

SOC 419
Gender and Society

Objective: The purpose of this syllabus is to guide the participant in the requirements, demands, logistics and expectations of this course.

Getting Help:

To receive technical assistance on issues related to WebCT contact:

Academic Instructional Technology Help Desk
ES 102
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(719) 587-7371

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Welcome from your instructor

Hello!

My name is Grace Young. Since 1997, I have taught sociology at Adams State College. I grew up in a town called Elyria, Ohio, just west of Cleveland. I did my bachelor's work at Kalamazoo College in Michigan, and then did my graduate work at the University of Chicago and at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

I look forward to working with you on your Extended Studies course. I find it best if you e-mail me first to introduce yourself, and then we can begin work. I will try to respond as promptly as possible to your questions and your submissions of assignments. If you do not get a response from me within three days, don't hesitate to give me a helpful reminder e-mail.

Good Luck, Professor Grace E. Young

Course Description: The aim of the course is for you to become familiar with the continuing differences and inequalities between women and men in the contemporary United States, and to begin to explain why and how they occur. Understanding gender as it relates to race, class, and sexual orientation is an important organizing framework of the course. The gendered arrangements in a variety of social contexts such as the schools, the media, the family, the economy, religion and health will be studied.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes: The goal of this class is for you to learn how pervasive gender is in the way we organize our social life. It is the intent of the course to show how it organizes everything from our sense of personal identity to our daily face-to-face interactions, how it is embedded in institutions such as the family, the labor market, religious institutions, and the state. It is one of the fundamental bases upon which power relations and inequality are formed. The major goal of the course is to provide students with sociological ways of thinking about gender.

Credit hours: Three semester hours

Course Prerequisites: At least one semester of college introductory sociology and junior status.

Textbook

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 1032** to order books from Bookstore site.

Renzetti, C.M. and Curran, D.J. (2003). *Women, men and society*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN: 0-205-33533-0

Disch, E. (2003). *Reconstructing gender: A multicultural anthology*. Mountain View, CA: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 0-767-42771-8

Completion Time

You should expect to spend as much time on an online course as you do in a face-to-face course. As a rough guide, you should plan to spend six to ten hours per week on this course. The actual amount of time will vary from individual to individual. This estimate includes the time you spend in reading, discussions, and assignments.

You will have access to all course materials from the start of the course to the end. You may look and study ahead, or go back and review, at any time during the course. All assignments, including discussion boards, have set due dates.

Course Requirements

Each chapter in the Renzetti and Curran textbook is accompanied by two readings in the Disch Anthology (except for Chapter 3 and Chapter 11). For each chapter, you are required to do an assignment that asks you to integrate the chapter textbook in Renzetti and Curran with the readings assigned in Disch. These are referred to as the Reading/ Reflecting/ Writing Assignments. Ten of these are required. This component of the course is 100 points or 25 percent of the grade.

Examinations

You will be required to take three examinations. Each exam covers four chapters. These are multiple-choice exams. The exams are available in the Assessment tab. Do not take an exam until you have all assignments submitted and graded that are due before the exam. If you take an exam and have not completed the assignments for the modules prior, you will receive a zero on the exam.

Course Schedule

The attached schedule indicates the reading assignments for each class period. The chapters refer to readings in the book by Renzetti and Curran, *Women, Men and Society*. The articles are found in Disch's *Reconstructing Gender*.

Module 1

Chapter 1: Studying Gender in Renzetti and Curran and Readings in Disch: "La Guera," [71] "The Globe-Trotting Sneaker," [55] "Sneak Attack" [63]

Chapter 2: Biology, Sex and Gender in Renzetti and Curran and Readings in Disch "Tyranny of the Esthetic" [24] and "Color, Hair Texture and Standards of Beauty" [12]

Chapter 3: Ancestors and Neighbors in Renzetti and Curran

Chapter 4: Early Childhood Gender Socialization in Renzetti and Curran and Readings in Disch "Growing Up Hidden" [15] and "Inside the World of Boys" [27]

Exam #1 over Chapters 1 through 4 in Renzetti and Curran and Readings in Disch assigned to those chapters (listed above).

Module 2

Chapter 5: Schools and Gender in Renzetti and Curran and Readings in Disch "The Myth of the Latin Woman" [13] and "From Nothing: A Consciousness" [2]

Chapter 6: The Great Communicators in Renzetti and Curran and Readings in Disch "Danny" [30] and "The Puerto Rican Dummy and the Merciful Son" [3]

Chapter 7: Gender and Intimate Relationships in Renzetti and Curran and Readings in Disch "I am a Man" [42] and "Sexual Dissent and the Family" [43]

Chapter 8: Gender, Employment and the Economy in Renzetti and Curan and Readings in Disch ,“Effects of Affirmative Action on Other Stakeholders” [54] and “Stopping Sexual Harassment” [72]

Exam #2 over Chapters 5 through 8 in Renzetti and Curan and Readings in Disch assigned to those chapters (listed above).

Module 3

Chapter 9: Gender, Crime and Justice in Renzetti and Curan and Readings in Disch “Dreams” [46] “Homophobia in Straight Men” [60]

Chapter 10: Gender, Politics, Government, and the Military in Renzetti and Curan and Readings in Disch “How Safe is America?” [64], “Comprehending the Afghan Quagmire” [62]

Chapter 11: Gender and Spirituality

Chapter 12: Gender and Health in Renzetti and Curan and Readings in Disch “Why the Precautionary Principle?” [68], “Does Silencio = Muerte?” [69]

Exam #3 over Chapters 9 through 12 in Renzetti and Curan and Readings in Disch assigned to those chapters (listed above).

Weekly Reading/Reflecting/Writing Assignments

With every chapter in the Renzetti and Curan textbook (except chapters 3 and 11), you are usually assigned two (sometimes three) articles from the Disch reader. (See the COURSE SCHEDULE above for details on these assignments). You must answer the questions below for the chapters and set of readings. You will need to submit them to me after the completion of each chapter. The questions below are designed to help you reflect on the interconnections between the readings and the textbook and to prepare you to understand the interconnections between the text, the readings and your own experience.

1. What do you think is the author’s main message in each reading of Disch?
2. What interconnections do you see among/between the readings in Disch?
3. How do the articles relate to the chapter in Renzetti and Curan assigned for this week?
4. How does the material apply to your own life situation? For example, how does the material have implications for your own intellectual interests and pursuits?
5. What is your reaction and evaluation of the readings and chapter for this week?

Grading Distribution

Exam #1 over Module 1

100 points

Exam #2 over Module 2	100 points
Exam #3 over Module 3	100 points
Reading/Reflecting/Writing Assignments	100 points

TOTAL	400 points
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Grading Scale:

360-400 = A

320-359 = B

280-319 = C

240-279 = D

0-239 = F