This course seeks to examine how people experience gender—what it means to be a man or a woman—and sexuality in a variety of historical and cultural contexts. We will explore how gender and sexuality relate to other categories of social identity and difference, such as race and ethnicity, economic and social standing, urban or rural life, etc. One goal of the class is to learn how to critically assess media and other popular representations of gender roles and stereotypes. Another is to gain a greater sense of the diversity of human social practices and beliefs in the United States and around the world.

Classes will integrate lecture and discussion. Occasionally we will break into small groups for more concentrated discussion. Some lectures will directly engage our readings while others will integrate background historical and theoretical information.

**Requirements**

*Participation.* You must attend class and participate in discussions; this part of the course, including Reader Responses (see below), will account for 25% of the final grade. Writing Reader Responses will help you feel prepared to speak up in class; if a student does not volunteer, she or he may be called upon to speak. You are expected to keep up with all assigned readings. Students who miss more than 3 classes will lose credit.

*Reader Responses* consist of a couple paragraphs describing your reaction to one or more of the readings for that session. Do not summarize, but rather give us your response to the reading. These should take no more than 30 minutes to write. While reader responses are not individually graded, they will be factored into the overall evaluation of your performance. You will write five over the course of the term. You will be encouraged to post these on the course Stellar site prior to the class for which they are due to share your thoughts with your classmates.

*Argumentative Essays.* You will write 3 papers, each counting for 25% of your final grade. The first paper will address the relationship between gender/sexuality and political economy. The second paper will discuss a socially/politically controversial topic concerning gender/sexuality. The third paper may examine the role of gender and sexuality in the construction of personal identity, and can include personal reflection. There is no final examination.

This is a Communication Intensive (CI) subject. Your three papers will be 7-8 pages (roughly 2000 words) each. You will *rewrite* the first two papers in light of the comments received on them. The revised draft is the version that will be graded. Rewriting the third paper is optional. There will be a writing tutor for this class. You will be expected to meet with the writing tutor before submitting each draft and revised paper to the instructor. 

*Presentation.* Students will give a 5-10 minute presentation of the third paper, time limit to
be determined on the basis of enrollment. Presentations are factored into the participation grade. Rehearsing is advisable.

The first two papers are due March 8 and April 12. You will get the papers back no later than one week after they have been handed in, and must submit your rewrite one week later (March 20 and April 26). If you plan on revising the third paper, the first version must be handed in by May 10. The third paper is due on May 17.

We are fortunate to have a writing tutor, Ann Snodgrass, for this course. You are required to make an appointment with Dr. Snodgrass to discuss the progress of your first paper. You are encouraged to meet with the writing tutor frequently, but at least once for each paper.

Because this is a CI subject, you will automatically pass Phase 1 of the Writing Requirement if you receive a grade of B or better.

The readings assigned for a class session follow the date and title of the session.

Required Books (available at the Coop):

Jeffrey Eugenides, Middlesex
Annick Prieur, Mema’s House, Mexico City: On Transvestites, Queens, and Machos. Chicago
Heather Paxson, Making Modern Mothers: Ethics and Family Planning in Urban Greece

the remainder of the readings will be found on the course Stellar site for you to download.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Wed. Feb. 8  introduction to the study of gender and sexuality: the sex/gender system

PART I: CONCEPTS AND THEMES

Mon. Feb. 13  is sex to gender as nature is to culture?
reading response due in class


Wed. Feb. 15  cultural acquisition of gender as learned behavior


PART II: GENDER AS A SOCIAL INSTITUTION

Mon. Feb 20  PRESIDENTS’ DAY HOLIDAY

TUE. Feb. 21  arranged marriage and inheritance in agricultural and pastoral societies

read:  begin reading *Middlesex*; discuss through p. 125


Wed. Feb. 22  science, republicanism and The Woman Question


handout paper topics

**make appointment to meet with writing tutor in the next couple of weeks**

Mon. Feb 27  social reproduction: reproducing formal and informal class relations

**reading response due in class**


Wed. Mar 1  women in the global economy


view:  *Mardi Gras: Made in China*
Mon. Mar 6  gender, work and professionalization


Wed. Mar. 8  gender and agency


FIRST PAPER DUE

Mon. Mar. 13  appetite, image, control


PART III: GENDER AND SEXUALITY AS IDENTITY

Wed. Mar. 15  the invention of sexuality-based identities


Mon. Mar. 20 coming out and leaving the closet behind


**FIRST PAPER REWRITE DUE**

Wed. Mar. 22 other genders/sexualities


Annik Prieur, *Mema’s House*, Chapter 1

Mon. Mar. 27 SPRING BREAK

Mon. Apr. 3 transvestite lives and sex work

**reading response due in class**

read: Annik Prieur, *Mema’s House*

Wed. Apr. 5 transgender and transexualism in the U.S.


**view:** *You Don’t Know Dick*

Mon. Apr. 10 intersexuality


“What are you?” by William Beeman, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Brown University, in the Baltimore Morning Sun, Sunday, March 17, 1996.

**discuss Middlesex**

Wed. Apr. 12 do western sexual identities travel?


SECOND PAPER DUE
Mon. Apr. 17  NO CLASS

Wed. Apr. 19  sexism, racism and violence


PART IV: REPRODUCTIVE POLITICS AND GENDERED CITIZENSHIP

Mon. Apr. 24  de-essentializing sex/gender/kinship

reading response due in class


Wed. Apr. 26  view: The Lynchburg Story

SECOND PAPER REWRITE DUE

Mon. May 1  fetal images and abortion debates

New York Times article on sonograms and anti-abortion groups

Wed. May 3  nationalism and gender


**reading response due in class (can include questions for the author!)**


Mon. May 15   STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Wed. May 17   STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Third Paper Due WEDNESDAY MAY 17