

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne LEUNG 梁以文 (yleung@ust.hk)

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 3-4pm (Rm2382; by appointment)

TA: Ms. Jennifer Hung (jenniferhsy@ust.hk)

SOSC2740: Gender and Society

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the sociological study of gender by exploring how gender is constructed, maintained, and challenged in society. It examines what gender is, how differences between men and women are socially produced, and how these differences intersect with broader systems of inequality such as class, race, and power. Through four sections — basic concepts, gendered institutions, gender in everyday life, and gender in the global economy — students will develop critical tools to analyze how gender shapes their own lives and the world around them. The course encourages reflection on personal experiences while engaging with key theories and case studies across local and global contexts.

II. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students should be able:

- (1) to define and apply foundational concepts such as sex and gender, and explain how gender is produced and reproduced through social processes;
- (2) to critically examine how gender differences are embedded in institutions (such as family, education, work, and media) and how these differences relate to broader systems of power, privilege, and inequality;
- (3) to reflect on how gender norms and expectations shape their own lives and experiences, and assess how gender operates across diverse social, cultural, and economic settings.

III. MODES OF ASSESSMENT & ILOs

Class Participation	10%	ILO1: Assess students' immediate understanding of course content during in-class activities.
Quiz 1	25%	ILO1 & ILO2: Evaluate students' comprehension of key concepts and theories, as well as their grasp of the complex processes involved in the construction of gender and inequality.
Quiz 2	25%	ILO1 & ILO2: Evaluate students' comprehension of key concepts and theories, as well as their grasp of the complex processes involved in the construction of gender and inequality.

Final Exam	40%	ILO1, ILO2 & ILO3: Assess students' overall understanding of course content and their ability to synthesize and apply what they have learned to broader social contexts.
------------	-----	--

- ※ Class participation: best 5 scores out of 8; must be done in class, NO make-up.
- ※ 2 closed book quizzes: MC questions + short answer questions.
- ※ A final examination in the form of 2 long questions; assessing students' understanding of the subject matter, analytical competence and the ability to integrate the course materials.

IV. CONTENTS AND SCHEDULE

Wk	Monday	Wednesday
1		[02/09] Introduction
2	[07/09] Feminist & Sociological Theories	[09/09] Feminist & Sociological Theories
3	[14/09] Sex, Gender & Sexuality	[16/09] Family
4	[21/09] Family	[23/09] Education
5	[28/09] Education	[30/09] Workplace
6	[05/10] Workplace	[07/10] Media & Popular Culture
7	[12/10] Media & Popular Culture	[14/10] Quiz 1
8	[19/10] Public Holiday	[21/10] Body & the Beauty Myth
9	[26/10] Body & the Beauty Myth	[28/10] Intimate Relationships
10	[02/11] Intimate Relationships	[04/11] Power & Politics
11	[09/11] Digital Culture & Manosphere	[11/11] Digital Culture & Manosphere
12	[16/11] Violence	[18/11] Violence
13	[23/11] New Challenges	[25/11] Quiz 2

V. READINGS

Ryle, R. (2018). *Questioning Gender: A Sociological Exploration* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Kimmel, M. S. (2017). *The Gendered Society* (6th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Relevant excerpts from different chapters of the two core texts, selected according to the topics covered in the course, are available on Canvas.

VI. GRADING RUBRICS

Final Exam (40%)

Grades		
A	Excellent	Very clear and relevant focus. In-depth and accurate understanding of subject knowledge/theories/concepts, and excellent application. Very comprehensive and logical argument with substantial evidence. Very well-structured and highly coherent; highly effective presentation, clear and fluent.
B	Good	Clear and relevant focus.

		Good understanding of subject knowledge/theories/concepts, and effective application. Comprehensive and logical argument with good evidence; reasonably in-depth discussion. Structured and coherent; presentation clear and fluent.
C	Satisfactory	Quite clear and relevant focus. Rather superficial understanding of subject knowledge/theories/concepts, and satisfactory application. Fairly comprehensive and logical argument with some evidence; discussion not in-depth enough. Fairly structured and coherent; presentation not clear and fluent enough.
D	Below Satisfactory	Barely clear and relevant focus. Obvious misconceptions of subject knowledge/theories/concepts; limited application. Argument a bit illogical; discussion superficial and with biases. Loosely structured and obvious problems with expression.
F	Fail	The focus is very vague or irrelevant. Lack of proper understanding of subject knowledge/theories/concepts; application very limited. Argument illogical with little evidence; very superficial or biased discussion. Disorganized, unclear and substantial problems with expression.

VII. Readings (available on Canvas)

- Core Texts: Kimmel, Michael. *The Gendered Society*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

VIII. COMMUNICATION & FEEDBACK

- Results of quizzes will be released via Canvas within one week of the assessment.
- Students can check the results by making an appointment with the instructor after the results have been released.

IX. COURSE AI POLICY

If a situation arises where you have to use Generative AI, it must be properly acknowledged. Please note that any AI-generated content will not be considered as part of your own work.

X. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.