SYLLABUS for

SYG 3810: 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 discrimination.

Required Readings: The following texts can be purchased at the university bookstore, local book stores or on-line:


Requirements: Successful completion of the following assignments done on time (assignments turned in late will not be accepted; no make-ups): One book essay quiz=15 points; One midterm test=30 points; Two oral presentations with summary=one 5 points, one 10 points; One final research presentation or paper=20 points; Take-home final essay exam=20 points. Final points equal 100 points.

Course Outline


1/12: Stereotypes & Gender Schemas. RR: Archer/Lloyd (henceforth A/L), Chapter 2.
1/17: NO CLASS Martin Luther King Holiday University Closed

1/19: Nature: Evolutionary Biology/Psychology. RR: A/L: Chapter 3.

1/24: Nurture: Socialization. RR: A/L Chapter 4

1/26: The Toy Class: Bring a gendered childhood object to class and a one-page description of how the object is “gendered” for your first 5 points.

1/31: Application of Nature/Nurture. RR: Colapinto ALL.


2/7: “Gender Unknown” Video and discussion compare with Colapinto.


2/14: Gender effects of aggression/violence/power. RR: A/L, Chapter 6

2/16: Sociology of (Mental) Health and Gender. RR: A/L Chapter 7.

2/21: MIDTERM EXAM (30 points in class)

2/23 to 3/7: Group presentations of Penguin Atlas & paper summary (10 points) and Feminist Nationalism


3/16 and 3/28: Problem is Women Don’t Ask? RR: Babcock/Laschever ALL.

3/21 to 3/27: SPRING BREAK No classes.


4/11 to 4/20: Final Class presentations of Your Research (20 points) Take home final exam handed out on 4/11.

4/20: TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE NO EXTENSIONS (20 points)