

Course Outline for: SOC 1115 Sociology of Sex and Gender Roles**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 - History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Goal #7A - Human Diversity, Race, Power, and Justice in the United States

Examine the complex dynamics of sex and gender through a sociological exploration of how cultural and institutional expectations of masculinity and femininity shape individual choices and behaviors. Explore topics such as the social construction of gender, gender discrimination and oppression, intersectionality, and gendered violence as you investigate how individuals assign meaning to and navigate their social worlds. This course prepares you to critically engage with current controversies and debates on gender issues in the United States and worldwide, equipping you to contribute positively to discussions on diversity, power, and justice.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: March 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. Sociological theories of sex and gender
2. Sex, gender, and gender roles, and gender socialization
3. Transgender, non-binary, gender fluidity, and LGBTQAI+ issues
4. Social Structures and institutions, including statuses and roles
5. The experiences of sex and gender minority groups within institutions (e.g., work, religion, economy, government, education, health, family, and sexuality)
6. Power relationships between majority and minority groups (e.g., racism, sexism, sexuality, ability, age, and social class)
7. Structural inequality, inequality, and oppression
8. Intersectionality of cultural identities and minority statuses
9. Life-course outcomes based on minority statuses
10. The sociological imagination and social construction
11. Social movements and social policies to address inequality and inequity

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Examine sociological concepts to describe the experience of sex and gender at the individual, interactional, and institutional levels (e.g., race, social class, ability, sexuality, politics, culture, media, religion, education, sports, and age), with a focus on how institutions maintain sex and gender inequality. (Goal 2b, 2c, 2d, 5b, 5c, 5d, 7Ab)

2. Distinguish among theoretical perspectives within the sociological study of sex and gender, including minority perspectives, which describe minority group gender identities and institutional power relationships (e.g., race and ethnicity, social class, ability, and sexuality) in the United States. (Goal 2b, 2c, 2d, 5b, 5c, 7Aa, 7Ab)
3. Analyze historical and contemporary social issues of gender roles, gender identity, and power (e.g., gender, race and ethnicity, social class, ability, and sexuality) with a focus identifying individual-level actions and structural-level policies which address inequality. (Goal 2b, 2c, 2d, 5b, 5c, 7Aa, 7Ab)
4. Illustrate institutional impacts on their own attitudes and gender experiences (individual-level) in connection with the unequal distribution of power and continuing institutional inequality (e.g., the intersections with race and ethnicity, social class, ability, and sexuality). (Goal 2b, 2d, 5b, 5c, 7Ab, 7Ac)
5. Analyze systems of discrimination and oppression which impact life-course outcomes of gender minority groups (e.g., stereotypes, prejudice, sexism, transphobia, homophobia, racism, classism, and ability) with a focus on supporting positive social change. (Goal 2b, 2c, 2d, 5b, 5c)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Exams and quizzes
2. Journals and personal reflection
3. Research papers
4. Oral presentations
5. Written assignments and essays
6. Group learning activities

F. Special Information:

None