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):
Toy writing assignment (1 page)=5 points; In-class blue book quizzes (2 @ 15 points each)=30 points; Midterm test=30 points; Oral Atlas/FN presentation with summary (1 page)= 5 points; Final exam=30 points. Final points equal 100 points for an A.

Course Outline

8/29: Introductions and the Sociology of Gender—what is this? A Drawing Exercise
Homework: Take the Gender Science and/or Career IAT at www.implicit.harvard.edu

8/31: Stereotypes & Gender Schemas. Required Reading (henceforth RR); Wharton, Chapter 1; Recommended the Guerrilla Girls, Bitches, Bimbos and Ballbreakers.
9/5: Labor Day—No Class

9/7: Nature: Evolutionary Biology/Psychology of Sex.
RR: Wharton, Chapter 2, pp. 17-31; 40-46, 49-52; Recommended: Simon Baron-Cohen: The Essential Difference

9/12: Class video. Dr. West has jury duty.

9/14: The Toy Class: Small group discussions. Bring a gendered childhood object to class and a one-page essay description of how the object is “gendered” for your first 5 points.

9/19: Nurture: Gender Socialization. RR: Wharton, pp. 31-40, 122-133


9/26: In-class ESSAY QUIZ on Colapinto for 15 points. Bring a blue book.

9/28: “Gender Unknown” Video and discussion compare with Colapinto.

RR: Wharton, pp. 47-49

10/5: Gender in Interactions and Institutions. Wharton, Chapter 3 all. Video on gender and sociolinguistics (recommended Deborah Tannen’s You Just Don’t Understand.)

10/10: Gender in Family. RR: Wharton, pp. 133-165. Video on housework (recommended Hochschild/Machung’s The Second Shift)

10/12: MIDTERM EXAM (30 points)

10/17: Gendering Work and Family. RR: Wharton, Chapter 4

10/19-26: Gendering Employment. RR: Wharton, Chapter 6

10/31: Problem is Women Don’t Ask? RR: Babcock/Laschever ALL.

11/2: In-class ESSAY QUIZ on work and B/L for 15 points. Bring a blue book.

11/7-11-23: Globalizing Gender: Small group presentations of Penguin Atlas & Feminist Nationalism--paper summary (5 points)
11/28-11/30: Thinking/practice of Gender Inequalities and Sex/Gender
RR: Wharton, Chapter 7.

12/5: Rethinking the Sex and Gender Split

12/7-12/12: FINAL EXAM (30 points)