

.Fall 2008--Dr. Lois West  
 Phone: 305-348-3651 or 348-2247  
 Email: [westl@fiu.edu](mailto:westl@fiu.edu)

## SYLLABUS: SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER

**Description:** Course examines how we understand the nature of being male or female in society. Using the sociological perspective we will probe the relationship between our understanding of the biology of sex and the social construction of gender. We will examine socialization effects, stereotypes, segregation, communication, social patterns and the nature of sex/gender domination and discrimination.

**Required Readings:** The following paperback texts can be purchased at the university bookstore or on-line:

- 1). Amy S. Wharton, The Sociology of Gender: An Introduction to Theory and Research. Blackwell Publishing, 2005.
- 2). John Colapinto, As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised as a Girl, Perennial, 2001.
- 3). Linda Babcock and Sara Laschever, Women Don't Ask: Negotiation and the Gender Divide, Princeton University Press 2003.

**Recommended Readings:** Alice Eagly/Linda Carli, Through the Labyrinth; Guerrilla Girls, Bitches, Bimbos and Ballbreakers; Anne Fausto-Sterling, Sexing the Body; Arlie Hochschild/Anne Machung, The Second Shift; Joni Seager, The Penguin Atlas of Women in the World; Simon Baron-Cohen, The Essential Difference; Deborah Tannen, You Just Don't Understand; United Nations Institute for Social Development, Gender Equality 2005; Watkins/Rueda/Rodriguez, Introducing Feminism.

**Course Requirements:** Successful completion of the following assignments done **on time** (assignments turned in late will not be accepted; no make-ups): Toy assignment=5 points; In-class blue book quizzes (2@15 points each)=30 points; Midterm test=20 points; Role-playing exercise=5 points; Final test=20 points; Oral research Powerpoint presentation=20 points. Each person will turn in her/his **individual** research bibliography and a one page summary or print out of powerpoint. An alternative is a ten page research paper on soc of gender topic. All topics must be cleared by professor. Total of 100 possible points for A.

### Course Outline

**August 26:** Introductions and the Sociology of Gender. **Homework:** Take the Gender Science and/or Gender Career IAT at [www.implicit.harvard.edu](http://www.implicit.harvard.edu). Present print-out of your final score for 2 extra credit points.

**August 28:** Stereotypes and Gender Schemas. **Required Reading (henceforth RR):**, Wharton, **Chapter 1**. Recommended: the Guerrilla Girls.

**Sept. 2-4:** Nature: Evolutionary Biology/Psychology of Sex. **RR: Wharton, Chapter 2, pp. 17-31, 40-46, 49-52.** Recommended: Simon Baron-Cohen.

**Sept. 9:** Nurture: the Toy Class: Bring a gendered childhood object to class to share.  
**Homework:** Write a **one-page essay description** answering how this object is or became “gendered” for you. (**your first 5 points**).

**Sept. 11-16:** Nurture: Gender Socialization **RR: Wharton, pp. 31-40, 122-133.**

**Sept. 18:** Application of Nature/Nurture and Video interview. **RR: Colapinto ALL.**

**Sept. 23:** **In-class ESSAY QUIZ on Colapinto (15 points). Bring a blue book (get it in GC store).**

**Sept. 25:** “Gender Unknown” Video and comparison with Colapinto.

**Sept. 30:** Sexuality, Intersexuality. Multiple Sex/Genders? Sex vs. Gender? **RR: Wharton, pp. 47-49.** Recommended Fausto-Sterling.

**Oct. 2:** Gender in Interactions and Institutions. **RR: Wharton, Chapter 3 all.** Video on gender and sociolinguistics (recommended Tannen)

**Oct. 7-9:** Gender in the Family **RR: Wharton, pp. 133-165.** Video on housework (recommended Hochschild).

**Oct. 14: MIDTERM EXAM (30 points)**

**Oct. 16:** Gendering Work and Family **RR: Wharton, Chapter 4**

**Oct. 21:** Gendering Employment **RR: Wharton, Chapter 6.**

**Oct. 23-30:** Women Don’t Ask—Is that the gender problem? **In-class role playing exercise (5 points)**

**RR: Babcock and Laschever ALL.** Recommended Eagly/Carli, Chapter 7.

**Nov. 4:** **In-class ESSAY QUIZ on B/L issues (15 points). Bring a blue book.**

**Nov. 6:** Thinking/practice of Gender Inequalities and Sex/Gender **RR: Wharton, Chapter 7**

**Nov. 11 Veterans’ Day Holiday (University Closed)**

**Nov. 13:** What is feminism? Recommended: Watkins/Rueda/Rodriguez.

**Nov. 18: FINAL TEST (30 points)**

**Nov. 20-Dec. 4: Final Presentations. (20 points)** (November 27 & 28 Thanksgiving Holiday (University Closed).

**Dec. 4: Last class all papers due .**

