SOCIOMETRY 345:
Class and Culture: Focus on Gender and Sexuality

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30pm - 1:50pm, Locy 111

Instructor: Dr. Christine Wood (c-wood@northwestern.edu)
Teaching Assistant: Christopher Robertson (ChristopherRobertson2013@u.northwestern.edu)
Dr. Wood’s Office Hours: Thursday, 10am – 12pm, 515 Clark Street Room 205
Christopher’s Office Hours: Time TBA, Unicorn Café, Sherman Ave.

COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES

Class and culture are not easily separated.

The study of social class is not based solely on income measurements, or even the classification of occupations as “white collar” and “blue collar.” Culture – the realm of shared belief, values, meaning, styles, and practice – intersects with and shapes socioeconomic status, educational opportunities, and occupational life chances. Early life exposure to cultural goods associated with the elite classes is thought to influence education and occupational outcomes later in life. By extension, members of the dominant classes “reproduce” themselves by transmitting not just property and wealth, but also access to social networks, educational opportunities, and styles of speaking, thinking, and acting.

Gender and sexual identity also relate to, and are often shaped by, social class norms, from the organization of work and family to the culture of nightlife. While the intersections of class, gender, and sex are understudied on the whole, social scientists have really always pursued the topic. This course is dedicated to the relationship of class, gender, and sexual identity in the modern West. We will explore the way that social class intersects with gender norms, and how sexual communities and practices reflect social class patterns and structures. The course draws on classical texts as well as contemporary research.

COURSE FORMAT

The course comprises lecture, media (film and news segments), and some class discussion. All films listed on the syllabus will be viewed in class, but I will provide links to those films as often as possible so you may review them on your own time.

COURSE MECHANICS

This course will make use of the “Canvas” course management system (http://www.it.northwestern.edu/education/learning-management/login.html)

On Canvas, you can:

- Access ALL required readings (there is nothing to purchase)
- Read periodic announcements from Dr. Wood or TA Christopher
- Access this syllabus
- Access course assignments once they are posted

I do allow use of technology in class (laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices that assist in learning and note-taking). Please do not abuse this privilege by accessing social media sites during class. If web surfing during class becomes a problem, I will change my policy on technology.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS and EVALUATION

1. A response essay (4-5 pages) that assesses your understanding of the concepts in the first part of the course. The prompt for this essay will be distributed on Thursday, January 21. The paper will be due in-class on Thursday, January 28. This essay is worth 25% of your final grade.

2. We will have an in-class exam on Thursday, February 11. I will distribute a review guide prior to the exam and will review the course material in advance. The exam will include all material from course readings and lectures up to that point. The exam will consist of a series of multiple choice/fill-in-the-blank response questions and a series of short answer questions. The exam is worth 25% of your final grade.

3. The take-home final will consist of two essays (4-5 pages each). I will base the prompts on the entirety of the course material. I will distribute prompts for these essays in advance. The essays will be due on Monday, March 14 by 12 p.m. in Dr. Wood’s faculty mailbox in 1810 Chicago Avenue. The final is worth 40% of your final grade.

4. I take attendance daily using a sign-in sheet. Attendance is worth 10% of your final grade. I encourage participation in class discussion, and I will consider your contributions favorably in my assessment of your final grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please familiarize yourself with Northwestern’s policies regarding academic integrity: http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/index.html

COURSE SCHEDULE

Tuesday January 5: Introduction

No Reading - Introduction to the course, topics, and assignments.

Part I: Core Concepts of Sex, Gender, and Class

Thursday, January 7: The Gender/Sexual Division of Labor I


Tuesday, January 12: The Gender/Sexual Division of Labor II


Thursday, January 14: No reading

(Dr. Wood will be out of town today, but your attendance in class is expected.)

Film: The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter (1981)
Tuesday, January 19: Cultural Capital, Field, and Habitus


Thursday, January 21: Cultural Capital, Field, and Habitus (Continued)


**Part II: Gender, Race, and Class**

Tuesday, January 26: Intersectionality


Thursday, January 28: Gender and Work


Film: *Fast Food Women* (2000)

Tuesday, February 2: Class, Race, and Family


Thursday, February 4: Masculinities, Part I


Tuesday, February 9: Masculinities, Part II


Thursday, February 11: In-Class Exam

**Part III: Sexuality, Class, and Commerce**

Tuesday, February 16: Sexual Fields

Thursday, February 18: Social Class, Sexual Communities, and Neighborhood Change


Tuesday, February 23: Sexual Commerce


**Part IV: Sexuality and Social Exclusion**

Thursday, February 25: Sexuality and Citizenship


Tuesday, March 1: Race, Sexuality, and Respectability Politics


Film: *Paris is Burning* (1992)

Thursday March 3: Distribution of Final Exam and Review Session

During this class we will review course concepts in preparation for the take-home final.