

Sociology of Gender
2022/23 Semester Two

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Objectives

The central questions for this course are: (1) “Is being a woman different than a man?” and (2) “How does gender change in modern societies, especially in East Asian countries?”

In this course, we will begin with the understanding of sex, gender, and sexuality and build on this basic framework to explore how gender difference is “essentialized” and lived based on personal, political, and institutional factors. The subject will increase students’ gender awareness and sensitivity. Students will learn the meaning and importance of gender in different aspects of their personal and social lives, including family, education, employment, mass media, body politics, and globalization. It considers gendered relations of power and the articulation of gender with other kinds of social difference & identities such as race, class and sexuality. We draw our discussions on East Asian countries.

A variety of theoretical perspectives, including biological and psychological perspective, sociological theories, historical perspective, cultural studies perspectives and various feminist perspectives will be applied to a number of substantive issues of contemporary concern.

Upon completion of this course students shall:

- be sensitive about gender equality/inequality in various aspects of their lives;
- analyze how gender affects relationships
- understand gender based upon theoretical perspective and research in the field
- analyze the gender aspects in social changes
- describe laws, public policy, institutions governing gender relations in both the public and private spheres.

Assessment

1. Class Discussion 20%
2. Individual/Group Presentation 30%
3. Short Response Paper 20%
4. Term End Exam 30%

1. *Class Discussion (20%)*. Students should expect active participation in class. Examples include answering discussion questions, debates, feedback after watching videos etc.

2. *Individual/ Group Presentation (depending on class size) (30%)*

This project aims at discovering gender in Taipei. Students decide to work on one topic: “gender and _____” (but do not repeat the topic Lake has in the class). These are some possible topics:

- gender and shopping mall
- gender and toy stores
- gender and sex shops
- gender and church
- gender and hospitals
- gender and superstores
- gender and MRT
- gender and playground
- gender and museums
- any other

You will do observations, take pictures, interview people. You will report your findings, pictures, and reflections in week 12 and 13.

3. *Short response papers (20%)*

Students are expected to write **ONE 4-page reflection** on the reading/films, chose from one of the following weeks: (Week 4, 5, 9, 10, 11). Students are free to submit it any time before Week 18.

4. *Term End Exam (30%)*

Class schedule

A. Fun with Gender Theories

Week 1: Biological perspective of Gender differences – Oops! Are men born to be sexual predators?

Kimmel Michael. 2015. “Ordained by Nature: Biology Constructs the Sexes.” The Gendered Society. Oxford University Press.

Sapolsky, “The trouble with testosterone: will boys just be boys?”

<http://www.avoicemen.com/men/the-trouble-with-testosterone-will-boys-just-be-boys/>

Ordoover, Nancy 2003. American Eugenics: Race, Queer Anatomy, and the Science of Nationalism. Chapter: “Queer Anatomy: : One Hundred Years of Diagnosis, Dissection, and Political Strategy”

Week 2: Psychological perspective of Gender Differences – No More Boys and Girls in Schools: Can Our Kids Go Gender Free?

Kimmel Michael. 2015. “So, That Explains It”: Psychoanalytic and Development Perspectives on Gender. The Gendered Society. Oxford University Press.

Chen, Eve Siu Ling, and Nirmala Rao. 2011. “Gender socialization in Chinese kindergartens: Teachers’ contributions.” Sex roles 64.1-2: 103-116.

Week 3: Sociological Perspectives of Gender Differences – Have We Achieved Gender Equality After We Do Away with Gender Stereotypes at School?

Kimmel Michael. 2015. “The Social Construction of Gender Relations.” The Gendered Society. Oxford University Press.

West, Candace, and Don H. Zimmerman. 1987. Doing Gender. Gender and Society 1(2): 125-151.

Schilt, Kristen, and Laurel Westbrook. 2009. “Doing Gender, Doing Heteronormativity: “Gender Normals,” Transgender People, and the Social Maintenance of Heterosexuality.” Gender & Society 23(4): 440-464.

Week 4: Intersectionality

Walby, Sylvia, Jo Armstrong, and Sofia Strid. 2012. "Intersectionality: Multiple inequalities in social theory." *Sociology* 46(2): 224-240.

Documentary: *Good Hair*

B. Gender in Everyday Life at Present

Week 5: Deinstitutionalization of marriage and family

Davis, Deborah S. and Sara L. Friedman. 2014. "Deinstitutionalizing Marriage and Sexuality." Pp. 1-40 in *Marriage and Sexuality: In Hong Kong, Taiwan and Urban China* edited by D. S. Davis and S. L. Friedman. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Cheng, Yen-hsin Alice, and Chih-lan Winnie Yang. "Continuity and changes in attitudes toward marriage in contemporary Taiwan." *Journal of Population Research* 38, no. 2 (2021): 139-167.

