

Course Syllabus

Fall 2025

SOCI 207: Introduction to Gender in Society

TR, 3:55-5:05

WCBA 104

Credit Hours: 3

Canvas IT: for phone, chat, or email, see <https://lms.tamu.edu/support>.

Please do not email me with questions regarding Canvas or Lockdown Browser; I have no problem-solving skills in either. All I can do is refer you to these links.

Instructor: Dr. Joan Wolf

Office: Zoom, <https://tamu.zoom.us/j/8098493663> [Links to an external site.](#)

Mail: wolfj@tamu.edu

Office Hours: T, 11-12:30 and 2:15-3:15 (please make an appointment) and by appointment.

TA: Garrett Riley

Mail: griley5@tamu.edu

Office Hours: Friday, 3-4; to make an appointment, visit calendly.com/gmaj7motif [Links to an external site.](#)

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the study of gender in society. We will focus on social construction, or how ideas about gender are produced by social structures and social institutions, and intersectionality, or how experiences of sex and gender are informed by other social structures, including race, class, sexuality, and religion. We will be especially concerned with deconstructing what is considered socially normal and the privileges and biases encoded within it (e.g. Why is the work day 8-5? Why are more men becoming nurses?)

Enrollment in this course indicates each student's commitment to engaging with difficult subjects. Our lectures, readings, and discussions will cover a variety of sensitive topics as they have been studied by social scientists. Throughout the semester, you might be excited, persuaded, hurt, or offended by certain viewpoints. You might find yourself becoming strongly feminist, ardently anti-feminist, intrigued, repulsed, or just bored. The course is not intended to tell you what is politically or morally correct or to make you more conservative or liberal about gender but to help you understand its complexity.

I encourage students to challenge, disagree with, and/or point out contradictions in the material. *That is precisely what scholars do, and it is my job to help you do it.* But if you do not believe gender to be an appropriate subject for academic inquiry, and especially if you are unable or unwilling to listen respectfully to others, I highly recommend that

you find another course. If you choose to stay, understand that the syllabus is a contract that confirms your commitment to engaging with the course material and other students in a manner consistent with Aggie values.

Course Prerequisites

None

Special Course Designation

CORE, CD

SOCI 207 is a Core Curriculum-Social and Behavioral Science course. The Core Curriculum objectives are:

- *Critical Thinking*: Students should develop the capacity for creative and innovative inquiry and for analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
- *Communication*: Students should be able to develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- *Social Responsibility*: Students should develop intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- *Personal Responsibility*: Students should be able to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

SOCI 207 is also a Cultural Discourse (CD) course. By the end of the semester, you should be able to

- Listen to and hold respectful discussions with people who do not agree with you.
- Understand yourself, including personal bias and prejudices. We all have them.
- Understand and analyze how power and authority are exercised within social organizations, including government, schools, families, businesses, and media.
- Recognize privilege, implicit bias, and discrimination.
- Practice and promote meaningful dialogue about divisive issues everywhere you find yourself.

Course materials

Required materials are available in the Modules. Please put forth a good faith effort to obtain what you need before letting me know you can't find it. You are expected to complete the material in each module and on the syllabus *before* each lecture. Everything is required unless otherwise indicated. Sometimes current events provide unexpected opportunities for learning. If I modify the course material, students will have ample time to adjust.

Communication

All communication from me will take place in Canvas notifications and announcements. This means that you must ensure that you are receiving notifications. To do so, click "View Course Notifications" on the course homepage, and then click "Enable notifications" for this course. Announcements are listed on the menu on the side of your screen. If you have set up your notifications properly, you should be alerted when new announcements are posted. You would be wise, nonetheless, to check Canvas periodically on your own, as you are responsible for all posted information.

I am available on email. However, I ask that you not contact me with questions until you have checked the syllabus, assignments, and announcements and/or asked your group for an answer. It is extremely frustrating to create a detailed syllabus and Canvas page and then be asked to read them to individual students who have not read for themselves. Please don't be that student.

Grading Policy

Grades are based on points. At the end of the semester, I will total each student's points and, if appropriate, will create a curve. I will use a curve only if it is beneficial to students; under no circumstance will it be more exigent than a standard grade scale. I guarantee that a curve will not hurt your grade, but I cannot promise that it will help.

We will have three categories of assignments: 1) two exams, (2) homework, and (3) in-class quizzes and group work. I have not yet determined exactly how many points will be available. But roughly 40-50 percent of points will come from exams, 25-30 percent from homework, and 25-30 percent from in-class work.

Quizzes are designed to indicate to me whether you are preparing for class. They are not difficult, and if you have read/watched/listened to the material on the syllabus, they will be the easiest points in the class.

You will complete homework on your own or in a small group.

