

## CRS 419 : GENDER AND SOCIETY

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COURSE CREDIT: Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES: at least one semester of college introductory sociology and junior status

### REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

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.

The books are available at the college bookstore and are required for the class.  
Renzetti, Claire M. and Daniel J. Curran. 2003. Women, Men and Society. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN: 0-205-33533-0

Disch, Estelle. 2009. Reconstructing Gender: A Multicultural Anthology. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing. Fifth Edition, ISBN: 978-0-07-338006-3.

### 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:

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.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Each chapter in the Renzetti and Curan 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 Curan with the readings assigned in Disch. These are referred to as the Reading/Reflecting/Writing Assignments. Ten of these are required. (There is no written work for Chapters 3 and 11.) This component of the course is 100 points or 25% of the grade. In addition, you will be required to take three examinations. Each exam covers four chapters. These are multiple choice exams. If you choose to take an exam before completing the written work that is covered in the exam, you receive 0 points for those written assignments.

**GRADING:**

		<b>GRADING SCALE</b>
Exam #1 over Section I	100 points	360 - 400 = A
Exam #2 over Section II	100 points	320 – 359 = B
Exam #3 over Section III	100 points	280 – 319 = C
Reading/Reflecting/Writing Assignments	100 points	240 – 279 = D
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>400 points</b>	<b>0 - 239 = F</b>

**COURSE SCHEDULE:****SECTION I**

Chapter 1 Studying Gender

“Patriarchy, the System” [#10]

“The Globe-Trotting Sneaker,” [#50]

Chapter 2 Biology, Sex and Gender

“Tyranny of the Esthetic” [#23]

”Who’s the Fairest of Them All?”[#13]

Chapter 3 Ancestors and Neighbors

No readings to accompany this chapter, and no written work required for this chapter.

Chapter 4 Early Childhood Gender Socialization

“Growing Up Hidden” [#15]

“Boyhood, Organized Sports and the Construction of Masculinities” [#12]

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

**SECTION II**

Chapter 5 Schools and Gender

“From Nothing: A Consciousness” [#2]

“Black and Female: Reflections on Graduate School” [#44]

Chapter 6 The Great Communicators

“Where Are the Women?” [#29]

“The Puerto Rican Dummy and the Merciful Son” [#1]

Chapter 7 Gender and Intimate Relationships

“I am a Man” [#38]

“What is Marriage For?” [#39]

Chapter 8 Gender, Employment and the Economy

“Latinas on the Fault Line of Citizenship” [#6]

“The End of Welfare As We Know It” [#46]

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

**SECTION III**

Chapter 9 Gender, Crime and Justice

“The Ultimate Growth Industry: Trafficking in Women and Girls” [#59]

“Women, Violence and Resistance” [#54]

Chapter 10 Gender, Politics, Government, and the Military

“How Safe is America?” [#60]

“The Private War of Women Soldiers” [#62]

Chapter 11 Gender and Spirituality

No readings to accompany this chapter, and no written work required for this chapter.

Chapter 12 Gender and Health

“Why the Precautionary Principle?” [66]

“Does Silencio = Muerte?” [67]

**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?

I will use the rubric below to grade each of your Reading/Reflecting/Writing Assignments.

### **Feedback on Written Work of Weekly Reading/Reflecting/Writing Assignments**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Points \_\_\_\_\_

**( 2 points each)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Provided a general statement of the author's main message in each of the readings

\_\_\_\_\_ Provided an explanation of the connections between the readings

\_\_\_\_\_ Related the reading to the chapter for the week

\_\_\_\_\_ Explained how the material can relate to your own life or intellectual pursuits

\_\_\_\_\_ Provided your own reaction and evaluation

