SOCIOLOGY 200  
Women in Contemporary Society  
Spring 2015  
Tu/Th 11:00am-12:15pm  
102 Hamilton Hall  

Dr. Regina Werum  
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Office Hours  
Tu/Th 1:00pm -3:00pm  
or by appointment  

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Office Hours Wednesdays 9-10am or by appointment, 406 Oldfather  

COURSE OVERVIEW  
This course introduces students to the causes and consequences of gender roles and gender stratification.  
It is not about women per se, but about the ways in which the society in which we live affects everyone's life experiences. Students will become familiar with different theories about gender, and we will examine how lifelong gender socialization as well as various social institutions, norms, laws and cultural practices surrounding us create gendered effects in every aspect of our lives. This course takes an explicitly comparative-historical and comparative-international perspective. By the end of the semester, students should have a thorough understanding of how the social context in which we live affects our lives -- as women, as men, or as transgender individuals, and all along the LGBTQ continuum.  

COURSE REQUIREMENTS  
Ground Rules  
UNL does recognize a D- as a passing grade. However, for this course to count towards your major, you must earn a “C” in all aspects of the course, including attendance. Grading scale:  
97 –100% = A+  
93 – 96% = A  
90 – 92% = A-  
87 – 89% = B+  
83 – 86% = B  
80 – 82% = B-  
77 – 79% = C+  
73 – 76% = C  
70 – 72% = C-  
67 – 69% = D+  
63 – 66% = D  
60 – 62% = D-  
57 – 59% = F  

Regular attendance in class: If you miss more than three classes during the semester, I reserve the right to lower your grade. Punctuality is key. Late arrival counts as an absence. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain lecture notes from your fellow students.  

Active participation in class: As noted above, this includes being attentive and participating in class discussions. I expect students to come to class prepared. This includes having read the materials for each class before we meet. Please note that reading loads can be uneven across weeks – please plan accordingly.  

Professionalism: I welcome and encourage input from a wide range of viewpoints. However, I will not tolerate disruptive behavior or discourteous manners and speech. Please TURN OFF your cell phones, pagers, etc. I consider it disruptive, inconsiderate, and disrespectful when these devices go off during class. In class, I will explain the consequences breaking this norm will have for you – in which case I do reserve the right to lower your course grade.  

I reserve the right to change the syllabus as well as exam dates.  

Student Code of Conduct: By attending this class you agree to adhere to the academic honor code. The UNL Student Code of Conduct applies to all aspects of the course. To familiarize
Youself with it, please visit http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/three.shtml, paying close attention to section 4.2. For additional information about plagiarism as a form of academic dishonesty subject to university regulations and the UNL Student Code of Conduct, please visit http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/integrity#plagiarism.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is UNL policy to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY. For further information regarding UNL policies in this regard, please visit http://www.unl.edu/equity/ or call (402) 472-2322.

**Gender-Neutral Bathrooms:** The following webpage provide a list of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus: involved.unl.edu/unl-gender-neutral-bathrooms. The closest one to Hamilton Hall and Oldfather Hall is in Andrews Hall.

**Lactation Rooms:** There is a lactation space in 727A Oldfather, and a family room on the ground floor (North side). Additional information about lactation spaces is available at http://www.unl.edu/chancellor/policymemoranda/20090901-Lactation-Policy.

**ACE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course is offered at the ACE 9 level: “Exhibit global awareness or knowledge of human diversity through analysis of an issue.” This learning outcome will be achieved in the following manner:

- Exploration of gender inequality as an issue of diversity including how it is socially constructed and socially maintained.
- Examination of issues impacting diverse groups in society, why we consider these issues, and how institutional arrangements influence groups’ position(s). Special attention is given to the intersection of gender with other ascribed statuses such as age, ability, class, ethnicity, nationality, race, sexuality.

The goal of this course is to provide you with an overview of this particular substantive area within the discipline of Sociology. This also includes learning about the theories and methods used to conduct research in this substantive field. The course will expose you to current research and literature and to new directions the field is taking. Throughout the semester, you will practice analyzing the readings and other course materials critically, using your ever growing substantive and theoretical know-how.

Student learning outcomes will be assessed as follows:

**Three written, in-class exams.** Each exam contributes 25% to your final grade, for a total of 75% of your total course grade.

Each exam will be preceded by a review session, shortly before the exam. Please come prepared with questions regarding lecture and reading materials. I encourage you to study in groups, and to use individual meetings with my T.A. and me during office hours only for matters not of interest to your peers.

