SYLLABUS for SYD 6325:
Comparative Sociology of Gender Seminar

This course examines how gender is sociologically constructed within an historical comparative perspective while considering questions raised by gender in relation to possibilities for social change. How can there be a “global” feminist movement if the very notion of feminism and the “global” are challenged by post-modernism? How can we theoretically relate sophisticated academic research and data to practical sociological outcomes? Can there be a theory and praxis of global feminist change? Themes here will focus sociologically on domination, inequality and equality related to sex/gender, race, and class.

Required Readings: The following texts can be purchased at the university bookstore, local bookstores or online and they are all in paperback:


Requirements: Final grade will be based on attendance (10%), in-class participation and presentation of assigned readings (40%), and completed original research project and paper with sociological data and sources (40%) that you present (10%).

Course Outline

Reading: Skocpol, “Emergent Agendas and Recurrent Strategies in Historical Sociology.”
Wharton all.
**Week 3: Biology: Motherhood** is what women share with each other but not with men. Some argue that may be the single most reason for women’s power or woman’s inequality. Yet what difference does a biological fact make to feminism? Reading: Huber all—tries to locate inequality in origins theory of evolutionary biology/anthropology.

Suggested: Hrdy on mothers in evolutionary anthropology.


**Week 4: Global women** U.N. Women’s Decade conference laid out women’s global agenda. Review here

Reading: UNRISD all.

**Weeks 5-6: Global law:** Radical feminist legal scholar Catharine MacKinnon has impacted national and international legislation. Here we consider her theories and legal discussion.

Reading: MacKinnon all.

**Weeks 7-8: Class: Materialism** structures everyone’s lives, but how can sociological theories and research help social change.

Reading: Acker all.


Reading: Sidanius/Pratto all. Recommended: James C. Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*.

**Week 11: SPRING BREAK No Classes**

**Weeks 12-13: Feminist Movements and Social Change.**

**Week 14 (April 9): No class—work on paper.**

**Week 15: Your research PRESENTATIONS.**

Final research paper due.