

Men and Masculinities in Society
WST 201/ SOC 240
Online- Fall 2016

Instructor: Mary Okin, PhD
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course we will examine the social construction of masculinity in Western culture, focusing primarily on the US, but also briefly examining masculinity in other Western nations. This course will explore men's experience in our society from multiple vantage points and examine the various ways in which masculinity is understood, represented, and constructed in society. We will explore some of the extensive literature that has been published since the 1970s in the fields of Men's Studies, Masculinities, and Sociology of Gender. Men's Studies first emerged as a field of academic inquiry in the 1970s and 1980s in response to the development of Women's Studies and the theoretical work on gender explored by feminist theorists. Early Men's Studies scholars adopted feminist theoretical models on gender to explore the ways in which masculinity is constructed in society in order to examine diverse issues, including male privilege in patriarchal societies, the link between men and violence in society and the concept of multiple masculinities, which are not all on equal footing. For example, the rights and privileges of white, middle class, heterosexual men in the US are very different from those of other more marginalized groups of men. The major themes that will be explored in the course are: the "social construction" of gender; gender role stereotypes; men, privilege, and power; men and violence; men's health, men in the media; men in the working world and in family life; the socialization of boys; and the concept of hegemonic (normative) versus marginalized masculinities.

This course will occur "on-line" through the FirstClass conference system. The class will basically run on a Mon/We schedule with journal postings on the readings for the week due on both Mondays and Wednesdays. Students will also respond on these days to other students' journal postings. This will constitute our class "discussion" of the topics.

****Please note this syllabus is subject to change. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes the instructor may make through announcements that will be posted to the First Class conference.**

Also, please note that this is NOT a self-paced course. It is expected that you keep up with the weekly assignments and post them on time.

Please make sure that you have high-speed Internet access and Quick Time as a large part of this class includes videos that you need to be able to watch. If you do not have Quick Time you should contact U Maine IT Center for help.

EXPECTATIONS:

*Students will participate in the online discussion through their Mon/ Wed journal entries and responses to each other by posting their journals on time. Please note that you will have reading assignments due twice per week, but some weeks there will be two journals due and some weeks there will only be one journal due.

*Students will complete all the assignments that are listed on this syllabus on time.

*The instructor will provide feedback for all written assignments other than the daily journal responses.

*Assignments are due on the designated date. Late assignments will not be accepted.

*Academic Honesty. Plagiarism violates the University of Maine Student Conduct Code as outlined in the Student handbook. Make sure you cite all direct quotes, images, ideas, facts, and opinions that are not your own.

*All written work, including journals should be well written with attention to grammar. Please write your own journal before reading other students' journals. If your journal is very similar to one posted before yours, you may not receive credit for yours.

*Please review University of Maine codes for what is considered civil conduct and etiquette for the online classroom. Students must be civil and respectful in all communications with the instructor and fellow students.

Accommodation of Disabilities:

Any student who because of a disability may need arrangements or accommodations to meet the requirements of this course is encouraged to discuss these needs with me as soon as possible.

Non-sexist Language Policy: The University of Maine, as an equal opportunity educational institution, is committed to both academic freedom and the fair treatment of all individuals. It therefore discourages the use of sexist language. Language that reinforces sexism can arise from imprecise word choices that may be interpreted as biased, discriminatory, or demeaning even if they are not intended to be. Accordingly, all University communications, whether delivered orally or in writing, shall be free of sexist language.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Kimmel, Michael and Michael Kaufman. **Men's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives 8th Edition** (Pearson)

