

**Lakehead University**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 3550WA/Women's Studies 3550WA**  
**Gender in Contemporary Social Life**

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**Winter Semester: 2015**  
**Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 1.00 to 2.30**  
**Classes are held in: RB 2016**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday 3.00 to 5.00**

**Course Description**

We live in exciting times and are witnessing debates in the sociology of gender. Today, gender roles and identities are evolving both in the Canadian context and worldwide. This course will explore gender roles and identities in a global context with attention to the intersections of difference and social location. As well, we will focus on sociological analysis of gender and voluntary risk taking. Substantive areas covered will include: prism of gender, interaction of gender with other socially constructed prisms, gender and culture, learning and doing gender, buying and selling gender, gender at work, gender in intimate relationships, and enforcing gender.

**Required Texts**

Spade, Joan Z. and Catherine G. Valentine. 2015. *The Kaleidoscope of Gender. Prisms, Patterns and Possibilities. 4<sup>th</sup> edition.* Los Angeles: Sage/Pine Forge.

Forsey, Caitlin. 2012. *Men On the Edge Taking Risks and Doing Gender Among BASE Jumpers.* Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.

**Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and actively participate in class discussions. As well, reading assignments are to be completed for the date they are assigned. The reading list is attached to this syllabus. This class is designed to be interactive and group discussion is a central component of the course.

The in-class midterm examination is listed below and is held during a regularly scheduled class. The final examination is posted by the registrar and the schedule for this can be found online. It is your responsibility to ensure you know the date and time of the final examination.

The due date of your assignment is listed below. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments are penalized at the rate of 5 marks a day, including weekends and holidays. No assignments will be accepted 7 days after the due date.

**No Assignments will be accepted if handed in electronically.**

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Mid-term Examination	25%	February 5, 2015
Research Assignment	25%	March 5, 2015
Presentation	10%	Dates are listed below
Participation	10%	Throughout the Course
Final Examination	<u>30%</u>	Set by the registrar
	100%	

### Examinations

Examinations will incorporate lectures, class discussions, films, presentations and assigned readings.

### Research Assignment and Presentation

This assignment is designed to increase your skills in working as a team and develop your individual skills in research. As well, the ability to present your work is a central component of this assignment.

Each group will examine gender in a non-Western society. Group consensus will determine which society you will study. Please let me know, via email, which society your group has chosen. As there will be no duplication of societies please inform me as soon as your group knows which society you will research.

The entire group is responsible for the introduction to your group presentation and discussing what gender is in the society you have chosen. For example, some societies have polarized male/female views on gender and others have a broader view. The introduction will lay the groundwork for the individual substantive areas each member will present.

Each group member is responsible for choosing and discussing one aspect of the society under study. For example: work, intimate relationships, cultural dimensions of gender, societal policy (law, policing, and courts), social class, or another aspect of your choosing. Each group will hand in a list of what each member is focusing on in the assignment by **January 29, 2015**.

In your group presentation you may present your information in whatever fashion you choose. Each group will have a half an hour for their presentation. Be sure to divide the time evenly, giving everyone a fair share of time to present. Time will be allotted at the end of the presentation for questions and is not part of the 30 minute timeline for the group.

Each person is to hand in a 4 to 5 page paper (this means 4 to 5 pages of text and does not include the bibliography, title page, or appendices) that has formed the basis of what they have presented. In accordance with ASA standards the paper will be properly referenced, include a title page, and a bibliography. The paper is to be written in Times Numeral, 12 font, and is to be double-spaced. You are to use a minimum of six academic sources in the written component of the paper. Each paper is graded on an individual basis, not on the group. Your paper is worth 25% of your total grade

Presentation marks will be divided equally between the group component (5 marks) and individual aspects of the presentation; your chosen area of research in the society under study (5 marks). Consideration in grading the group component of the presentation will include the flow of the presentation and the sharing of the allotted time for the presentation.

### **Participation**

Your participation mark is based on your contribution to class discussions. This entails engaging in meaningful discussion and handing in group reports. Should you choose to chat with your fellow classmates, play games, check your emails, etc. and not to be part of your group discussion you will forfeit your participation marks for the class. Those who do not come to class prepared for discussion, that is, by not doing the required readings, will forfeit their participation marks for that class.

Students are expected to engage in respectful behaviour, listen openly, avoid harassing and discriminatory behaviour, and recognize right of all class members to express their views.

### **Office Hours**

There are two regularly scheduled office hours each week. Office hours are set to provide students the opportunity to stop by if they have questions, concerns, or would just like to say hello.