Cheng, Yen-hsin Alice, and Chen-Hao Hsu. "No more babies without help for whom? Education, division of labor, and fertility intentions." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 82, no. 4 (2020): 1270-1285.

Documentary: *Leftover Ladies*

Week 6: Gender, Marriage, and Families – Household division of labor and intensive mothering

Cheung, Adam Ka-Lok, and Lake Lui. "Does live-in domestic help reduce unpaid household labor? The paradox of intensive parenting and domestic outsourcing." *Current Sociology* 70, no. 6 (2022): 921-942.

Qian, Yue, and Liana C. Sayer. "Division of labor, gender ideology, and marital satisfaction in East Asia." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 78, no. 2 (2016): 383-400.

Brainer, Amy. "Mothering gender and sexually nonconforming children in Taiwan." *Journal of Family Issues* 38.7 (2017): 921-947.

Week 7: Gender, Work and Economy

Acker, Joan. (1990). "Hierarchies, jobs, bodies: A theory of gendered organizations." *Gender & society* 4(2): 139-158.

Chang, Chin-fen. 2006. "The Employment Discontinuity of Married Women in Taiwan: Job Status, Ethnic Background and Motherhood." *Current Sociology* 54(2):209-28.

In Chinese: 張晉芬《勞動待遇與代價: 從性別觀點分析台灣醫護工作》(will summarize in class)

Week 8: Gender and Media

*Kimmel, Michael. 2015. *The Gendered Society*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 11 & 13

Wang, Zhixin. "Eyeing marriage equality: News media representation of same-sex marriage legalization debate in Taiwan." 2017. (Selected pages: 14-21; 27-56).

Documentary: *Miss Representation*

Week 9: Gender, Care Work, and Migration

Constable, Nicole. 2014. *Born Out of Place*. (A summary during the lecture).

Lan, Pei-chia. 2003. "Maid or Madam? Filipina Migrant Workers and the Continuity of Domestic Labor." *Gender & Society* 17(2):187-208.

Week 10: Men and Masculinities

Pei-Chia Lan. Annual Lecture at Sociological Review.2022: Childrearing, Fatherhood and Migration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXsqmOL2Ohg>

Wu, Chia-Ling. "Managing multiple masculinities in donor insemination: Doctors configuring infertile men and sperm donors in Taiwan." *Sociology of health & illness* 33, no. 1 (2011): 96-113.

Liong, Mario, and Lih Shing Chan. "Men and masculinities in contemporary East Asia." Routledge International Handbook of Masculinity Studies (2019).

Week 11: Changing Perspectives on Sexual Minority

Friedman, Sara L. 2012. "Another Kind of Love? Debating Homosexuality and Same-Sex Intimacy through Taiwanese and Chinese Film Reception." Pp. 233-66 in *Media, Erotics, and Transnational Asia*, edited by P. Mankekar and L. Schein. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Adamczyk, Amy and Yen-hsin Alice Cheng. 2015. "Explaining Attitudes About Homosexuality in Confucian and Non-Confucian Nations: Is There a 'Cultural' Influence?'" *Social Science Research* 51(September): 276-89.

Yu-Rong, Chen and Wang Ping. 2010. "Obstacles to LGBT Human Rights Development in Taiwan." *Positions: Asia Critique* 18(2):399-407.

Documentary: To be decided

Week 12: Students' Presentation

Week 13: Students' Presentation

Week 14: Term-End Exam Review

Week 15: Reading Week

Week 16: Exam

Penalties:

1) Late Submission of Assignment

In the interests of equity and fairness, late assignments attract a penalty of -10% per day.

*****No excuses for late homework / no-show in presentation are accepted unless there is a severe crisis (e.g., Emergency room medical treatment, decease of a family member). For those cases, please provide formal and written documentation.

2) Plagiarism

NTU views plagiarism as a serious disciplinary offence. Some plagiarism cases are handled by your teacher or your Department. Other cases are referred to the Student Discipline Committee. Penalties vary according to the circumstances but you might expect one of the following if you plagiarise:

- A lower grade or a fail for the plagiarized work
- A lower classification than you might otherwise have got for your degree
- Suspension of studies for a specified period of time
- Expulsion for a specified or indefinite period