All other readings for the course will be located on e-reserves or posted to the class conference folder.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Class Participation through Weekly Journal Postings:** The course will center on our readings. Each student will be expected to do a daily journal posting on Mon and Wed of each week of the semester to the FirstClass conference folder with a summary and discussion of the readings for the day, including any questions about the readings and personal reactions to it. Students will also be expected to read other students' journal postings and are encouraged to respond to each other as appropriate (for example agreeing or disagreeing –respectfully- with another's opinions about the readings). Each student will be expected to respond to at least two other students' journal postings per day in order to facilitate “discussion” about the readings. **These twice-weekly postings should be approximately one-to-two pages long for undergraduate students and 2-3 pages long for graduate students.** This activity is designed to provide a forum for online discussion, to help students keep up with the reading, and as a way to learn about how other students feel about the subject. The postings themselves will not be graded, but if you miss two or more daily journal postings, do not respond to other students, or if the journals are not of the quality for which I am looking (in other words if you are not active in the online discussion), the grade for this component of the grading will be lowered. In these journals, I would like you to first summarize and give the main points in the reading and then include your personal reactions to them. **Please note that journal postings are always due by 9:00 am on the day they are due- so plan ahead and do them the night before if you need to. Again, please note that your participation will be graded on the quality of your journals as well. Students who do not join the class on time and keep up with the expected postings each week should expect to receive a poor grade. It is not an option to make up the work for this class at the end as all students are expected to move through the material together. No credit will be granted for late journals.**
- Research Essay:** By the second week of class, students will be asked to identify a particular research topic to explore related to masculinity and gender in society. In a 7-8 page research essay due at the end of the semester students will explore this topic and this essay should consist of an introduction, a conclusion, citations, and a bibliography. For graduate students, your final paper should be 10-12 pages. Students will post their essays to the FirstClass folder and are expected to read and comment on two other students' papers.
- Final Exam:** There will be a take-home (open-book) Final Exam that will be posted to the conference during the last week of the course and will be due by 9:00 am on Wed. Dec. 14th. The exam will consist of defining terms, some short answers and essay questions. The exam will be posted to the folder and students will be expected to email their completed exams directly to the professor.

COURSE EVALUATION

Journal Postings/ Class Participation	33.3 %
Final Research Essay	33.3 %
Final Exam	33.3 %

COURSE SCHEDULE

Aug. 29 *Introduction to Masculinities*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, Introduction pp. xi-xix, and pp. 1-16

Read instructor's **Introduction to the Course**

Please also watch this video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKNa83G5XI4>

And, also watch this short trailer for the new documentary *The Mask You Live In*:

<http://www.policymic.com/articles/54105/the-one-thing-all-men-feel-but-never-admit>

Please also review the syllabus to make sure you understand it and familiarize yourself with the FirstClass Conference. **In your first journal posting due today by 9:00 am, please summarize the readings and also "introduce" yourself to the class, covering such things as what your major is, where you are in your studies, any exposure you have had to gender studies, and what you hope to get out of the class.**

Aug. 31 *Perspectives on Masculinities*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 17-36, and "The Social Organization of Masculinity" (Chapter 3 from the book *Masculinities*) by R. W. Connell, pp. 67-86 (on e-reserves).

Please also watch this excellent talk by the author of our textbook:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjA98mrJJO0>

Journal due: In your journal posting for today, please summarize some of the main points in the reading for today and also include your own personal definition of gender and the term "social construction."

Sept 5 (No class Labor Day)

Sept 7 *Theory, the Social Construction of Gender, and Patriarchy*

Reading: "Night to his Day" by Judith Lorber, "Gender Stereotyping in the English Language" by Laurel Richardson, "Patriarchy- the System" by Allan Johnson (on e-reserves), and "Men, Masculinities, and Feminist Theory" by Judith Kegan Gardiner.

Please also watch these two short videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDCDjDvmhD8#t=103>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDpuJXgD7Rs>

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on the readings.

Sept 12 *Masculinities and Race*

Reading: "The Social Construction of Race," pp. 52-66, "Latino Masculinities in the Post 9/11 Era" by Hernan Ramirez et al, pp. 259-266, and "Racializing the Glass Escalator," by Adia Harvey Wingfield, pp. 373-384.