The 75-minute exams contain both multiple choice and essay exam questions and will be weighted equally for each course segment. The exams are partly cumulative, especially with regard to the theory section of the course. Make-up policy requires proof that you were unable to take the exam at the regularly scheduled time. Please see me before an exam if you have any further questions. For each exam you will have the option of earning “extra credit points” by completing additional
readings. These extra credit readings are clearly indicated in italics on the syllabus. Though not required, I encourage you to do those extra credit readings, as it can help you improve your grade.

Exams will take place on February 19 and March 31. The final exam takes place on Thursday, May 7 from 3:30-5:30pm. (Actual final exam calibrated at 75 minutes, just like the others).

**Attendance and participation.** This will determine 25% of your final grade.

*Regular attendance* in class. This comprises 15% of your final course grade. If you miss more than three classes during the semester, I reserve the right to lower your grade for poor attendance. I expect all of us to be punctual. Late arrival will be counted as an absence. At the same time, regular attendance will help your academic standing, especially if you are "borderline" (e.g. between a A- and a B+). Also, if you know in advance that you will miss a class, please talk to me beforehand. It is your responsibility to obtain lecture notes from your fellow students. *UNL does recognize a D- as a passing grade. However, to count this class for your major, you need a "C" (=75) average in all aspects of the course -- including attendance.*

**Active participation** in class. This comprises the remaining 10% of your final course grade. It includes being attentive and participating constructively in class discussions. I expect students to come to class prepared.

*There will be one meeting outside of regular class time.* On one evening near the end of the semester I will show a movie (TBA). If you cannot attend this meeting because of schedule conflicts (such as work, another class), please talk to me and see the movie on your own. *This movie will be final test material.*

I reserve the right to give "pop-quizzes." If you are having trouble understanding the readings or the lecture material, please feel free to talk to me any time before class, after class, during office hours, or make an appointment if none of these times suit your schedule. Please feel free to contact me at rwerum2@unl.edu.

**Readings**
The two *required books* should be available at the UNL Bookstore. If not, feel free to order them online with your favorite vendor. Or look for new/used copies online. All books are also on short-term reserve at Love Library.

*Please purchase:*

**Required and Extra Credit Readings**
All other assigned articles and book chapters are placed on e-reserves and will be made available via our Blackboard site.
If you have questions regarding the items placed on reserves, either electronically or otherwise, please contact your TA, Michael Leber, at mleber24@gmail.com.
You are expected to master comprehension of the readings on your own.

- Please read the assigned materials for each class before we meet. Please note that reading loads can be uneven across weeks -- and plan accordingly.
- Usually, we will not talk about the readings in class – with one exception: The novel Herland by C.P. Gilman. You will receive a reading/study guide in class prior to the group discussion.
- You will receive study guides before each exam to help you “digest” all the readings.
- Please read all academic articles/chapters for content and for their theoretical perspective.
- Please read the newspaper clips for content only, as they are purely informational.
- Please read the articles marked in italics as well, if you are interested in earning “extra credit” points towards your exam grades.
- There may be additional extra credit readings assigned during the semester. More details will be provided once classes start.

Tentative Class Schedule

January 13  First Day of Classes

Jan 15  Introduction
Gould, “X - A Fabulous Child's Story”
Glenn, “Yearning for Lightness: ... Consumption of Skin Lighteners”

Extra Credit:
Ramirez, “Latino Masculinities in the Post-9/11 Era (ML art. 5)
Steinem, “If Men could Menstruate” (ML art. 21)

Jan 19  MLK Day  NO CLASSES

Jan 20, 22  Gender Role Socialization
Kivel, “The Act-Like-A-Man Box” (ML art. 2)
Gastil, “Generic Pronouns and Sexist Language”

Extra Credit:
Jordan & Cowan, “Warrior Narratives” (ML art. 6)
Weitzer & Kubrin, “Misogyny in Rap Music” (ML art. 41)
Jan 27, 29, Feb 3, 5  **Theoretical Orientations**
Gilder, “Suicide of the Sexes”
Bettelheim, “Fathers Shouldn’t Try to Be Mothers”
Trebilcot, “Sex Roles: The Argument from Nature”
Folbre, “The Invisible Heart”
Mohanty, “Under Western Eyes at the Turn of the Century”

