

## SOC 2242A – Gender and Society

Department of Sociology

Thursdays 2:30-5:30 PM

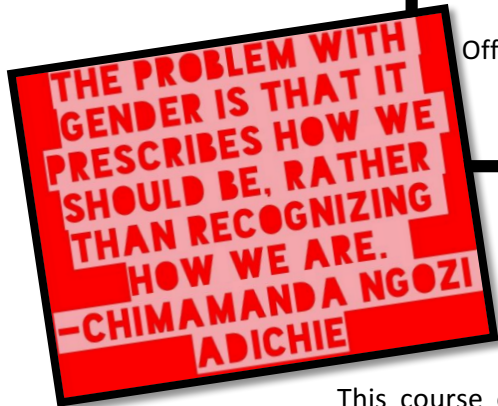
Room: MRW152

Instructor: Dr. Nichole Edwards

Contact Information: [nedwar7@uwo.ca](mailto:nedwar7@uwo.ca)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:20

Office: \_\_\_\_\_



This course examines a variety of perspectives relating to the cultural, political, social, economic, and institutional ways in which gender is constructed, represented, lived, and embodied within the broader social world. By considering local and global contexts, the aim of this course is to offer students a more nuanced approach to gender in order to explore how it affects both our lives and the lives of others, in seen and unforeseen ways.

When we think of the word 'gender', we tend to default to 'women'. However, this course is not exclusively about women or women's lived realities. This course is taught from an intersectional perspective which means we will also closely consider the lived experiences of all genders – moreover, we will look closely at how gender is influenced and shaped by other aspects of one's identity, such as race, class, sexuality, geography, and age. Some of the themes we will look at this semester include: the policing of Black men; the discourse of "having it all"; the role of gender verification in elite sports; and, the gendered messages young people learn about sex and love.

At the end of this course, you will have gained an intersectional understanding of how society oftentimes plays a significant role in maintaining gender dynamics, relationships, structures, and inequalities. However, as much as society influences experiences of gender, you will also gain an understanding of how gender may influence, challenge, and resist the demands of society.

**Course Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level

**Course Antirequisite:** SOC 2241E

## Textbook

A course reader is available to purchase from UWO Bookstore. Additional material and online links will be provided on OWL throughout the semester.

## The Schedule....

You will note that there are \*\* next to five different lecture titles. This means you must write an online discussion post for that topic, based on the assigned reading(s). That said, all readings will be testable and part of in-class discussions so **please do not fall behind in your readings** even if there is no online post for that week!

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC
Sept. 7	Introduction: Gender, Society, and the Body
Sept. 14	Gender, Sex, and Sports
Sept. 21	**Contemporary Femininities
Sept. 28	**Policing Masculinity: Race, Gender, and Sexuality
Oct. 5	Gender and Advertising Culture
<b>Oct. 12</b>	<b>FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASS</b>
Oct. 19	Gender and Feminism: A Historical Perspective
<b>Oct. 26</b>	<b>IN-CLASS MIDTERM</b>
Nov. 2	Gender and Migration: Implications for a Global Context
Nov. 9	**Gendered Violence
Nov. 16	Youth and the Gender/Sexuality Spectrum
Nov. 23	Transgender Rights in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
Nov. 30	**Girls, Shame, and Sex – oh my!
Dec. 7	**“Having it All”: A Problematic Discourse?

## Weekly Topics and Assigned Readings

### **Sept. 7 – Introduction: Gender, Society, and the Body**

- No reading this week

### **Sept. 14 – Gender, Sex, and Sports**

- Sullivan, C. 2011. "Gender Verification and Gender Policies in Elite Sport: Eligibility and "Fair Play." *Journal of Sports and Social Issues*, 35(4), pp. 400-419.

### **\*\*Sept. 21 – Contemporary Femininities**

- Brownmiller, S. 1984. "Prologue." In: *Femininity*. New York: Ballantine Books. Pp.13-19.
- Currie, D., Kelly, D., and Pomerantz, S. 2011. "Skater Girlhood: Resignifying Femininity, Resignifying Feminism." In: Gill, R. and Scharff, C. (eds.) *New Femininities: Postfeminism, Neoliberalism and Subjectivity*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. Pp.293-305.

