

SOCI/WGST 316: Sociology of Gender
Spring 2025
Time: Hybrid (Tuesdays in class and Thursdays online)
2:20 PM to 3:35 pm
Location: Tuesdays: HECC 110; Thursdays: online

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Chaitanya Lakkimsetti (she/her)
ZOOM OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 9:30 to 11:30, via zoom (email in advance to make an appointment)
EMAIL: clakkimsetti@tamu.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Pascale Kouakou
EMAIL: charlotte.84@tamu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore social construction of gender and gender differences from a sociological lens. We will learn major perspectives in sociology in relation to sex and gender and examine the dynamics of gender in empirical studies of varied sites of social life, including the constitution of experiences of embodiment; immigration; families; work; sexuality; intimacy; and in the contexts of globalization. Gender is also a “troubled” category, seemingly fixed but unstable, and impacted by other dimensions of difference and inequality. Throughout the semester we will attend to these issues as well as to situated articulations of gender and social class, racial ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, and other lines of power-laden differences. In addition to introducing students to cutting edge sociological studies on gender; this course will also focus on the how globalization impacts work, immigrant, sexuality, reproduction, and other areas of social life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Understanding the major perspectives in sociology in relation to sex and gender.
2. Apply feminist concepts and theories to everyday events and ongoing social debates.
3. Understand how race, class, sexuality, and other social categories intersect with gender and produce complex inequalities.
4. Be able to critically engage with global and transnational processes that shape gendered inequalities as well as opportunities for resistance.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

You should come to class prepared having done the readings assigned for the day. Your participation in class is crucial for individual as well as collective learning and is therefore key to fostering a mutually supportive environment throughout the semester. Being open to new ideas and perspectives is very important for an active intellectual life. Class discussion is not meant for attacking anyone personally.

The Student Conduct Code Rule 21 regarding appropriate classroom behavior will also be strictly enforced (<https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule21/>). If a student is being disruptive or disrespectful (rude, inappropriate, unprofessional, and/or harmful to others) either in the classroom or during class-related communications outside of lecture (online or in-person), the instructor or teaching assistant will address this behavior following the department and university disciplinary guidelines. See (<https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/sociology/home-page/diversity/>) for a more detailed discussion of these principles and the rules of conduct.

REQUIRED READINGS

All required articles can be accessed on CANVAS. There is one required book for this course, which can be accessed through course reserves.

Discounted Life: The Price of Global Surrogacy in India

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

1. Attendance & Participation: 10%
2. Online Group Discussion Posts (10 posts): 15%
3. Film Analysis (2 posts): 5%
4. Two in-class tests: 50%
5. Short essay on gender & globalization: 20%

GRADING SCALE & POLICY

A: 100-90, B: 89-80, C: 79-70, D: 69-60, F: 59-0

- Absences & Late assignments are generally not accepted without a timely, university-approved excuse.
- If you want to discuss a grade carefully review all responses to your paper/exam; wait at least 24 hours after assignment grade receipt. You should make an appointment with me for an in person or zoom meeting to discuss your performance. **I will not discuss grades via email.**
- Please note that the grade cut-offs are firm. Scores are not rounded up (or down) to the nearest grade just because a student is close to another grade. Thus, for instance, a 79.99% is a C and not a B.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Attendance and participation count for 10% of the grade. Participating in class involves **being present in class regularly, active listening, coming to class on time, not using**

your phones while you are in class, and participating in class discussion. I will take note of all the above while grading for participation.

I will take attendance Tuesdays (in-class day) since we meet once a week in-person your physical presence in class during that day is important. You are allowed one excused absence, absences beyond that (without university approved reasons) will result in a lower attendance grade. **5 or more unexcused absences will result in drop in a letter grade and even an F in the course.**

LATE WORK POLICY

It is your responsibility to finish course assignments in a timely manner. For the university attendance policy and for what constitutes excused and unexcused absences, please refer to Student Rule 7: <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.

If your absence is due to medical or other university-approved reasons (see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>), then you must provide suitable documentation whenever possible. It is possible to make up work for an unforeseen excused absence. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If you are unable to submit a written assignment through Canvas because of technical difficulties, you may email me the assignment as a Word or PDF document (original due dates and times still apply).