Please also watch these two short videos on You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5YoS3bqk5g#t=46>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOQZqCGHctE>

All articles on e-reserves.

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reactions to all the readings.

Sept 14 *The Socialization of Boys*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 37-79

Please also watch the trailer on this site of the film *The Boy Game*:

<http://www.newday.com/films/theboygame.html>

No journal due today.

Sept 19 *The Socialization of Boys*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 83-116, and "Television Cartoons: Do Children Notice it's a Boy's World?"

Please also watch this short video on You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CWMCt35oFY>

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on all the readings for Sept 14 and Sept 19.

Sept. 21 *Collegiate Masculinities*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 117-145

Please also watch this video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LrZhafc-Jg>

No journal due today.

****One-page proposal on your Final Research Essay due by 9:00 am.** Please email your proposal directly to the instructor.

Sept. 26 *Collegiate Masculinities*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 147-173

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on all the readings for Sept 21 and Sept 26 and the assigned video.

Sept. 28 *Men and Work*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 175-207

No journal due today.

Oct. 3 *Men and Work*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 208-239, and "The Role of Masculinity/ Femininity...in Occupational Choices" by Erica Weigram et al. (You may skip pages 247-253 of this article, which will be posted to the class folder).

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on all the readings for Sept 28 and Oct 3.

Oct. 5 *Men and Health*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 241-299

Please also watch this short video and documentary:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yuBavVcGC0>

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-disappearing-male/>

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reactions to all the readings for and the video.

Fall Break! No class Mon.

Oct. 12 *Men and Relationships*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 301-314, 320-334, 338-345 and 350-363 (optional reading pp. 316-319 and 345-350)

Please also watch this interview with the other author of our text talk about men and relationships:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64VDoDEBFw4>

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary reflections on all the readings.

Oct. 17 *Sexuality/ Sexualities*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 369-383, and "Masculine femininities/ feminine masculinities: power, identities and gender" by Carrie Paechter (posted to the class folder). Please also watch video *Adventures in the Gender Trade*, available to be watched through Fogler library with your Mainecard Barcode. First search under Women's and Gender studies films, then type in the film title to pull it up. (If you have no sound with the film, you can watch it and read transcript posted next to the film):

<http://www.library.umaine.edu/auth/auth.asp?db=Academic+Video+Online>

No journal due.

Oct. 19 *Sexuality/ Sexualities*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 384-395 and "What it Means to be Gendered Me" by Betsy Lucal, pp. 72-80 (on e-reserves).

Please also watch this short trailer and this video on You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gmhJeLyoJw#t=79>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyjjPb4zmr0>

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on all the readings for Oct 17 and Oct 19 and the videos.

Oct. 24 *Men and Family Life*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 411-419, p. 420 and pp. 428-429 (read only the introduction and conclusion of this article), pp. 432-444, and 450-459

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on the readings.

Oct. 26 *Masculinity in the Global Economy*

Reading: "Masculinities and Globalization" by R.W. Connell, pp. 87-102 (on e-reserves), "Twenty-first Century Global Sex Trafficking" by Marjorie Stone (posted to the class folder), and "The Sex Tourist, The Expatriate..." by Julia O'Connell Davidson, pp. 173-184 (on e-reserves).

Please also watch this video on sex trafficking:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_iNBKIBcXkY

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on the readings.

Oct. 31 *Masculinity in Media and Popular Culture*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 460- 499

Please also watch this video:

The Bro Code: How Contemporary Culture Creates Sexist Men

<http://130.111.228.123/manage/5/5A770D0B675DBA829E9F264A192E0B9D/viewProgram.html?sbauth=11D45B4FC8128A63&distLoc=dn>

No journal due.

Nov. 2 *Masculinity in Media and Popular Culture*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 521-529, "Masculinities, the Metrosexual, and Media Images" by Donnalyn Pompper, and "Investigating Hegemonic Masculinity: Portrayals of Masculinity in Men's Lifestyle Magazines" by Rosemary Ricciardelli et al (article posted to the class folder).

