

Sociology of Gender
Spring 2013
CHT 110, M/W 2.50-4.05

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What is gender and what would a sociology of gender look like? That is the organizing question of this course. Gender is not an innocent classification, but rather a highly contested category. We will look at when gender became a category of inquiry and, more importantly, why. What do we 'know' about gender and how does knowledge of gender equal power—not just power of gender, but of sex, class, sexuality, and nationality?

Each class will be a discussion of the readings as well as a discussion of how the readings relate to our everyday lives. That means that in addition to the readings, I will ask you to apply them to everything from music, cinema, television—'Girls', 'It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia'?—to yourselves and your lives here on campus.

Reminder: This is a sociology class, not a science class. This means that when you come to class I expect to indulge/pretend/delight in the possibility that we are not programmed but constructed programmatically. You might not believe it. That's ok. But here's the exciting news: if we're constructed, anything is possible.

4 papers, 20% each

reading comments, 20%

Papers: There will be four papers in this class. For any one of the first three papers (only one), you may submit a creative project. Papers should be 3-5 pages, spacing 1.5, times/helvetica font. All sources must be cited properly. Your paper must incorporate readings from the class, and it must have an argument. We'll be discussing creative projects and paper topics during 'gender labs' (this is also a time for us to discuss more contemporary issues and for you to bring in news items/pop culture to share with the class). Papers are due Feb. 3, March 22, April 18, May 20. You may submit hardcopies, or email them to me (jessicae@middlebury.edu) by 11.59 pm on the day the paper is due.

Reading Comments: This is not a lecture course. I will not be lecturing. Consequently it is essential that you not only complete the readings for every class, but that read carefully and thoughtfully. Please come to each class with a comment (between 150-300 words) on the readings. These comments need to be submitted to me by email before class. You can also give me a hard copy at the beginning of class. They will be returned to you on Mondays. Comments from students who are absent will not be accepted. So come to class. I encourage you to think about how the readings relate to your life. Occasionally I will ask you answer a specific question about the readings. This question will be posted on the class website, and you will be notified well ahead of time that there is a prompt for the reading.

Honor Code: All students are expected to follow the Middlebury College Honor Code. It is your responsibility to abide by the code.

Cell Phones/Computers: no.



The Discovery of Gender

Feb. 11: What's your gender? How do you know? Why is gender important?

Feb 13: Problematizing Gender

- Ann Fausto-Sterling, 'Dueling Dualisms', *Sexing the Body*, 1-29.
- Judith Butler, <http://www.autostraddle.com/judith-butler-101-58115/>
- Blundell, 'Creation Myth', *Women in Ancient Greece*, 20-24.
- Blundell, 'Women's Bodies', *Women in Ancient Greece*, 98-112.

Feb. 18: Creating Sex and Gender

- Siobhan Somerville, 'Introduction' and 'Scientific Racism' from *Queering the Color Line*, 1-38.
- Evelyn Hammonds, 'Black (W)holes and the Geometry of Black Female Sexuality' from *Skin Deep, Spirit Strong*.

Feb. 20: Creating Sex and Gender

- Anne McClintock, 'Imperial Leather: Race, Cross-Dressing, and the Cult of Domesticity' from *Imperial Leather*, 132-180.

Gender and the Body

Feb. 25: The One Sex Model/Why Man?

- Thomas Laqueur, 'Destiny is Anatomy' (chapter 2), *Making Sex*, 25-62.
- Anne Carson, 'Putting Her in Her Place: Woman, Dirt, and Desire', *Before Sexuality: The Construction of the Erotic Experience in the Ancient Greek World*, 135-64.

Feb. 27: Gender Lab

****Paper 1 due Feb. 3

March 4: Sexual Difference and Scientific Learning

- Thomas Laqueur, 'New Science, One Flesh', (chapter 3) *Making Sex*, 63-113.

March 6: From 1 to 2 (the politics of sex)

- Thomas Laqueur, 'Discovery of the Sexes' (chapter 5), *Making Sex*, 149-92.

March 11: Intersex

- Ann Fausto-Sterling, 'Of Gender and Genitals', *Sexing the Body*, 45-77.
- Judith Lorber, 'Men as Women and Women as Men: Disrupting Gender', 51-61.

