

LINFIELD COLLEGE

Adult Degree Program

Portland, Oregon

Gender and Society: SOA 205

Instructor: Dr. Karen Straight

Winter Term, 2006

Phone: 774-206-5547 (EST)

Email: Please email within the class system

Texts:Renzetti, Claire and Daniel Curran. 2003. *Women, Men, and Society*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.Peggy Orenstein. 1995. *Schoolgirls: Young Women, Self-Esteem, and the Confidence Gap*. New York: Anchor.**Course Description:**

In this course we will explore some of the central theories, debates, and controversies which have emerged in the field of gender studies. We will begin our exploration of the sociology of gender through a conceptual and comparative approach. That is, we will define gender and consider the significance of gender cross-culturally in various sex/gender systems. With a special focus on education and the family, we will examine gender and socialization taking into account debates within the scientific community around the competing role of environment and biology. We will study various perspectives on the origins of inequality between men and women and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each at both the theoretical and political levels. This will lead to a discussion on the current status of the women's movement and growing interest in the men's movement. We will venture into the private realm to see how gender roles are negotiated, challenged, rejected, or maintained through an analysis of power dynamics within the family and through interpersonal communications. On a more controversial level, we will debate the influence of media such as television, movies, ads, and pornography on gender roles and relations. Ultimately, we will analyze the relationship between homophobia and the sex/gender system within which we live.

Grading and Assignments:

Throughout the course, you will be asked to complete discussion assignments, exams, and a critical book review. These activities will involve reflection, active research, critical analysis, and synthesis of current findings. You are expected to participate regularly. Students need to keep up with the readings, course materials, assignments and exams to be successful in this course.

I will make the tests available for a predetermined number of days, but once you open the exam you must complete it in one sitting. Primarily multiple choice questions will be utilized to assess your knowledge of course materials and activities. The exams will not be cumulative.

Please give our discussions your time and attention. Please post by the due date and respond to at least two of your peers contributions. Enjoy the opportunity to learn from each other.

Late assignments will be penalized by five points per day late. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted. All assignments must be submitted in the assignment area (go to the assignment and click "Browse" to upload your assignment) via Web CT. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. If you have technical difficulties uploading your assignment, I would encourage you to contact the help desk.

When I evaluate your assignments, I will look for: knowledge of course materials, willingness to play with new ideas, development of your own ideas based on research, synthesis, and critical analysis, and the presentation of a well formulated paper or discussion response.

Your grade will be determined in the following manner:

Four Tests (100 points each).....	400
Critical Book Review on <i>Schoolgirls</i>	100
Discussion Assignments.....	100

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments:

Topic & Date	Reading	Assignments
Sex and Gender Socialization January 4 - 10	Chapters 1, 2, and 3 Begin reading <i>Schoolgirls</i> Chapter 4	Introductions Discussion (not graded) Social Construction of Gender Discussion due January 9 Test One (Available January 7 - 12) This test will cover chapters 1-4 and materials within the course learning units related to those chapters.
Schools and Gender Language and Media January 11-17	Chapter 5 Complete <i>Schoolgirls</i> Chapter 6	Education Discussion due by January 12 Language Discussion January 17 Test two (January 11-17) This exam will cover chapters 5 and 6 and materials within the course learning units related to those chapters.
Gender and Intimate Relationships Gender, Employment,	Chapter 7 Chapter 8	Marriage Discussion due by January 20 Feminization of Poverty Discussion 23

and the Economy January 18-24		Critical Book Review of <i>Schoolgirls</i> due 1/24
Gender, Crime, and Justice January 25 - 31	Chapter 9	Crime Discussion due by January 30 Test Three (January 25 -31) This exam will cover intimate relationships, the economy and crime.
Gender, Politics, and the Military Gender and Health February 1 - 7	Chapter 10 Chapter 12	Military Discussion due by February 3 Test Four (February 1-7) This exam will cover politics and the military and health.