

COURSE OUTLINE

SOCIOLOGY 110

WOMEN IN CANADIAN SOCIETY

Fall 2004

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Texts: Mandell, Nancy, ed. (4th edition)
2004 Feminist Issues: Race, Class, and sexuality
Scarborough, Prentice Hall Canada, Inc.

Crow, Barbara A. and Lise Gotell, eds. (2nd edition)
2004 Open Boundaries: A Canadian Women's Studies Reader
Scarborough, Prentice Hall Canada, Inc.

Course Description:

This course will investigate objectively and grasp clearly women's roles and positions in Canadian society. Gender inequality which has existed in the past has not been eradicated in spite of considerable progress made towards equality.

The first purpose of this course is to explore gender inequality within home and society by analyzing social institutions and using micro and macro perspectives.

The second purpose is to investigate the women's movement as a distinctive social movement composed of various groups of feminists of different ideologies and approaches. In addition, the course will make connections among feminist research, theories and activities, all of which attempt to improve the status of women, thereby enhancing the general social milieu.

The third purpose is to explore the personal experiences of women/men in this patriarchal society and to understand them not only as subjective individual happenings but objective public occurrences shared by other women/men.

Learning Objectives:

The following objectives are intended learning outcomes upon completion of the course. The students are expected to be able to:

1. Compare and understand the traditional views and sociological perspectives of women's position in the family as well as in society.
2. Articulate feminists' views of women's status, and the relationships among sexism, racism and imperialism.
3. Compare women's labour force participation in the past and the present.

4. Discuss accurately the patterns, ideologies and realities of women's participation in the labour force.
5. Explain gender-segregated workforce as well as gender differences of wages and explore ways to help to improve women's position.
6. Analyze women's domestic labour.
7. Describe how ideological structures construct the "realities" of work-dominated society, thereby constraining women.
8. Show cause and effect between women's economic productive status and reproductive status.
9. Examine institutions that have oppressed and continue to oppress women, and the consequences of such oppression.
10. Identify forms of sexism in media and advertising.
11. Understand social factors that have caused and maintain the existence of violence against women.
12. Review women's struggles for equality and the purposes of women's movements.
13. Explore women's various strategies to improve their position and methods to change social and personal relations.
14. Comprehend women's strength in various areas in spite of oppression and their contribution to home and society.
15. Learn about feminist organizations, women's organizations and agencies that deal with women's concerns.
16. Look into our position in the life cycle as women/men and analyze our past experiences, concerns and expectations as women/men and forecast future commitment to improvement of status of women.

Class Schedule

Week One	Introduction	
Day 1	Three Theories about Women's Oppression and Social Change	
	Mandell	Chapter 1
Day 2	To continue Day 1	
Week Two	Poststructural Theorizing	
Day 1	M	Chapter 2
Day 2	To continue Day 1	

Week Three	Third Wave Feminism	
Day 1	M	Chapter 3
Day 2	To continue Day 1 C and G	Chapter 1:1 (two persons) Chapter 1:3 (1) Chapter 1:5 (1) Chapter 1:6(7) (1)
Week Four	Images of Women: Body, Perfection and Vulnerability	
Day 1	M	Chapter 5
	Film	Still Killing Us Softly
Day 2	To continue Day 1	Chapter 5:6 (everyone) Chapter 5:7 (2) Chapter 5:8 (2)
Week Five	Gender Socialization	
Day 1	Women's experience C and G	Chapter 6:3 (2)
Day 2	Men's experience M	Chapter 7
Week Six	Intimate Relationship	
Day 1	M	Chapter 8
Day 2	To continue Day 1	
Week Seven	Paid Work	
Day 1	M	Chapter 9
Day 2	Mid-term Exam	
Week Eight		
Day 1	Paid Work M C and G	Chapter 9 Chapter 3:1 (2) Chapter 3:2 (2) Chapter 3:5 (2)
Day 2	Action and Social Change Film Explanation on the term paper	Working Together for Equality
Week Nine		
Day 1	To continue Day 2 of Week Eight C and G	Chapter 2:2 (1) Chapter 2:3 (2) Chapter 2:5 (2) Chapter 2:6 or 2:7 (2)