### **\*\*Sept. 28 – Policing Masculinity: Gender, Race, and Sexuality**

- Reading TBA – will be posted on OWL

### **Oct. 5 – Gender and Advertising Culture**

- Hatton, E. and Trautner, M. 2011. "Equal Opportunity Objectification? The Sexualization of Men and Women on the Cover of *Rolling Stone*." *Sexuality & Culture*, 15, pp. 256-278.

### **Oct. 12 – FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASS**

### **Oct. 19 – Gender and Feminism: A Historical Perspective**

- Pleasants, R. 2011. "Men Learning Feminism: Protecting Privileges Through Discourses of Resistance." *Men and Masculinities*, 14(2), pp. 230-250.

### **Oct. 26 – IN-CLASS MIDTERM (2 HOURS)**

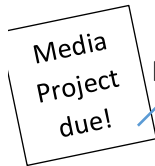
### **Nov. 2- Gender and Migration**

- Kilkey, M. 2010. "Men and Domestic Labour: A Missing Link in the Global Care Chain." *Men and Masculinities*, 13(1), pp. 126-149.

### **\*\*Nov. 9 – Gendered Violence**

- Herzing, R. and Ontiveros, I. 2011. "Making Our Stories Matter: The StoryTelling & Organizing Project (STOP)." *The Revolution Starts at Home*. Brooklyn: South End Press. Pp. 207-216.

### **Nov. 16 – Youth and the Gender/Sexuality Spectrum**



- DiFulvio, Gloria T. 2015. "Experience Violence and Enacting Resilience: The Case Story of a Transgender Youth." *Violence Against Women*, Vol. 21(11), pp. 1385–1405.

### **Nov. 23 – Transgender Rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

- Reading TBA – will be posted on OWL

### **\*\*Nov. 30 – Girls, Shame, and Sex**

- Orenstein, P. 2016. "Hookups and Hang-Ups." *Girls & Sex: Navigating the Complicated New Landscape*. New York: HarperCollins. Pp. 103-140.

### **Dec. 7 – "Having It All": A Problematic Discourse?**

- Toffoletti, K. and Starr, K. 2016. "Women Academics and Work-Life Balance: Gendered Discourses of Work and Care." *Gender, Work, and Organization*, 23(5), pp. 489-504.

## **Assessments and Weighting**

### **Participation – 10%**

- Being actively present can significantly increase your grade, and moreover, your ability to complete coursework at a higher level. This course has been designed so that there is ample opportunity for discussion in both smaller and larger groups. Brescia Competencies: Communication, Self-Awareness and Development, Critical Thinking

### **Online Discussion Posts – 15% (worth 3% each)**

- Five times throughout the semester, you will complete a 500-600 word online discussion post based on the assigned reading. The due dates can be found on the following pages, and details on how to complete the posts will be outlined at the start of the semester. A detailed FAQ is also available under the Resources tab. Brescia Competency: Inquiry and Analysis, Critical Thinking, Communication, Self-Awareness and Development

### **Midterm – 25%**

- The midterm will contain three parts: 1) T/F, fill in the blank, multiple choice; 2) Short Answer; and 3) Short Essay. It will last two hours, and will be written in class on **Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>**. Brescia Competencies: Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Inquiry and Analysis.

### **Media Project – 20%**

- You will choose one documentary to view from a list I will provide later in the semester. Each documentary will explore some aspect of gender and society that we cover throughout the course. While these documentaries may be tangential in topic, the core themes will have been discussed in lecture. There will be approximately 5 or 6 to choose from, and all will be free and

available to you either through the library, National Film Board website, Kanopy's website, Netflix, etc.

The aim of this assignment is for you to take some initiative in learning how to analyze the role of gender from an intersectional lens, and the broader societal implications that the documentary lays out. Students will be asked to link the themes of the documentary to a current news story on the same/similar topic. This assignment should be approximately 1500 words – it will include a critical review of the documentary, and how the issue presented is currently being represented/experienced/constructed within society. Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, inquiry and Analysis, Communication.

### **Exam – 30%**

- On the final day of class, you will receive four potential essay questions, two of which will appear on the actual exam. Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Inquiry and Analysis.

## 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf). The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html> ). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html> )

## 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

#### **4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

##### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

##### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

#### **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a

signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html> ).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices ([http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/evaluation\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf) and [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf)).

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

## **7. SUPPORT**

### **Support Services**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> .

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental\\_Health@Western](mailto:Mental_Health@Western) <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Sexual Violence**

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.



