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Sociology (SOC) 2038 Gender Studies (3 Units) CSU

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This course explores issues of sex and gender in sociological and psychological research, biological and socialization influences affecting females and males, and the effect of socially-constructed gender roles on human behavior. Specific topics that will be addressed include: gender bias in research, gender stereotypes, physiological/biological influences on gender, theories of gender development, gender identity, cognitive abilities, emotion, relationships, sexuality, and gender issues in treatment for mental disorders. Also covered are the debates on sex and gender and the impact of economic and political change on gender expectations and practices as well as a macro-analysis of how institutions shape gender. The student may opt to receive credit in either Sociology 2038 or Psychology 2038, not both. C-ID: SOCI 140

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: Brannon, Linda. *Gender: Psychological Perspectives*. 5th ed. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 2008. Print.

Lindsey, Linda L. *Gender Roles: A Sociological Perspective*. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson, 2015. Print.

Additional Required Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to

1. Identify the need to study gender,
2. Identify a variety of authorities and theories currently used to explain gender differences,
3. Compare and contrast male and female cultures,

4. Analyze two barriers to gender communication,
5. Identify the logical outcome of gender barriers at home, at the work place, and the community at large,
6. Explain and use conflict management techniques,
7. Compare and contrast sociological perspectives used to interpret gender relations,
8. Differentiate between the terms sex and gender and discuss their differences within the larger social context of gendered relations,
9. Identify the main agents of gender socialization and their impact on children's and adults' gender construction,
10. Describe gender ideology and practices in multiple social institutions and across cultures and societies,
11. Identify the interplay of race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality affecting gender relations,
12. Outline the process by which people negotiate power and gender boundaries through their relationships with others (including violent relationships), and
13. Identify social and political movements to change gender inequalities and gender practices.

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I. The Study of Gender
- A. History of gender studies in psychology
 - B. History of gender studies in sociology
 - C. Issues in the study of gender
 - a. psychological
 - b. sociological
 - D. Considering diversity
- Unit II. Researching Sex and Gender
- A. Scientific method
 - B. Approaches to research
 - C. Gender bias in research
 - D. Considering diversity
- Unit III. Gender Stereotypes: Masculinity and Femininity
- A. Origins of gender stereotypes
 - B. Conceptualizing and measuring masculinity and femininity
 - C. Implications of stereotyping
 - D. Considering diversity
- Unit IV. Physical/Biological Components of Sex and Gender
- A. Endocrine system and steroid hormones
 - B. Stages of differences between the sexes
 - C. Sexual differentiation
 - D. Hormones and behavior instability
 - E. Considering diversity

- Unit V. Psychological Theories of Gender Development
- A. Psychodynamic approach to personality
 - B. Social learning theory
 - C. Cognitive theories of gender development
 - D. Which theory is best
- Unit VI. Major Theoretical Paradigms in Sociology
- A. Structural-functional
 - B. Social-conflict
 - C. Symbolic- interaction
 - D. Feminist Theory
 - E. Which theoretical paradigm is best
- Unit VII. Developing Gender Identity
- A. Gender identity development
 - B. Influences on gender identity development
 - C. Considering diversity
- Unit VIII. Intelligence and Cognitive Abilities
- A. Cognitive abilities
 - B. Source of the differences
 - C. Implications of gender-related differences
 - D. Considering diversity
- Unit IX. Emotion
- A. Physiological, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of emotion
 - B. Gender and the experience of emotion
 - C. Expressivity and emotion
 - D. Considering diversity
- Unit X. Relationships
- A. Friendships
 - B. Love relationships
 - C. Dissolving relationships
 - D. Considering diversity
- Unit XI. Sexuality
- A. Study of sexuality
 - B. Childhood sexuality: Exploration and abuse
 - C. Heterosexuality
 - D. Homosexuality
 - E. Bisexuality
 - F. Considering diversity
- Unit XII. School

- A. The school experience
- B. Achievement
- C. Considering diversity

Unit XIII. Careers and Work

- A. Careers
- B. Gender issues at work
- C. Considering diversity

Unit XIV. Health and Fitness

- A. Mortality
- B. The health care system
- C. Gender, lifestyle, and health
- D. Considering diversity

Unit XV. Stress, Coping, and Psychopathology

- A. Stress and coping
- B. Diagnoses of mental disorders
- C. Gender comparisons in psychopathology
- D. Considering diversity

Unit XVI. Treatment for Mental Disorders

- A. Approaches to therapy
- B. Gender issues in therapy
- C. Sexual exploitation in therapy
- D. The self-help movement
- E. Considering diversity

Unit XVII. Contemporary Issues in Gender Research

- A. How different are the genders?
- B. Where are the differences?
- C. Can the genders get along?

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Assigned readings, lectures, and film
2. Working on assigned projects

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures
2. Group discussion

3. Guest lectures
4. Use of audio/visual/music
5. Group project(s)
6. In-class discussions

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Presentation(s)
4. Project(s)
5. Final examination
6. Student-generated written work