March 13: Sex Hormones

- Ann Fausto-Sterling, 'Sexing the Brain'/'Do Sex Hormones Really Exist?', *Sexing the Body*, 115-45, 170-94.

March 18: Sexuality Constructed?

- Rebecca Jordan-Young, 'Sexual Orienteering', *Brainstorm*, 144-97.
- David Halperin, 'Is there a History of Sexuality? *History and Theory*, vol. 28, no. 3 (1989), 257-74.

March 20: Gender Lab

****Paper 2 due March 22

Growing Up Gendered: Becoming a Man

April 1: Sport and War

- Sue Curry Jansen, 'The Sport Metaphor: Hegemonic Masculinity, the Persian Gulf War, and the New World Order'.
- Henry Jenkins III, 'Never Trust a Snake': WWF Wrestling as Masculine Melodrama', *Steel Chair to the Head*, ed. by Nicholas Sammond.
- Richard Giulianotti, 'Gender Identities and Sexuality in Sport', *Sport: A Critical Sociology*, 80-101.

April 3: Going to School

- C. J. Pascoe, *Dude, You're a Fag. Masculinity and Sexuality in High School*, 1-82.

April 8: Monsters, and Myth

- Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, '"The Mind That Burns in Each Body": Women, Rape, and Racial Violence', *Powers of Desire*, ed. by Snitow et al., 328-46.
- Herman Gray, 'Black Masculinity and Visual Culture', 89-109.
- Robert G. Lee, 'The Third Sex: Asian American Men in Popular Culture', *Sex, Gender, and Sexuality*, ed. by Abby Ferber et al., 322-33.

Growing Up Gendered: Becoming a Woman

April 10: On Being a Woman

- Joan Brumberg, *The Body Project*, 18-32, 97-137.

April 15: Gender Lab

April 17: Going to School

- Joan Letendre, '"Sugar and Spice But Not Always Nice": Gender Socialization and Its Impact on Development and Maintenance of Aggression in Adolescent Girls', 154-61.
- C. J. Pascoe, *Dude, You're a Fag. Masculinity and Sexuality in High School*, 115-55, 175-93.

****Paper 3 due April 18.

April 22: Myth and Monsters

- Evelyn Hammonds, 'Towards a Genealogy of Black Female Sexuality: The Problematic of Silence', *Feminist Theory and the Body*, ed. by Shildrick and Price, 93-104.
- Simone Weil Davis, 'Loose Lips Sink Ships', *Sex, Gender, and Sexuality*, ed. by Abby Ferber et al., 301-16.
- Patricia Hill Collins, 'Prisons for our Bodies, Closets for our Minds', *Sex, Gender, and Sexuality*, ed. by Abby Ferber et al., 115-30.

April 24: No class

April 29: Women's Bodies

- Susan Bordo, 'Whose Body Is This? Feminism, Medicine, and the Conceptualization of Eating Disorders', *Unbearable Weight*, 45-69.
- Susan Bordo, 'Anorexia Nervosa: Psychopathology as the Crystallization of Culture', *Unbearable Weight*, 139-64.

May 1: Myth and Monsters

- Hanne Blank, *Virgin*, 146-257.

Gender Representations and the Future**May 6: Rap and Video Games**

- Ronald Weitzer and Charis Kubrin, 'Misogyny in Rap Music: A Content Analysis of Prevalence and Meanings' 453-68.
- 'How Rap Can Help End Rape Culture', *The Atlantic*, link to be provided.

May 8: Third Wave Feminism and 'Girls' (I'm also open to suggestions)

- Ednie Kaeh Garrison, 'U.S. Feminism-Grrrl Style! Youth (Sub)Cultures and the Technologies of the Third Wave', *Feminist Studies*, 26.1.41-70.
- Maria San Filippo, 'Owning Her Abjection: Lena Dunham's Queer Feminist Sexual Politics', link to be provided.
- Judith Lorber, 'A World Without Gender', *Sex, Gender, and Sexuality*, ed. by Abby Ferber et al., 537-43.