

SOC 547 Gender and Sexuality
University of Michigan, Fall 2022

Instructor: Prof. Yun Zhou (zhouyun@umich.edu)

1 Course Description

This course offers an introduction to theory and empirical research in the sociology of gender and sexuality. It will assist students in preparing for the Gender and Sexuality prelim exam, although the course will be useful for anyone with interests in these areas. This course covers a combination of foundational and contemporary work with diverse methodological orientations. We adopt a comparative perspective, focusing on both the U.S. and global contexts. This is a reading and writing intensive class that prioritizes the development of empirical research skills.

2 Learning Activities

The central goal of SOC 547 is to help you flourish as a (gender) scholar. To this end, our learning activities are comprised of the following parts:

2.1 In-class discussion and participation

Learning from and with your colleagues is crucial for a class like ours. Each week, you are expected to come to class having read and reflected on the assigned readings and prepared to engage in discussions. All readings are electronically available through either the course site, or the UM library. We meet **in person** on Tuesdays from 3-6pm. Of course, COVID-19 continues to bring uncertainty and disruptions. If the situation calls for, we will make adjustments to our meeting modality as needed.

- Starting Week 6, the last 30 minutes of our weekly class meeting will be devoted to research trouble-shooting (more on this below).

2.2 Research development

The final product of SOC 547 is a writing project with three options: 1) a proposal for an empirical research project, 2) an empirical paper addressing a research question, or 3) a literature review in a sub-field of Gender and Sexuality that is not covered by the course. To facilitate the completion of your final project:

- By the end of **Week 5**, you are expected to have come to my office hour and discussed your project idea with me.
- A **rough draft** of the final paper is due after class on **Week 10 Nov 8th, 11:59pm EST**.
- **Peer review practice:** After submitting your rough draft, your draft will be blinded and distributed to another student for peer review. In addition, you will receive one draft for which you will serve as a reviewer. Your job, as a reviewer, is to write a 1-2 page memo, providing *constructive and thoughtful* feedback. Your review is due **after class on Week 11 Nov 15th, 11:59pm EST**.
- **Final draft:** In addition to peer review comments, you will also receive detailed feedback from me. Write your final draft based on both sets of reviews. Along with your final draft, submit a *separate document*, detailing your responses to reviewers' comments and revisions made. Your final draft and response letter is due **Dec 13th, 11:59pm EST**.

Why do we do this? Peer review plays a crucial role both in an academic's career and in the knowledge production process itself. It is helpful to familiarize yourself—both giving and receiving comments—in a low-stake way. To this end, please be mindful of your colleagues' time and make your submissions on time: If your review is late, it means that your colleague will have less time to revise. Correspondingly, a late rough draft means less time for your “reviewers” to read and comment.

2.3 Research clinic

Research can be a daunting process. To further help you with the final project, starting **Week 6** and through the end of the semester, we will devote the last 30 minutes of our class time to research trouble-shooting. For these research clinic sessions, you are welcome to raise any issues—big or small, theoretical or empirical—and the whole class will be your sounding board.

Know that research clinic is to help, rather than to evaluate—and no questions are too silly to ask.

3 Assessment

The core pedagogical goal of SOC 547 is to help you grow as a scholar. Rather than earning a certain grade, we prioritize the development of transferable research skills, in the field of the Sociology of Gender and Sexuality and beyond. As such, SOC 547 adopts the principles and practice of “**ungrading**,” in order to center growth and agency in an inclusive learning experience (Stommel 2020). So, how does ungrading work?

At several critical points during this semester, I will ask you to “grade” yourself: How do you feel about your own performance on a specific course activity? How do you feel about your growth as a scholar? Based on your assessment, you will assign a letter grade for yourself and share it with me. Afterwards, I will share with you detailed comments, feedback, and the hypothetical grade I would give. You are welcome to discuss any discrepancies with me.

Your final course grade is the grade you assign yourself. Ungrading is interactive—please come talk to me if you have any questions during the semester.

Below is the list of dates and corresponding activity:

Sept 27th	In-class discussion and participation
Oct 25th	In-class discussion and participation
Nov 8th	Rough draft
Nov 15th	Peer review practice
Nov 29th	In-class discussion and participation
Dec 13th	Paper revision and final course grade

4 Course Schedule

PRELUDE

Week 1 (Aug 30): Welcome to the Course

- Ray, Raka, Jennifer Carlson, and Abigail Andrews. 2018. *The Social Life of Gender*. Sage Publications. (Recommended optional)

PART I THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

Week 2 (Sept 6): Theorizing Gender as an Analytical Category

- Lorber, Judith, Rose Laub Coser, Alice S. Rossi, and Nancy Chodorow. 1981. “On ‘The Reproduction of Mothering’: A Methodological Debate.” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 6(3): 482-514.
- Scott, Joan W. 1986. “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis.” *The American Historical Review* 91(5): 1053-75.”
 - Read in pair with: Hershatler, Gail, and Wang Zheng. 2008. “Chinese History: A Useful Category of Gender Analysis.” *The American Historical Review* 113(5): 1404-21.
- West, Candace, and Don H. Zimmerman. 1987. “Doing Gender.” *Gender and Society* 1(2): 125-51.
 - Read in pair with: Butler, Judith. 1999. *Gender Trouble*. Routledge. Chapter 1.