Day 2	Unessential/Silenced Women M	Chapter 4
Week Ten	Unessential Women	
Day 1	To continue Day 2 of Week Nine	
Day 2	Remembrance Day Holiday	
Week Eleven	To continue Day 1 of Week Ten	
Day 1	C and G	Chapter 3:6 (2) Chapter 3:7 (2) Chapter 6:2 (2)
Day 2	Violence Against Women M	Chapter 6
Week Twelve	Violence Against Women	
Day 1	To continue Day 2 of Week Eleven Film	Montreal Massacre
	C and G	Chapter 4:5 (2)
Day 2	C and G Film	Chapter 4:2 (everyone) Vienna Tribunal
Week Thirteen	To continue Day 2 of Week twelve	
Day 1	C and G	Chapter 4:3 (2) Chapter 4:4 (2)
Day 2	Education M	Chapter 10
Week Fourteen	Health	
Day 1	M	Chapter 11
Day 2	C and G C and G	Chapter 5:1 (2) Chapter 5:2 and 5:3 (2) Chapter 5:4 (2)

Course Organization:

This course consists of two lectures per week each of which lasts one hour and twenty minute. Students must be well prepared for each class by reading appropriate chapters each week. Occasional film presentations are scheduled.

Evaluation

1. Assignments:

There will be one written assignment that **must be completed in order to receive credit for Soc110**. It should be submitted to the teacher during the class on the assigned date. Students must hand in the original copy of the typed paper and should

keep a copy until the marked paper is returned. Late papers will be accepted only under extraordinary circumstances that include medical emergencies. In such a case physicians' notes are required.

a. A Term Paper:

A study of woman's or man's position in an institutional context in a patriarchal society: A combination of an examination of **your personal** learning experience as a woman or a man in an institutional context, a **sociological** investigation of other women or men, and a study of a women's, feminist, or human rights **organization** that helps them improve their status in society.

In order to effect this paper you must integrate the three components of work: A study of your personal experience; a study of literature (library research); and a study of an organization (interview).

Step 1:

What connects the three components (personal, sociological and organizational) is a common topic. First, you must choose a topic to write about. It could be harassment, discrimination, violence, eating disorder, abuse, humiliation, or praise or rewards that you have received, encountered yourself or witnessed in people closed to you. Then, you must decide in which institutional context this personal experience occurred. Institutions could be drawn from any that you have studied in the course: health, family/intimate relations, education, religion/spirituality, media, politics, work, sports, etc.

Step 2:

Examine what you have learned from your present and past personal experiences related to the topic.

Step 3:

Conduct library research in the topic to support or refute your experiences. Here, you are examining the topic in a sociological sense by conducting a critical investigation of other people's lives. You are allowed to use textbook materials but must do extra research outside of the textbooks.

Step 4:

Visit an organization in Victoria or its vicinity to explore what it has done to improve the situation of other women or men in relation to the topic you are concerned with. For instance, if you are writing about violence against women in family/intimate relations, you may visit the Victoria Transition House. A visit to organizations should be done in a group because their staff and volunteers are extremely busy and have no time to see you individually. Guidelines for the interview visit will be provided in a written form.

Due Date: **Week 13 - Day 2**
Weight: 30%

2. Examinations

There will be two in-class examinations that are **necessary components for receiving credit for Soc 110**. Students must take both examinations at the assigned time. Only under extraordinary circumstances are students excused. These circumstances include medical emergencies and exclude pleasure trips such as skiing and sunbathing. Students must contact the instructor before the exam period if they are unable to take the exam and shall write it at the time that is agreed between the instructor and the student.

- a. Mid-term Examination
Content: Weeks 1-6
Style: Short-answer and objective questions
Date: **Week 7 - Day 2**
Weight: 30%

- b. Final Examination
Content: Weeks 7-14
Style: Short-answer and objective questions
Date: **Exam Week**
Weight: 30%

3. Presentation

Students are required to give a class presentation of a summary of selected Chapters from *Open Boundaries*. According to the length of various articles students choose, they are required to work alone, in pairs or threesomes.

- a. Choose a chapter.
- b. Summarize main points of the chapter. Give a critique of the content/methods of the research. The lengths of the summary should be approximately two/three pages.
- c. Hand in a typed summary on the day of your presentation.
- d. Presentation requirements:
 1. The length should be approximately 10 minutes;
 2. Do not copy every single word used by the author. Stress important points;
 3. Speak clearly and sufficiently slowly;
 4. Avoid continual reading from your notes;
 5. Make an eye contact with the audience;
 6. Act like a presenter (including how you dress);
 7. Make your objective comments on the content/method of the research; and
 8. Ask and answer questions;
- e. Both presentation and written summary will be evaluated.

Due Date: The date on which the article of your choice is scheduled
for presentation
Weight: 10%

Grades: Letter grades for the course will be as follows:

95 -100%	A+
90 - 94%	A
85 - 89%	A-
80 - 84%	B+
75 - 79%	B
70 - 74%	B-
65 - 69%	C+
60 - 64%	C
50 - 59%	D
Below 50%	F