**Please Note: I do try to answer e-mail in a timely fashion. I do guarantee a response during my regularly scheduled office hours. I do not discuss marks through e-mail.**

### **American Sociological Association (ASA)**

All assignments in the Department of Sociology are to follow the ASA (American Sociological Association) style guide. The guide can be accessed on the web. Type in ASA Style Guide and a number of examples will be available for you to choose from.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is unacceptable and subject to various sanctions. Please see the university regulations section on academic dishonesty in the Lakehead University Calendar.

### **Medical or Compassionate Consideration**

Should you require academic consideration for medical or compassionate reasons, you will need a note from a physician or counselor. Please refer to the current Lakehead University Calendar for detailed information.

### **Technology**

The use of phones during class is prohibited. Please turn your phone off and put it away during class. Use of laptops is fine, as long as they are used for class work and not to play games, check emails, chat online, look at photographs, etc. Students who do not comply will be asked to leave.

## Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule Winter Semester 2015

### *Tuesday, January 6*

**Lecture:** Introduction to **Gender in Contemporary Social Life**, Class Protocol, Course Outline

**Reading:** No Reading Assigned

### *Thursday, January 8*

**Lecture:** The Prism of Gender

**Reading:** Risman, 1

**Reading:** Lucal, 2

**Reading:** Nanda, 6

### *Tuesday, January 13*

**Lecture:** The Intersection of Gender With Other Socially Constructed Prisms

**Reading:** Thornton Dill and Kohlman, 7

**Reading:** Jones, 8

### *Thursday, January 15*

**Lecture:** The Intersection of Gender With Other Socially Constructed Prisms

**Reading:** Pyke and Johnson, 9

**Reading:** Purkayastha, 10

### *Tuesday, January 20*

**Lecture:** Gender and the Prism of Culture

**Reading:** Ozbay, 13

**Reading:** George, 14

### *Thursday, January 22*

**Lecture:** Gender and the Prism of Culture

**Reading:** Helliwell, 11

**Reading:** Lepowsky, 15

### *Tuesday, January 27*

**Lecture:** Learning and Doing Gender

**Reading:** Charles, 16

**Reading:** Kane, 17

### *Thursday, January 29*

**Lecture:** Learning and Doing Gender

**Reading:** McCabe, et al, 18

**Reading:** Mora, 19

**Hand in your assignment topic and what each group member is responsible for in the presentation and their paper.**

***Tuesday, February 3***

**Lecture:** Buying and Selling Gender

**Reading:** Nelson, 21

**Reading:** Hoang, 22

***Thursday, February 5***

**Midterm**

***Tuesday, February 10***

**Lecture:** Buying and Selling Gender

**Reading:** Calasanti and King, 23

**Reading:** Firminger, 25

***Thursday, February 12***

**Lecture:** Gender at Work

**Reading:** Mernissi, 26

**Reading:** Sasson-Levy, 27

***Tuesday, February 17***

**Reading Week No Class**

***Thursday, February 19***

**Reading Week No Class**

***Tuesday, February 24***

**Lecture:** Gender at Work

**Reading:** Hatton and Trautner, 28

**Reading:** White and Peretz, 30

***Thursday, February 26***

**Lecture:** Gender In Intimate Relationships

**Reading:** Tichenor, 37

**Reading:** Utrata, 38

***Tuesday, March 3***

**Lecture:** Gender In Intimate Relationships

**Reading:** Padavic and Butterfield, 39

**Reading:** Shows and Gerstel, 40

***Thursday, March 5***

**Lecture:** Gender In Intimate Relationships and Enforcing Gender

**Reading:** Brandth and Kvande, 41

**Reading:** Hamilton and Armstrong, 42

**Research assignments are due at the beginning of the class.**

*Tuesday, March 10*

**Presentations 2 Groups**

**Reading:** *Men On the Edge Taking Risks and Doing Gender Among BASE Jumpers.*

*Thursday, March 12*

**Presentations 2 Groups**

**Reading:** *Men On the Edge Taking Risks and Doing Gender Among BASE Jumpers.*

*Tuesday, March 17*

**Presentations 2 Groups**

**Reading:** *Men On the Edge Taking Risks and Doing Gender Among BASE Jumpers.*

*Thursday, March 19*

**Presentations 2 Groups**

**Reading:** *Men On the Edge Taking Risks and Doing Gender Among BASE Jumpers.*

*Tuesday, March 24*

**Lecture:** Enforcing Gender

**Reading:** Messner and Bozada-Deas, 43

**Reading:** Anderson and Umberson, 44

*Thursday, March 26*

**Lecture:** Enforcing Gender

**Reading:** Quinn, 45

*Tuesday, March 31*

**Lecture:** Men on the Edge

**Reading:** Men on the Edge Taking Risks and Doing Gender Among BASE Jumpers

**Reading:** Hirose and Pih, 5

*Thursday, April 2*

Catch-up Class