American University of Central Asia, Sociology of Gender, Fall 2011 8OC 354: Sociology of Gender

Instructor: Selbi Jumayeva, AFP Returning Scholar Credits: 3

Course code: SOC324

Class schedule: Lecture: Wednesday 12:45

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Seminars: Saturday 12:45 Office hours: by appointment

"I came to theory because I was hurting – the pain within me was so intense that I couldn't go on living. I came to theory desperate, wanting to comprehend – to grasp what was happening around and within me. Most importantly, I wanted to make the hurt go away. I saw in theory then a location of healing."

- bell hooks, Teaching to Transgress

Course description and objectives:

This is an <u>introductory</u> course to the sociology of gender. We will begin with exploring the socialization process, structures and institutes and their impact on the gender roles, expectations and practices. In the process, we will learn about various gender theories, including feminisms and use of gender pespective within classical, contemporary and advance social theories. We will apply these theories and approaches to the wide range of topics such as education, work, health, human rights, social and mass media, visual culture and advertising, music, globalization and social change, sexuality, body, race and ethnicity. Course will allow for both creative and analytical engagement with theories in form of academic research, reflection pieces and applied projects during 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign 2011.

Course Evaluation:	100-95: A	69-65: C
I 1(10 (* *4) 40	94-90: A-	64-60: C-
Journal (10 entries*4)40	89-85: B+	59-55: D+
Theoretical Essay or Project40	84-80: B	54-50: D
Participation and effort20	79-75: B-	50-45: D-
Total100	74-70: C+	>45: F

Grading Scale:

"X" – grade "X" is an administrative drop and can only be initiated by instructor and cannot be requested by a student. This grade can be given only when a student is seriously sick and missed series of classes in a row (sickness should be justified by necessary documentation). It may also lead to an X if a student gets X in the rest of the classes where he or she is registered for the given semester.

"I" – grade "I" may be given to a student if he or she justified a) a serious sickness; b) serious family circumstances, and otherwise in normal attendance/participation she or he would pass the course.

Course Requirements:

Readings: Ideally you should read the assignments before the beginning of the week in order to better understand and engage with lecture material. At the latest you must read the assignments prior to the seminars. Readings will present different theoretical and applied perspectives, you might not agree with all of them, but exploring them will allow you to engage with them as well as challenge those approaches. Hardcopies of the required readings will be provided while recommended literature will be uploaded and available on the e-course.

Class Participation: The tone and dynamic of our class are in part up to students; discussion proceeds more easily and in more useful fashion (and is more enjoyable) when students come to class prepared. Informed participation includes making connections between our discussions, readings, and relevant current events; listening to others and responding to their comments; taking an active part in class exercises; asking questions about readings and lectures; and *not monopolizing the conversation* - making room for someone else to speak. I will not summarize lectures, readings, or discussions via email, but I am very happy to discuss readings, lectures, and the like during office hours. Active discussions and comments on e-course system for the course will be counted towards class participation points. Remember that participation is worth 20% of your final course grade.

Attendance: You are allowed 2 absences, no questions asked. After that, each absence may reduce your final course grade by as much as 1 letter grade. Accruing more than 5 absences risks failure in the class. Arriving late or leaving class early counts as 1/2 of an absence. I do not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences, so it's a good idea to save your 2 absences for illnesses, out-of-town events, or family emergencies.

Assignments: Due dates are final, and all assignments are due before class begins. If you are absent the day a written assignment is due, you will receive a 10% deduction in assignment grade for each day that the assignment is not turned in.

Journal: You will be writing 10 short journal entries over the course of the semester (see due dates in the course schedule). For each entry, you should select a reading that you find particularly interesting or relevant to your experience. On the first page, you will be asked to comment on and critique the reading (asking yourself what the piece does well and what questions remained unanswered). On the second page, you should apply the insights you've gained from reading and reflecting on the piece by analysing a cultural artefact, phenomenon or social practice that you encounter outside of the classroom. Offer a brief description, and then discuss how this reading has enhanced or changed your perspective on the phenomena identified. Your journal grades will be based on your level of engagement with / understanding of the readings, and the completeness of your discussion and analysis.

Theoretical essay or Applied Project: You will have a choice for your final assignment whether to write theoretical essays using gender and feminist theories <u>or</u> to design and implement antiviolence project for the 16 Days Campaign Against Gender Violence this year. Guidelines for the final paper/project will be distributed in the 3rd week of semester.

Class Discussion Principles: As with any serious scholarly endeavor, the point of our inquiry is critical understanding -- not advocacy of personal positions. Our views will diverge, to be sure. We are free to disagree with each other, even intensely, so long as we do so respectfully. *Ground comments about news events, personal experiences, and the like in course materials.* Please present your position(s) clearly and support them with evidence. Please do not interrupt one another (or me). Refrain from talking with others during lectures or while others are speaking. Make an effort to learn one another's names; direct comments to each other directly, rather than through me as a communication conduit. I expect *all* of us to be reflexive about our positions and feelings, opening them to the same degree of scrutiny that we apply to others'. Please keep in mind principles of inclusion and non-discriminatory language.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The AUCA Code of Academic Honesty is written in the university handbook, and you are all at least formally aware of the meaning of cheating and plagiarism. If you have any questions, concerns or unsure about what to do in a particular case, please come to me for advice. I will be happy to help you work through any difficulties or uncertainties, particularly those

regarding proper citation of sources. DO NOT assume that if you break the Code of Academic Honesty unknowingly, you will be penalized. It is your responsibility to understand the Code and to abide by it. Any deviation from the Code will result in a failure on the exam or assignment in question. Two violations will result in a failure for the course.