Week 3 (Sept 13): Theorizing Sexuality

- Rubin, Gayle. [1984] 2012. “Thinking Sex” in *Deviations: A Gayle Rubin Reader*. Duke University Press.
 - Recommended optional extension: Rubin, Gayle. 2010. “Blood under the Bridge: Reflections on ‘Thinking Sex.’”
- Stein, Arlene, and Ken Plummer. 1994. “I Can’t Even Think Straight: ‘Queer Theory and the Missing Sexual Revolution in Sociology.” *Sociological Theory* 12(2): 178-87.
- Green, Adam Isaiah. “Gay but Not Queer: Toward a Post-Queer Study of Sexuality.” *Theory and Society* 31(4): 521-45.

- Recommended optional extension: Green, Adam Isaiah. 2007. “Queer Theory and Sociology: Locating the Subject and the Self in Sexuality Studies.” *Sociological Theory* 25(1): 26-45.

Week 4 (Sept 20): An Intersectional Lens

- Crenshaw, Kimberle. 1991. “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color.” *Stanford Law Review* 43(6): 1241-99.
- Collins, Patricia Hill. [1990] 2000. *Black Feminist Thought*. Routledge. Chapters 2, 11.
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 2015. “Intersectionality’s definitional dilemmas.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 41(1): 1-20.
- Bowleg, Lisa. 2008. “When Black+ Lesbian+ Woman \neq Black Lesbian Woman: The Methodological Challenges of Qualitative and Quantitative Intersectionality Research.” *Sex Roles* 59(5): 312-325. (Recommended optional)
- Perry, Keisha-Khan Y. 2009. “The Groundings with my Sisters: Toward a Black Diasporic Feminist Agenda in the Americas.” *Rewriting Dispersal: Africana Gender Studies, The Scholar and Feminist Online*. Barnard Center for Research on Women. (Recommended optional)

Week 5 (Sept 27): Masculinity, Femininity, and Hegemony

- Connell, R. W., and James W. Messerschmidt. 2005. “Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking the Concept.” *Gender and Society* 19(6): 829-59.
 - Read in pair with: Kim, Allen, and Karen Pyke. “Taming Tiger Dads: Hegemonic American Masculinity and South Korea’s Father School.” *Gender and Society* 29(4): 509-33.
- Hamilton, Laura T., Elizabeth A. Armstrong, J. Lotus Seeley, and Elizabeth M. Armstrong. 2019. “Hegemonic Femininities and Intersectional Domination.” *Sociological Theory* 37(4): 315-41.
 - Read in pair with: Blee, Kathleen M. [1991] 2008. *Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s*. University of California Press. Introduction & Chapter 2.

- Matlon, Jordanna. 2016. “Racial Capitalism and the Crisis of Black Masculinity.” *American Sociological Review* 81(5): 1014-38. (Recommended optional)
- Schippers, Mimi. 2007. “Recovering the Feminine Other: Masculinity, Femininity, and Gender Hegemony.” *Theory and Society* 36(1): 85-102. (Recommended optional)

Note.—By now, you should have discussed your final writing project with me.

PART II REGULATING GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Week 6 (Oct 4): Family and Childhood (Micro)

- Martin, Karin A. 1998. “Becoming a Gendered Body: Practices of Preschools.” *American Sociological Review* 63(4): 494-511.
- Meadow, Tey. 2018. *Trans Kids*. University of California Press. Chapters 1-3.
- Schalet, Amy. 2011. *Not Under My Roof*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1 & 8.

Note.—Research clinic starts.

Week 7 (Oct 11): Interaction and Identity (Micro)

- Schilt, Kristen, and Laurel Westbrook. 2009. “Doing Gender, Doing Heteronormativity.” *Gender and Society* 23(4): 440-64.
- Moore, Mignon R. 2006. “Lipstick or Timberlands? Meanings of Gender Presentation in Black Lesbian Communities.” *Signs* 32(1): 113-39.
- Ward, Jane. 2015. *Not Gay*. NYU Press. Chapter 1.
 - Recommended optional extension: Silva, Tony. 2021. *Still Straight: Sexual Flexibility among White Men in Rural America*. NYU Press.

INTERLUDE Oct 18 Fall Break No Class

Week 8 (Oct 25): Organization and Institution (Meso)

- Acker, Joan. 1990. “Hierarchies, Jobs, Bodies: A Theory of Gendered Organizations.” *Gender and Society* 4(2): 139-58.

