanding of how to operate a computer, how to use word processing software, how to use Canvas, and how to use Zoom.

Zoom: Zoom is an easy-to-use video conferencing service available to all UF students, faculty, and staff that allows for meetings of up to 100 participants. You can find resources and help using Zoom at <https://ufl.zoom.us>. See also the orientation module

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, **please contact the UF Help Desk, not me. Here's the help desk contact info:**

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up or extension.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This course is organized around modules. Typically, a module is one week long and focuses on one chapter from the textbook. (The exceptions are Modules 4, 7, and 10, which are two weeks long.) The schedule listed here simply lists the modules, the dates they will be covered, and the textbook chapter that is required. Class meeting dates, along with due dates for quizzes and reaction papers, are also included.

PLEASE NOTE that ***additional readings and video clips are required for each module***. You will find information about these additional requirements on the Canvas site for the course. Please check Canvas regularly. You will see what you should do to prepare for each class session.

It is sometimes necessary for schedules to be adjusted, due to weather or other unexpected events. ***Please check the Announcements page on Canvas daily for information about changes to the schedule.*** This is my primary way of communicating with the class as a whole.

Module 1: Defining Gender, Read Chapter 1, Text

August 23: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

August 24: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

August 25: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

August 27: Quiz on Chapter 1 (on Canvas; due 11:59PM)

August 29: Reaction Paper: *Man for a Day*

Module 2: Using Sociology to Understand Gender, Read Chapter 2, Text

August 30: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

August 31: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

September 1: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

September 3: Quiz on Chapter 2 (on Canvas; due 11:59PM)

September 5: Reaction Paper for “She’s Beautiful when She’s Angry”

Module 3: How Do Other Disciplines Study Gender? Read Chapter 3, Text

September 6 – no class (Labor Day)

September 7: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

September 8: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

September 10: Quiz on Chapter 3 (on Canvas; due 11:59PM)

September 12: Reaction Paper for “Rebels on Pointe”

Module 4: How Do We Learn Gender? Read Chapter 4, Text (This is a two-week long module)

Part 1: Gender Socialization

September 13: Class session on Zoom (4TH and 5th periods)

September 14: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

September 15: Class session Zoom (5th period)

September 17: Quiz on Chapter 4 (on Canvas; due 11:59PM)

Part 2: Gender Socialization and Race

September 20: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

September 21: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

September 22: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

September 26: Reaction Paper for “The Mask You Live In”

Module 5: The Gender of Sexuality, Read Chapter 5, Text

September 27: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

September 28: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

September 29: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

October 1: Quiz on Chapter 5 (on Canvas; due 11:59PM)

October 3: Reaction Paper for “How to Lose Your Virginity: Myths and Misogyny around A Rite of Passage”

Module 6: Gender, Friendship, and Dating, Read Chapter 6, Text

October 4: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

October 5: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

October 6: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

October 8: Quiz on Chapter 6 (on Canvas; due 11:59PM)

October 10: Reaction Paper for “Love on the Spectrum”

Module 7: Gender and Bodies, Read Chapter 7, Text (This is a two-week long module)

Part 1: The Importance of “Appearance”

October 11: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

October 12: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

October 13: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

October 15: Quiz on Chapter 7 (on Canvas; due 11:59PM)

October 17: Reaction Paper for “Embrace”

Part 2: Gender Affirmation Surgery

October 18: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

October 19: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

October 20: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

October 24: Reaction Paper for “Born to Be”

Module 8: Gender, Marriages, and Families, Read Chapter 8, Text

October 25: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

October 26: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

October 27: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

October 29: Quiz on Chapter 8 (on Canvas; due 11:59PM)

October 31: Reaction Paper for “A Secret Love”

Module 9: Gender and Work, Read Chapter 9, Text

November 1: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

November 2: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

November 3: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

November 5: Quiz on Chapter 9 (on Canvas; due 11:59PM)

November 7: Reaction Paper for “Picture a Scientist”

Module 10: Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and the Media, Read Chapter 10, Text

Part 1: Representation of African Americans in the Media

November 8: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

November 9: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

November 10: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

November 12: Quiz on Chapter 10

Part 2: Representation of Asian Americans in the Media

November 15: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

November 16: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

November 17: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

November 21: Reaction Paper for “The Claudia Kishi Club”

November 22: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

November 24: No Class – first day of Thanksgiving Vacation!!

Module 11: Gender and Politics, Read Chapter 11 Text

November 29: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

November 30: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

December 1: Class session on Zoom (5th period)

December 3: Quiz on Chapter 11 (on Canvas; due 11:59PM)

December 5: Reaction Paper for “Knock Down the House”

Module 12: Course Wrap-Up

December 6: Class session on Zoom (4th and 5th periods)

December 7: Virtual office hours 1:00 to 3:00 (optional)

December 8: Last Class session on Zoom (5th period)

There is no final exam for this class.

Consider adding a Major in Women’s Studies!!!!!!