**Extra Credit:**
MacKinnon, “Sex and Violence”
Henry, “Third-Wave Feminism”

Feb 10  **CLASS DISCUSSION -- PLEASE READ BEFORE CLASS**
Gilman, Herland  
*Bring book to class meeting!*

Feb 12, 17  **Gender & Education**
Faris and Felmlee, “Casualties of Social Combat: School Networks of Peer Victimization and Their Consequences”
Grant, “Black Females' Place in Desegregated Classrooms”

**Extra Credit:**
Powell and Steelman, “The Liability of Having Brothers”
DeParle, “Economic Inequality and the Changing Family”

Feb 17  **REVIEW SESSION IN EVENING -- tba**

Feb 19  **EXAM I -- PLEASE BRING #2 PENCIL**

Feb 24, 26  **Gender & the Family**
Shelton and John, “Ethnicity, Race, and Difference… Household Labor Time” (ML art. 35)
Civettini & Glass, “The Impact of Religious Conservatism on Men’s Work and Family Involvement”

**Extra Credit:**
Powell et al., “Changing Counts, Counting Change…”
DeParle, “Economic Inequality and the Changing Family”

March 3, 5  **Gender & the Labor Market**
Schilt, “Just one of the Guys?” (ML art.18)
Hochschild, “Between the Toe and the Heel: Jobs and Emotional Labor”
Williams, “The Glass Escalator” (ML art. 15)

**Extra Credit:**
Hodges & Budig, “Who gets the Daddy Bonus?”
Cech & Blair-Loy, “Perceiving Glass Ceilings? … Women in Science and Technology”
March 10, 12  Gender and Public Policy
Harrington Meyer, “Gender, Race and the Distribution of Social Assistance”
Daly, “Rethinking Judicial Paternalism”

Extra Credit:
Dworkin, “Masculinity, Health, and Human Rights” (ML art. 22)
Espiritu, “All Men are not Created Equal: Asian Men in US History” (ML art. 3)

March 17, 19  Gender & Crime
Beneke, “Men on Rape” (ML art. 47)
Boswell & Spade, “Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture”
Welsh et al., “I’m Not Thinking of It as Sexual Harassment”

Extra Credit:
Burt, “Rape Myths and Acquaintance Rape”
Hust et al, “The Effects of Sports Media Exposure on College Students;’ Rape Myth Beliefs and Intentions to Intervene in a Sexual Assault”

March 19  REVIEW SESSION IN EVENING – tba

March 22-29  SPRING BREAK  NO CLASSES

March 31  EXAM II – PLEASE BRING # 2 PENCIL

April 2, 7  Gender & Sexuality
Odem, “The ‘Delinquent Girl’ and Progressive Reform” (ch. 4 in Delinquent Daughters)
Davidson & Taylor, “Fantasy Islands” (ML art. 32)

Extra Credit:
Rochlin, “The Heterosexual Questionnaire” (ML art.29)
Welsh, “On the Perils of Living Dangerously in the Slasher Horror Film: Gender Differences in the Association between Sexual Activity and Survival”

April 9, 14  Gender & Medicine
Mintz, “At Any Cost: Corporate Greed, Women, and the Dalkon Shield”
Corea, “The Reproductive Brothel”

Extra Credit:
Bell, “It’s Way out of My League”
Rosenberg, “Necessary Angels”
April 16, 21  
**Gender & Social Movements**
Blee, “Women in the 1920's Ku Klux Klan Movement”
Luker, “World Views of the Activists”
UNCSW, “The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality (ML art. 51)

Extra Credit:
Katz, *More than a Few Good Men* (ML art. 53)

April 23, 28  
**The Big(ger) Picture**
Nagel, “Masculinity and Nationalism”
Nikolic-Ristanovic, “War, Nationalism, and Mothers in the Former Yugoslavia”
Bowley, “Wed and Tortured at 13, Afghan Girl Finds Rare Justice”

Extra Credit
Phelps, “Gawain and the Lady Ragnell”

April 30  
**SUMMARY AND WRAP-UP, IN-CLASS REVIEW SESSION**
No assigned readings

May 2  
Last day of classes

May 7 (Thursday)  
**FINAL EXAM 3:30pm-5:30pm**
PLEASE BRING #2 PENCIL
By signing this statement, I acknowledge that I have received and read Dr. Werum’s syllabus. I pledge to follow the rules and norms outlined therein, as well as amplifications explained verbally in class. I understand that breaching the rules may affect my course grade, regardless of my academic performance.

__________________________________                                     ________________
Signature       Date

__________________________________
PRINT NAME