SOCI 4310 (02): Sociology of Gender  
Professor Amie Bostic  
Fall 2018  
(956) 882-8894; amie.bostic@utrgv.edu  
MSL Ctr 1.111, MW 9:25a-10:40a  
BMAIN 1.436, 11a-12 MW; 11a-1p T, or by appointment

Textbook and/or Resource Material  
There are no required textbooks for this course. All readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Classroom Laptop Policy  
The use of laptops or other electronic devices is not permitted unless otherwise stated by the professor.

Course Description and Prerequisites  
This course discusses and explores a wide range of gender-related issues in a global perspective, some of which are controversial. The course covers theories, practices, and issues related to the social construction of gender and the institutional basis of gender inequality that affects our lives as women and men in the United States and other societies. This course encourages students to rethink and reevaluate much of what we have experienced and learned, to gain major vocabulary and analytic skills, to challenge what has been taken for granted, and to formulate a vision for the future.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course  
Students in the course will develop an understanding of how gender and sex roles have been created and changed, how these vary across contexts, and how gender affects life chances. Upon completion, students should understand and be able to engage with prominent theories and sociological research in this area, convey criticism and concerns through writing and discussion, and better understand their own gendered lives.

Learning Objectives for Core Curriculum Requirements  
This course is a degree elective.  
This course can be applied towards the Gender & Women's Program Minor or Undergraduate Certificate.

Assignments and Grading  
Discussion Questions (10%)  
Attendance (10%)  
Response Papers (20%)  
Short Application Papers (20%)  
Midterm Exam (20%)  
Final Exam (20%)

Discussion Questions  
Each week, students are responsible for submitting 3 discussion questions about the week's readings to the discussion leaders by 5pm Friday. You can skip 2 weeks of questions without penalty.

Two or three students will act as discussion leaders each week. Discussion leaders will create an organized document of student questions for the class, using this document to lead discussion. Discussion leaders should send a copy of their document to the professor by 8am Monday. The professor will make copies for the class. Not participating as discussion leader during the assigned week will result in a two letter-grade drop in your final grade.
Attendance
Regular attendance is necessary and expected. Active participation during discussion is crucial for a successful class. Students will be permitted three absences without penalty, no matter the reason. Unless you are observing a religious holiday or away for military service, the only excused absences, there is no reason to notify me about missing class.

Response Papers
Students are required to submit weekly response papers based on the readings. You should focus on one theme or key point in the reading, summarize the concept or argument, provide an example or application, and offer a critique. Grades will be based on (1) organization and clarity of writing, (2) discussion of the topic, and (3) inclusion of all necessary parts. An example and detailed directions are posted on Blackboard. Page number references should be used for direct quotes, though use of direct quotes is discouraged. **Response papers are expected to be 2 double spaced pages (12 pt font, 1” margins) and should be submitted to Blackboard before class on Mondays. You are required to submit 10.** Graded assignments will receive a 70, 80, 90 or 100. Missing or late assignments will receive a 0.

Short Application Papers
In lieu of a term paper, there are four short application papers, typically 3-5 pages. Detailed instructions for each paper are posted on Blackboard.

Exams
Exams will be given in class. They will be a combination of defining/understanding terms, short answer and essay questions.

Exams are closed book and a computer is not permitted. There are no make-up exams. If you are absent, this absence must be officially excused and communicated as soon as possible.

Any form of cheating or communication with other students during an exam will results in a 0 on that exam for everyone involved.

Late work: I will not accept late work. Therefore, you need to be certain that you turn in your work on time. UTRGV’s grading policy is to use straight letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F).

Professionalism: Professional behavior is expected in this course. **Any acts of unprofessional behavior will be reflected in a lowered final grade.** Unprofessional behaviors include:

• showing up to class late or leaving early
• violating classroom laptop policy
• submitting non-original work as your own
• texting or other phone use in class
• disrespecting others (not paying attention, sleeping, interrupting others)
• missing deadlines or coming to class unprepared
• using email inappropriately (see http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor for tips on how to avoid common errors students make when emailing professors). Read emails before you send them, check the syllabus for policies first, and email me regarding regrading.
• Engage in other similar unprofessional behavior

Extra Credit: You will receive a 2-point bonus to your midterm grade for uploading a profile picture to Blackboard by September 14. **This should be a clear picture of your face with no one else included in the picture, similar to your university ID card picture.**
Personal Identities

Gender is central to the lives of many students, and not all students go by their legal name or find that the information in the University system does not accurately portray their identity. Please send me an email and let me know what your preferred name and pronouns are. For example, I prefer to be called Professor Bostic or Dr. Bostic, and my preferred pronouns are her & she.

Calendar of Activities

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for fall 2018 include:

- **August 27**: First day of classes
- **August 30**: Last day to add a course or register for fall 2018
- **September 3**: Labor Day – NO classes
- **November 14**: Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
- **November 22 - 24**: Thanksgiving Holiday – NO classes
- **December 6**: Study Day – NO classes
- **December 7 - 13**: Final Exams
- **December 14 - 15**: Commencement Exercises

Course Schedule (*Subject to change*)

**Week 1: Introductions and Theoretical Perspectives**

- **August 27**: Introduction
- **August 29**: Theory
- **September 3**: No class; Labor Day

**Week 2: Sex, Gender & Difference**

- **September 5:**
  - **September 10:**
    - First response paper due

**Week 3: Gender Roles**

- **September 12:**
- **September 17:**
  - Excerpts from Part 2 “Cultural Constructions of Gender” in The Gendered Society Reader.

**Week 4: Masculinity**

- **September 19:**
- **September 24:**
**Week 5: The Gendered Family**  
*September 26:*

**October 1:**  
*First short application paper due*


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**Week 6: Sex and Sexuality**  
*October 3:*

**October 8:**  
Kane, Emily. 2006. “‘No Way My Boys are going to Be Like That!’: Parents’ Responses to Children’s Gender Nonconformity.” *Gender and Society* 20(2): 149-176.

Excerpts from “Sexual Relations, Intimacy, and Power.” in *Gender through the Prism of Difference*

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**Week 7: Violence**  
*October 10:*

**October 15:**  
Excerpts from “Violence.” in *Gender through the Prism of Difference*


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**Week 8: Gender and Education**  
*October 17:*

**Second short application paper due**

**October 22:**  


**October 24: MIDTERM**

**October 29: NO CLASS**

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**Week 9: Gender and Health**  
*October 31:*

**Third short application paper due**

**November 5:**  

**Week 10: Gender and the Labor Force**

- **November 7:**
- **November 12:**


**Week 11: Gender and Religion**

- **November 14:**
  Fourth short application paper due

- **November 19:**


**Week 12: Gender and Politics**

- **November 21:**

**Week 13: Gender and Immigration**

- **November 26:**
- **November 28:**

Espiritu, Yen L. 2001. “‘We Don’t Sleep Around Like White Girls Do’: Family, Culture, and Gender in Filipina American Lives.” *Signs* 26:414–40

**Week 14: Intersectionality**

- **December 3:**
- **December 5:**


**EXAM: December 12 @ 8am**
**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

**Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

**Student Accessibility Services:**
**Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

- **Module 1** October 4 – 10
- **Module 2** November 29 – December 5
- **Full Fall Semester** November 15 – December 5

**ATTENDANCE:**
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations. **Students will be permitted 3 absences without penalty.**

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:**
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV
actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:**
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:
- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)