Do you want to learn about issues of diversity, power, equity, and justice and gain the scholarly knowledge and skills to change the world? Adding the Women’s Studies major can deepen your critical thinking, analysis, and skills in intersectional feminist approaches to **studying and transforming gender, race, class, sexualities and other systems of power**. The Women’s Studies major shows graduate schools and employers that you bring advanced knowledge and skills about diversity and equity issues. The 30-credit Women’s Studies major consists of four core courses and six electives. It’s simple to combine with another major, and up to 15 credits can double count with another degree (English, Psychology, and Sociology have many courses that can double count). It’s also the perfect complement to pre-health studies. For more information, contact undergraduate coordinator Dr. Alyssa Zucker. Stop by her Fall office hours, Mondays and Thursdays 2-3:30 p.m. on [Zoom](#) or [email](#) for an appointment.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND RESOURCES

UF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: This course will subscribe to the University of Florida Student Honor Code. A central part of the [UF Honor Code](#) is the Honor Pledge: *“The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Student Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by Students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”* Further information about the UF Honor Code and guidelines for Academic Honesty are [here](#).

In this course, plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in failing the course and other disciplinary action. In all instances, you must do your own work. There is no excuse for plagiarism, or for submitting another's work, ideas, or wording as your own. This includes using direct

quotes from online sources without citation or submitting a paper you bought but did not write. Ignorance is not an excuse. Please be aware that there are various anti-plagiarism techniques available for use by University of Florida faculty that enables faculty members to determine if research papers have been plagiarized. There is a difference between plagiarism and collaboration. Collaboration, for purposes of this class, is the act of discussing ideas with classmates, debating issues, and examining readings from the class together so that each of you arrives at your own independent thought. Collaboration in this class is encouraged.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT: This course also operates under UF's Student Conduct Code. The Student Conduct Code is a set of standards and regulations which describe the rights, privileges, and responsibilities for all currently enrolled students at the University of Florida. For more information, click [here](#). UF provides an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more information, see [UF policies regarding harassment](#). Furthermore, in order to make this an effective course for everyone, all participants will be expected to meet the professional standards of integrity expected for members of the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research. This means I expect all participants to interact with peers "professionally," meaning with honesty, ethical behavior, cultural sensitivity, teamwork, and effective communication. Additionally, I expect all course participants will fulfill work obligations in a thoughtful and timely way, and display collegiality and sensitivity to faculty and other students.

UF GENDER EQUITY: The Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity provides support to anyone affected by sexual or gender-based misconduct, harassment, or discrimination. Please know that both your instructor and TA in this course are considered Officials with Authority who are required to report violations of the gender equity policy. "Title IX is a federal law that requires officials with the authority to take action, to report violations of the gender equity policy. Officials with authority must report these violations to the Title IX Coordinator or their deputies. The obligation to report applies whenever an Official with Authority receives, in the course and scope of employment, information about the alleged misconduct and policy violation. The report must include all information known to the employee which would be relevant to an investigation or redress of the incident, including whether the alleged victim has expressed a desire for confidentiality." For further information, including how to make a report, click [here](#). Below are some specialist support services. You might not need them, but you might know someone who does. For specialist support in the aftermath of sexual assault, the Office of Victim Services on campus offer confidential, free support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Office of Victim Services : 1515 Museum Road, (352) 392-5648 (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Phone: (352) 392-1111 (after business hours and on weekends)

Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center 352-264-6760 Monday-Friday, 8:30AM- 5PM, some services available 24/7

Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network 352-377-8255 (24-hour helpline)

ACCOMMODATIONS: The University of Florida is committed to providing equal educational access to students with disabilities. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) collaborates with campus partners to

facilitate access and inclusion for Gators with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [UF Disability Resource Center](mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu) (0001 Building 0020-Reid Hall, accessuf@dso.ufl.edu; Voice 352-392-8565; Fax, 352-392-8570) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Information for students from the DRC is available [here](#). In this course, I am committed to providing equitable education access through reasonable accommodations as outlined in your accommodation letter. Please notify me within the first two weeks of class about any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodation to be unavailable.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES: Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The [U Matter, We Care](#) initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor are available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helpful resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the [Counseling and Wellness Center](#). Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1. Here are additional resources:

- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu.
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

EXTRA COURSE FEES: There are no additional fees for this course.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES: The following are academic resources that may be helpful for completing this course:

- [E-learning technical support](#) - 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or email to Learning-support@ufl.edu. [Student help FAQs](#)
- [Library support](#) - Ask-a-librarian. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources
- [Teaching Center](#) - Broward Hall, (352) 392-2010 or 392-6420. Study skills workshops, study groups, and tutoring.
- [University Writing Studio](#) - 2215 Turlington Hall, (352) 846-1138, The [UF Writing Program](#) offers all UF students help in the ongoing process of becoming better writers. One-on-one tutoring, online tutoring, and workshops.
- [Career Connections Center](#) - 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

UF POLICY ON MAKING UP MISSED WORK

1. *Attendance and Make-up Policy*: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

In the case of an absence due to participation in an official university activity, observance of a religious holiday, performance of a military duty, or any other university-approved absence (e.g., jury duty) which the student knows about in advance, the student is expected to notify the instructor of the conflict *before the assignment is due*, and if possible, at the start of the semester.

2. *Course Evaluation*: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

COVID-19 RELATED POLICIES

COVID-RELATED POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS: In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions. Because COVID continues to evolve, UF policies are somewhat fluid.

- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during in-person classes and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. Find more information in the [UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).