

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title	: HS3018 Sociology of Gender
Pre-requisites	: HS1001 Person and Society HS2001 Classical Social Theory HS2002 Doing Social Research
No. of AUs.	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39

Course Aims

This course challenges some common-sense understandings and stereotypes around gender. Looking beyond individual, biological and psychological presumptions about male and female behavior, we use our sociological lenses to see how gender is constructed, regulated, and reproduced through everyday social mechanisms and institutions. We scrutinize the ways in which inequalities are produced and justified.

The course is organized around three sets of intertwined questions:

First, to what extent do gender differences reflect biological variations, and to what extent are they the product of societal constructs? How do gender differences and inequalities come about? We will explore important classical perspectives in the feminist literature that grapple with these questions.

Second, what shapes our perspectives on and practices around gender? We discuss the mechanisms and the institutions through which gendered differences and inequalities are produced in contemporary societies. Here, we hone our analytical lenses for understanding how gender works in specific contexts—in schools, at the intersection of work and home, and through state actions. We also examine how gender as a principle of vision and division works in tandem with other principles of difference, focusing in particular on sexuality, ethnicity and class.

Finally, we ask directly: how do gender differentiation and inequalities matter? What costs do they exert and for whom? What can be done to reduce inequalities and injustices? We discuss the achievements and limitations of feminist movements and reflect on the way forward.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Evaluate the different ways sociologists have approached the study of gender.
2. Describe the key theories that account for the reproduction of gender inequalities.

3. Articulate connections between micro-everyday experiences and macro-structural phenomenon.
4. Apply critical lenses to contemporary manifestations of various types of inequalities.

Course Content

Week 1	Introduction to the course
Week 2	Accounting for gender differences: destabilizing biological explanation
Week 3	Accounting for gender differences: the centrality of economics and kinship
Week 4	Social construction: everyday “doing” of gender
Week 5	Gendered sexuality as social control
Week 6	Intersecting principles of vision and division
Week 7	Schools as gendered spaces
Week 8	Gender at the intersection of work and home I: big picture
Week 9	Gender at the intersection of work and home II: complexities
Week 10	The gendered state
Week 11	Gender and popular culture
Week 12	Feminism today
Week 13	Semester-end review/revision

Course Assessment

CA1	3 Field Notes	: 20%
CA2	1 Team research report	: 20%
CA3	1 research brief	: 20%
CA4	Class participation	: 10%
	Final Examination	: 30%

Total		100%