- Recommended optional extension: Kanter, Rosabeth Moss. 1977. *Men and Women of the Corporation*. New York: Basic Books
- Recommended optional extension: Coser, Lewis. 1977. *Greedy Institutions*. New York: The Free Press.
- Rivera, Lauren, and Andras Tilcsik. 2016. “Class Advantage, Commitment Penalty: The Interplay of Social Class and Gender in an Elite Labor Market.” *American Sociological Review* 81: 1097-1131.
 - Read it in pair with: Correll, Shelley J., Stephen Benard, and In Paik. “Getting a Job: Is There a Motherhood Penalty?” *American Journal of Sociology* 112(5): 1297-1338.
- Williams, Christine L. 1992. “The Glass Escalator: Hidden Advantages for Men in the ‘Female’ Professions.” *Social Problems* 39(3): 253-67.
 - Recommended optional extension: Williams, Christine L. 2013. “The Glass Escalator, Revisited: Gender Inequality in Neoliberal Times, SWS Feminist Lecturer.” *Gender & Society* 27(5): 609–29.

Week 9 (Nov 1): State and Citizenship (Macro)

- Orloff, Ann Shola. 1993. “Gender and the Social Rights of Citizenship: The Comparative Analysis of Gender Relations and Welfare States.” *American Sociological Review* 58(3): 303-28.
 - Read it in pair with: Morgan, Kimberly J. and Ann Shola Orloff (eds.). 2017. *The Many Hands of the State*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 5, 6.
- Roberts, Dorothy. 2014. “Complicating the Triangle of Race, Class and State: The Insights of Black Feminists.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 37(10): 1776-1782.
- Gal, Susan, and Gail Kligman. 2000. *The Politics of Gender after Socialism*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 2.
- Brown, Wendy. 1992. “Finding the Man in the State.” *Feminist Studies* 18(1): 7-34. (Recommended optional)
- MacKinnon, Catharine A. 1989. *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (Recommended optional)

PART III BEYOND SEPARATE SPHERES

Week 10 (Nov 8): Labor and Capitalism

- Lee, C.K. 1995. “Engendering the Worlds of Labor: Women Workers, Labor Markets and Production Politics in the South China Economic Miracle.” *American Sociological Review* 60(3): 378-397.
 - Read in pair with: Salzinger, Leslie. 2003. *Genders in Production: Making Workers in Mexico’s Global Factories*. University of California Press. Chapters 1-5.
- Goldin, Claudia. 2014. “A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter.” *American Economic Review* 104(4): 1091-1119. (Recommended optional)

Note.—Final paper rough draft due.

Week 11 (Nov 15): Motherhood and Care

- Fraser, Nancy. 2016. “Contradictions of Capital and Care.” *New Left Review* 100.
- Collins, Caitlyn. 2019 *Making Motherhood Work*. Chapters 3 & 6.
- Dow, Dawn. 2019. *Mothering while Black*. Chapters 5 & 6.
- Brinton, Mary C., and Eunsil Oh. 2019. “Babies, Work, or Both? Highly Educated Women’s Employment and Fertility in East Asia.” *American Journal of Sociology* 125(1): 105-140.

Note.—Peer review due.

Week 12 (Nov 22): Queering Family and Care

- Pfeffer, Carla A. 2010. “Women’s Work’? Women Partners of Transgender Men Doing Housework and Emotion Work.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72(1): 165-83.
 - Recommended optional extension: Pfeffer, Carla A. 2016. *Queering Families*. Oxford University Press.
- Moore, Mignon R. 2008. “Gendered Power Relations among Women: A Study of Household Decision Making in Black, Lesbian Stepfamilies.” *American Sociological Review* 73(2): 335-56.

- Brainer, Amy. 2019. *Queer Kinship and Family Change in Taiwan*. Rutgers University Press. Chapters 1 & 3.

Week 13 (Nov 29): Globalization and Decolonization

- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 1988. “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses.” *Feminist Review* 30: 61-88.
- Kandiyoti, Deniz. 1988. “Bargaining with Patriarchy.” *Gender and Society* 2(3): 274-90.
- Hoang, Kimberly Kay. 2014. “Flirting with Capital: Negotiating Perceptions of Pan-Asian Ascendency and Western Decline in Global Sex Work.” *Social Problems* 61(4): 507-29.
 - Recommended optional extension: Hoang, Kimberly Kay. 2015. *Dealing in Desire*. University of California Press.
- Mojola, Sanyu A. 2014. *Love, Money, and HIV*. University of California Press. Chapter 2.
- Savci, Evren. 2021. *Queer in Translation: Sexual Politics under Neoliberal Islam*. Duke University Press. Introduction & Conclusion.

CODA BECOMING A GENDER SCHOLAR

Week 14 (Dec 6): Feminist and Queer Methodology

- Pascoe, C. J. 2018. “What to Do with Actual People? Thinking Through a Queer Social Science Method” in *Other, Please Specify Queer Methods in Sociology*, Edited by: D’Lane R. Compton, Tey Meadow and Kristen Schilt. University of California Press.
- Meadow, Tey. 2018. *Trans Kids*. University of California Press. Appendix B Methodology.
- Hoang, Kimberly Kay. 2015. *Dealing in Desire*. University of California Press. Methods Appendix.

Note.—Final paper and response to reviewers’ comments due Dec 13.