Class Schedule:

Note: The schedule is subject to minor modifications. If this is the case you will be informed during the classes or via email in advance.

Weeks	Class Themes and Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to the Course
Wed, Aug 24	Intro to the course, revision of the syllabus
Sat, Aug 27	hooks (1994) Chapter 1 "Engaged Pedagogy" in Teaching to Transgress
Week 2	Introduction to Gender
Wed, Aug 31	DAY OFF: Beauvoir (1949) "Introduction" to <i>The Second Sex</i>
Sat, Aug 3	Lorber (1994) "Night to his Day"
-	Messner (2000) "Barbie Girls versus Sea Monsters: Children Constructing Gender".
Week 3	Social Construction of Gender
Wed, Sep 7	Lorber (1992) "Believing is Seeing: Biology as Ideology"
Sat, Sep 10	Martin (2004) "Gender as Social Institution"
	DUE: JOURNAL ENTRIES 1&2
Week 4	Conceptualizing Masculinity
Wed, Sep 14	Hearn and Collinson (1994) "Theorizing Unities and Differences Between Men and Between Masculinities."
Sat, Sep 17	Kimmel (1994) "Masculinity as Homophobia: Fear, Shame and Silence in the
Sui, Sep 17	Construction of Gender Identity."
Week 5	Gender and Sexuality
Wed, Sep 21	Rubin (1984) "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of
(vea, sep 21	Sexuality."
Sat, Sep 24	Jackson (2005) "Social Complexity of Heteronormativity: Gender, Sexuality
~, ~	and Heterosexuality."
	DUE: JOURNAL ENTRY 3
Week 6	Intersectionality of Gender with Class and Race/Ethnicity
Wed, Sep 28	Collins (1999) "Moving beyond gender. Intersectionality, situated standpoints
,	and black feminist thought."
Sat, Oct 1	Fine et al (1998) "(In) Secure Times: Constructing While Working-Class
,	Masculinities in the Late 20 th Century"
	Shields (2005) "Gender: An Intersectionality Perspective"
	DUE: ESSAY QUESTION and PROJECT THEME
	DUE: JOURNAL ENTRY 4
Week 7	Gender-Based Violence
Wed, Oct 5	FILM: Epstein (2003) V-Day Documentary "Until The Violence Stops"
Sat, Oct 8	United Nations (2010) "Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against
	women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, Mission to Kyrgyzstan"
	HRW (2006) "Reconciled to Violence: State Failure to Stop Domestic Abuse
	and Abduction of Women in Kyrgyzstan."
	FILM: Pierce (1999) "Boys Don't Cry" or Pierson (2003) "Soldier's Girl"
	HRW (2008) "These Everyday Humiliations: Violence Against Lesbian,
	Bisexual Women, and Transgender Men in Kyrgyzstan."
	DUE: JOURNAL ENTRY 5
Week 8	Beyond the binary?

XX71.10	FALL BREAK October 17-21
Week 10	Back to the Biology? (Intersexualities)
Wed, Oct 26	Preves (2001) "Sexing the Intersexed: An Analysis of Sociocultural
	Responses to Intersexuality."
Sat, Oct 29	Chase (2003) "Hermaphrodite with Attitude: Mapping the Emergence of
	Intersex Political Activism."
	FILM: Puenzo (2007) "XXY"
Week 11	DUE: JOURNAL ENTRIES 7&8
Week 11 Wed, Nov 2	Gender and the Body Mulvey (1975) "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema."
Wed, NOV 2	Bordo (1999) "Beauty (Re)Discovering Male Beauty."
Sat, Nov 5	Shakespeare (1996) "The body line controversy": a new direction for Disability
Sat, 110 v 3	Studies."
	McRuer and Wilkerson (2003) "Cripping the (Queer) Nation."
	DUE: ROUGH DRAFT ESSAY and PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Week 12	Gender Scholarship and Colonial Discourses
Wed, Nov 9	Mohanty (1988) "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial
	Discourses."
Sat, Nov 12	Kamp (2009) "Women's Studies and Gender Studies in Central Asia: Are We
	Talking to One Another"
	Edgar (2006) "Bolshevism, Patriarchy, and the Nation: The Soviet
	"Emancipation" of Muslim Women in Pan-Islamic Perspective."
W1-12	DUE: JOURNAL ENTRY 9
Week 13 Wed, Nov 16	Gender Order and Inequality in Central Asia Guest Lecture: Dr. Ibraeva "Family Transformations in Kyrgyzstan"
Wed, NOV 10	Connell (1987) "Gender Regimes and the Gender Order" in <i>Gender and Power</i>
Sat, Nov 19	Guest Lecture: Sultanalieva S., AFP "Situation of LGBT people in Kyrgyzstan"
	Wilkinson & Kirey (2010) "What's in a name? The personal and political
	meanings of 'LGBT' for nonheterosexual and transgender youth in Kyrgyzstan"
	DUE: JOURNAL ENTRY 10
	Nov 20 th : Transgender Day of Remembrance
	Gender Politics and Resistance
Week 14	
Wed, Nov 23	Butler (2004) "End of Sexual Difference?" in <i>Undoing Gender</i>
	Miller (2004) "Sexuality, violence against women, and human rights: Women
Wed, Nov 23	Miller (2004) "Sexuality, violence against women, and human rights: Women make demands and ladies get protection."
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