Please also watch short videos on You Tube on *Masculinity in Disney Films and in Rap Music*:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CWMcT35oFY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4by0M9uwrh0#t=16>

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on all the readings for Oct 31 and Nov 2 and the two videos.

Nov. 7 *Men and Violence*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 533-564, and read the following article:

<http://prospect.org/article/toxic-masculinity>

Please watch the video: *Tough Guise* (posted to the class folder)

No journal due.

Nov. 9 *Men and Violence*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 565-571, "The Construction of Masculinity and the Triad of Men's Violence" by Michael Kaufman, and "Rape, War, and the Socialization of Masculinity" by Eileen Zurbruggen (posted to the class folder)

Please also watch this 15 minute video clip on TED talk with Jackson Katz:

<http://www.upworthy.com/a-ted-talk-that-might-turn-every-man-who-watches-it-into-a-feminist-its-pretty-fantastic-7?c=slt1>

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on all the readings for Nov 7 and Nov 9 and all three videos.

Nov. 14 *Masculinity and Sports*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 596-608, and "Boyhood, Organized Sports, and the Construction of Masculinity" by Michael Messner, and "Doing Time, Doing Masculinity: Sports and Prison" by Don Sabo, pp. 82-85 (on e-reserve)

Please also watch this short video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g8MJPlrIdY>

No journal due.

Nov. 16 *Masculinity and Sports*

Reading: "Masculinities and Sexualities in Sport" by Eric Anderson (only pp 565-573), and "Wrestling with Masculinity" by Danielle Soulliere (articles posted to class folder).

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on all the readings for Nov 14 and Nov 16.

Nov. 21 *Men and Religion*

Reading: Excerpts from *Men's Lives*, 9th edition, pp. 444-487

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on the readings.

Thanksgiving Break! No class Wed.

Nov. 28 *Men and Social Change*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 573-595

Please also watch the 30 minute video **Breaking Ground: Men Against Rape**, available to be watched through Fogler with your Mainecard Barcode. First search under Women's and Gender studies films:

<http://www.library.umaine.edu/auth/auth.asp?db=Academic+Video+Online>

No journal response due.

*****Final Paper due.** Please post your paper to the appropriate folder by 9:00 am.

Please also read and respond to at least two other students' papers.

Nov. 30 *Men and Social Change*

Reading: *Men's Lives*, pp. 613-621, "I am Not a Rapist" by John Stoltenberg (on e-reserves), "Violence Against Women: State Responsibilities in International Human Rights Law to Address Harmful 'Masculinities'" by Kirsten Anderson

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on all the readings for Nov 28 and Nov 30.

Dec. 5 *Manhood in the US since the 1990s*

Reading: Excerpts from *Manhood in America: A Cultural History* by Michael Kimmel: *Chapter 10: From Anxiety to Anger since the 1990s*, pp. 238-267.

Please also watch the film *Mansome*:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l60Y450vwTM>

No journal response due today.

Dec. 7 *Manhood in the US since the 1990s and Final Reflections*

Reading: Excerpts from *Manhood in America: A Cultural History* by Michael Kimmel: *Chapter 10: From Anxiety to Anger since the 1990s and Epilogue*, pp. 267-297.

Journal due by 9:00 am with a summary and reflections on the readings for Dec 5 and Dec 7 and the assigned film.

******In your final journal response for this course, please also include your final comments or questions on the course as a whole**, including what you feel you learned or got out of the class as a whole, and the primary insights, themes that you found helpful, useful, etc.

Instructor will post Final Take-Home Exam to the class folder during the second-to-last week of the semester.

******The exam will be due by Wednesday December 14 at 9:00 am (to be emailed directly to the instructor cut and paste into the main body of the message and also as an attachment).**

Late exams will not be accepted. You will receive your corrected exam within one week.

Have a great holiday break!