SYLLABUS for SYD 4820:
Sociology of Men

Description: This course examines the social construction of masculinities from perspectives on the influences of race and ethnicity, social class, sexuality/gender and age as these themes get organized into the life course of the American male. We will consider if there is a “war against boys?” Why are there fewer men in higher education? Are there crises in masculinities? The goal of the course is to gain a sociological perspective on being a man in the contemporary U.S., and to challenge the taken-for-granted nature of everyday life.

Required Readings: The following texts can be purchased at the university bookstore, local book stores or on-line and they are all in paperback:

Requirements: Successful completion of the following assignments done on time (assignments turned in late will not be accepted; no make-ups):
1. In class oral presentations of the required readings (4 worth 5 points each, 20 points total). If you are not here the date your reading is due, you will not receive points. Students can earn extra credit with extra presentations.
2. Essay exam #1 on the readings (3 questions @ ten points each, 30 points)
3. A research project presented to the class (20 points)
4. Essay exam #2 on the readings (3 questions worth ten points each, 30 points)
Final points add up to 100 possible (20+30+20+30=100)

NOTE: I do not accept emailed assignments. You must turn in a hard copy in class or in my box in the sociology department on the due date.

Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction to the sociology of men and the history of men’s studies.

Week 2 and Week 3: Being a Boy—boy toys, sports, schooling.
RR: K/M Part Two; Sommers all.
No class January 19--Martin Luther King Day

**Week 4:** College Men—transitions to manhood  
**RR:** K/M Part Three.

**Week 5:** Varieties of Masculinities—the difference race/ethnicity/history makes.  
**RR:** Part One—articles 2-6.

**Week 6:** Men at Work  
**RR:** K/M Part Four.  **Your research project topic DUE.**

**Week 7:** Sex and Health  
**RR:** K/M Part Seven; Part Five.

**Week 8:** Relationships  
**RR:** K/M Part Six.  
**ESSAY EXAM #1**

**Week 9:** Families  
**RR:** K/M Part Eight.

**Week 10:** Overview of Becoming a Man: Looking from the outside in.  
**RR:** Vincent all.

**Week 11:** SPRING BREAK No Classes

**Week 12:** Media manhood  
**RR:** K/M Part Nine.  **Your research bibliography with 20 sources DUE.**

**Week 13:** Aggression and violence; social movements  
**RR:** K/M Parts Ten and Eleven

**Week 14-15:** Your research PRESENTATIONS.  
**ESSAY EXAM #2 DUE**