Exams cover all class material, including lectures, all reading listed on the syllabus, and any videos, podcasts, presentations, and exercises I have assigned. Please do not email me to ask what material will be included on either exam. Exam 2 is not cumulative, but it will assume basic competence in concepts from Exam 1. You may not use notes or any other material during exams.

Invariably, after every deadline or exam, multiple students email me with pleas for special treatment. I tell everyone no. No exceptions. Period. Please do not email me asking for an extension for any reason. If you have a university excuse (see Student Rule 7), I will determine when and how to submit missing work. Exams do not circulate. If you would like to review an exam after it has been graded, you may do so during office hours.

Rarely, if ever, is there an opportunity for extra credit. Assume none. Please do not email me to ask how to earn extra credit points.

Technology

In-class work requires a laptop, iPad, or another device that enables you to operate in Canvas. If you do not own or have access to such a device, you may borrow one from the library. If this requirement presents a hardship for you, please contact me.

LOCKDOWN BROWSER, WHICH REQUIRES A WORKING MICROPHONE AND CAMERA ON YOUR COMPUTER, IS REQUIRED FOR ALL EXAMS.

You *cannot* take the exams without the browser. Please make sure you download it and verify that it is functioning properly. Check again the day before an exam. Failure to have a working browser is not a valid excuse for a missed exam; your score will be zero. Please do not contact me if you encounter problems with the browser. I appreciate how stressful this is, but I won't be able to fix anything. I cannot stress this enough. Every semester students email me in a panic because their browser does not work, and all I can do is tell them to contact Canvas IT. See <https://lms.tamu.edu/support> for technical support, which is available 24/7, including weekends.

Broken computers and/or intermittent internet are your responsibility to manage well before an exam. If you do not have reliable internet, find somewhere that does. Technology and internet problems are not valid excuses for failing to start or finish an exam or to submit assignments. Please do not try to take exams with an iPad. Canvas IT instructs me to advise you that it is not possible to sync iPads with Lockdown Browser. If you choose to ignore this warning, you do so at your peril. If the iPad does not work, you will receive a zero on the exam.

The browser requires that you take the exam in a quiet place, that you remain in the camera frame and keep your eyes on the screen, and that you not close the browser once you begin. If you do not follow these rules, you will be flagged for cheating, which will result in a zero. Please take care of hydration and toilet needs before you begin and make sure roommates, pets, parents, phones, and other potential interrupters do not interfere with your test-taking environment. See additional instructions on the browser itself.

You must show your student ID in order to take the exam. Verify that you have actually submitted exams as well as assignments.

Save a copy of everything you upload to Canvas in Microsoft Word, and do not revise it once submitted. Do not make any changes. In case of a Canvas problem, I will ask you to provide the submission with a time and date stamp (Word takes care of that) from before the due date.

Deadlines and Missed Exams

PURSUANT TO STUDENT RULE 7, NO MAKEUPS OR MODIFICATIONS FOR MISSED EXAMS OR ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GRANTED WITHOUT REQUIRED UNIVERSITY DOCUMENTATION.

Do not expect reminders when test dates or deadlines are approaching. Please do not ask for a makeup because you forgot, wrote the wrong date on your calendar, fell asleep, need to pass the class with a certain grade to keep your scholarship, are feeling stressed, or any reason not listed in Student Rule 7.

Homework is due at 3:00 on class days (and sometimes Saturdays at 4 pm). That means you must submit it *before* class. Anything submitted later, no matter how brilliant, will receive a zero. Quizzes take place in the first ten minutes of class. If you arrive after a quiz has started, you will not be given extra time.

It is always better to email me ahead of time if you know you will miss an exam or an assignment. This includes excused absences. If you are an athlete, check your schedule now to see if your travel conflicts with course requirements. Do not wait until a few days before or after an exam to contact me. Please, please, please be responsible and talk with me early so that I can make appropriate accommodations.

You may use your device to take notes. While in class, please do not use it for anything else. It is distracting to other students and rude to whoever is talking, including me.

You may not use ChatGPT or any AI source for your written work. Please be advised that I spend considerable time verifying that the work you have submitted is entirely your own. If I learn that you have cheated, you will will FAIL THE COURSE and I will refer your case to the Honors Council. No excuses, no second chances. Every semester, students fail my courses for cheating. Remember: YOU CHEAT, YOU FAIL.

Groups

You will be assigned to a group during Week 2. You will engage with these groups for certain homework, but they are also meant to be a resource. If you have a question about course material or assignments, first consult the syllabus, and if you cannot find the answer, your groupmates might be helpful.

University Statements and Policies

Makeup Work Policy

Please refer to Student Rule 7 in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines. “Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor” (Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1).

“The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence” (Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2).

“Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code” (Student Rule 24).

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

"Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case" (Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities.

Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Resources by calling 979-845-1637.

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. Emergency 24-hour help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see University Rule 08.01.01.M1):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, you will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University's goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's Title IX webpage.