EMAIL POLICY

I will respond to your email **within two business days** (48 hours, except weekends and holidays). Don't expect me to respond immediately to your emails. Don't email me with last minute request regarding deadlines. Read the syllabus carefully before asking a general question about the course. **I will NOT respond to emails asking for information that is already in the syllabus. I will NOT discuss grades over email,** you will have to make an appointment with me to discuss your grades.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own, the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. You are also committing plagiarism if you present another's work as your own (for example by close paraphrasing) if you do not give clear attribution (for example by using quotation marks or otherwise indicating that the idea came from someone else, even if you include the person in your bibliography). If in doubt, give attribution. Failure to do so may result in serious sanctions. If you have questions about plagiarism, consult the website for Texas A&M University Student Rules. <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/part1.htm>

AGGIE HONOR CODE

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.” For further information on academic integrity see:

<http://compliance.tamu.edu/CodeConduct.aspx>

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) POLICY

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

TITLE IX AND STATEMENT ON LIMITS OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Texas A&M University and the College of Liberal Arts are committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws provide guidance for achieving such an environment. Although class materials are generally considered confidential pursuant to student record policies and laws, University employees — including instructors — cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues that jeopardize the health and safety of our community. As the instructor, I must report (per Texas A&M System Regulation 08.01.01) the following information to other University offices if you share it with me, even if you do not want the disclosed information to be shared:

Allegations of sexual assault, sexual discrimination, or sexual harassment when they involve TAMU students, faculty, or staff, or third parties visiting campus.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In many cases, it will be your decision whether or not you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the Student Counseling Service (<https://scs.tamu.edu/>).

Students and faculty can report non-emergency behavior that causes them to be concerned at <http://tellsomebody.tamu.edu>.

STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student’s academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in proper self-care by utilizing the resources and services

available from Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

Read: Debra Rigney & Audre Lorde

Online Group Discussion Post: GD1 due at the end of class time on Thursday

Week 2: Social Construction of Gender

Read: Pascoe, C.J. Pascoe & Emily Kane

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Online Group Discussion Post: GD2 due at the end of class time on Thursday

Week 3: Social Construction of Gender (2)

Read: Fausto-Sterling, Ann Fausto-Sterling & Suzanne Kessler

Film: *Every Body*

Online Group Film Analysis (FA): FA 1 due at the end of class time on Thursday

Week 4: Approaching Intersectionality

Read: Crenshaw, Kimberly Crenshaw & Patricia Hill Collins

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Online Group Discussion Post: GD3 due at the end of class time on Thursday

Week 5: Approaching Intersectionality (continued)

Read: Moya Bailey and Izetta Mobley & Whitney Pirtle and Tashelle Wright

Online Group Discussion Post: GD4 due at the end of class time on Thursday.

Week 6: Gender and Embodiment

Read: Hanser, Amy Hanser & Oluwakemi

Review of Materials: Test 1 preparation (group can also discuss Balogun's reading)

Week 7: Gender, Race and Politics

Test 1 *Tuesday, February 25 (Classroom)*

Read: Nancy Fraser and Linda Gordon

Online Group Discussion Post: GD5 due at the end of class time on Thursday

Week 8: Sexuality & Family

Read: Le Espiritu, Yen Le Espiritu & Michelle Parra and Lorena Garcia

Online Group Discussion Post: GD6 due at the end of class time on Thursday

Week 9: Spring Break (No Class)

Week 10: Gender, State and Citizenship

Read: Chaitanya Lakkimsetti & Poulami Roychowdhury

Online Group Discussion Post: GD7 due at the end of class time on Thursday

Week 11: Gender and Work

Read: Kang, Miliann Kang & Heejung Chung (et.al)

Review of Materials: Test 2 preparation. (you are also welcome to discuss Ching et.al reading in groups)

Week 12: Gender and Globalization

Test-2 *Tuesday, April 1 (Classroom)*

Read: Parrenas, Rhacel Parrenas

Online Group Discussion Post: GD8 due at the end of class time on Thursday

Week 13: Globalization and Reproductive Labor

Read: Sharmila Rudrappa (Intro, Chapter 1)

Film: Made in India

Online Group Film Analysis (FA): FA 2 due at the end of class time on Thursday

Week 14:

Read: Sharmila Rudrappa (Chapters 2,3, 4)

Online Group Discussion Post: GD9 due at the end of class time on Thursday

Week 15:

Read: Sharmila Rudrappa (*Chapter 5,6, 7 and conclusion*)

Online Group Discussion Post: GD10 due at the end of class time on Thursday

Week 16:

Tuesday, April 29 (Classroom)

Course wrap-up and working on your short essay.

Gender & Globalization Essay Due May 2, 2025 (submit on canvas before 5:00 PM)