



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 3341F-001**  
**Social Construction of Gender**  
**Fall 2022**  
**Wednesday, 1:30-4:30pm, TC-341**  
**In-Person**

**Instructor:** Dr. Robert Nonomura

**Office Hours:** By Appointment: Monday, 12:45-2:15pm; Wednesday 11:00am-12:30pm

**Department of Sociology, Office:** SSC #5405

**Email:** [rnonomur@uwo.ca](mailto:rnonomur@uwo.ca)

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**Course Description:**

The course will consider the ways in which our view of gender has changed from one that saw gender as an attribute of individuals to one that sees gender as a social construction that shapes social life. Implications of this change for gender inequality will also be explored.

***Prerequisite(s):*** Registration in third year or above.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

***Anti-requisite(s):*** None.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify key characteristics of constructionist, determinist, performative, intersectional, and reactionary perspectives of sex and gender.
- Lead a scholarly discussion that generates critical analysis of a recent publication (or publications) in the sociology of gender.
- Explain how gendered processes impact (and are impacted by) social patterns in labour, intimate relationships, violence, and social movements.
- Systematically develop an essay-length analysis that uses contemporary sociological theories of gender to understand a current social issue
- Compare the relative strengths and weaknesses of binary and spectral conceptualizations of sex and gender.

### **Course Material:**

Reading assignments will consist of articles, book chapters, and knowledge mobilization resources. Links or PDFs to all resources will be provided via OWL. To ensure that all students have consistent access to limited library resources, download and save digital copies of the assigned course readings.

There is no required textbook for this course.

### **Communication:**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

### **Method of Evaluation:**

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

#### ***Paper Proposal – 10%***

Prior to submitting the Final Paper, students will submit a Term Paper Proposal worth **10% of the final mark** in this course. This assignment must be uploaded to OWL (Assignments> Paper Proposal) by **Monday October 24, 11:59pm ET**. Late submissions will be penalized 10% per day. Accommodations will be made only on Medical or Compassionate grounds, as per university policy.

The Paper Proposal will contain three elements: a summary of the proposed Final Paper project, a tentative outline of the paper, and a proposed bibliography.

#### ***Final Paper — 30%***

The Final Paper is worth **30% of the final grade**. Students will write a research paper on a topic of their choice related to the social construction of gender. This assignment must be uploaded to OWL (Assignments> Final Paper) by **Monday December 5, 11:59pm ET**. Papers should be 3,000 words (10-12 pages), excluding reference pages. Strong research papers will use at least ten sources, including at least two sources from the assigned course material. It is expected that papers will be supported by peer-reviewed publications, but exceptions will be made for grey literature and non-traditional resources pending consultation with the instructor. This assignment must be completed in order to pass the course.

#### ***Quizzes — 15%***

Students will use the course's OWL Tests & Quizzes tool to complete **two Quizzes comprising 15%** of the final grade. Quiz questions may consist of multiple choice, matching, concept identification, short answer, and/or argument summary formats. Key dates and course materials covered in these Quizzes is as follows:

Quiz 1 opens October 5 and closes October 11 (Covers week 1–4).

Quiz 2 opens November 13 and closes November 20 (Covers week 5–9).

Between the two Quizzes, the higher score will comprise 10% of the grade and the lower score will comprise 5% of the grade (e.g. if you received 60% on Quiz 1 and 90% on Quiz 2, your score would be 80%). Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

### ***Discussion Facilitation — 20%***

Weekly breakout discussions will be led by designated discussion facilitators. Each student will serve as facilitator once in the term by posing prepared focus questions to their breakout group (in class), debriefing the larger group on key points covered in the discussion (in class), and then submitting a 750-word Critical Analysis relating to the week's subject matter (submitted to OWL within 7 days of the facilitation). **Discussion Facilitation will be worth 20% of the final mark**, with 8% based on the in-class facilitation and debrief, and 12% based on the Critical Analysis. Note: these components comprise an overall grade for the Discussion Facilitation and must be completed for the same week unless academic accommodation is document. Students will have the opportunity to select their facilitation date and topic in order of a random draw on Wednesday September 14 (Week 1).

### ***In-Person Participation — 15%***

Participation will be assessed cumulatively throughout the term. Evaluation for this mark comprises all forms of interaction and communication (in class and in office hours) that contribute to the accomplishment of our learning objectives and that also uphold the class code of ethics. Note: communications about assignments, absences, or other logistical concerns do not constitute participation.

### ***Assignment Format Requirements***

Marks may be deducted if you do not follow these instructions:

Times New Roman font	1 inch (2.54cm) margins on all sides	Papers should be double-spaced.
12-point font size	Pages should be numbered in the right side of the <u>footer</u> starting on the first page of text, not the title page	Your full name should appear in the right side of the header.
All papers need to be submitted through TURNITIN on OWL.	Unless otherwise indicated, late assignments without academic accommodation will be penalized 4% per day, including weekends.	ASA (American Sociological Association) or APA (American Psychological Association) style.

### ***Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:***

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

### **Key Sessional Dates, Fall 2022:**

Thursday September 8, 2022: Fall Term classes begin.

September 16, 2022: Last day to add a full course, a first-term half course, a first-term full course, or a full-year half course on campus and Distance Studies

Monday October 10, 2022: Thanksgiving Holiday

October 31 - November 6, 2022: Fall Reading Week.

November 12, 2022: Last day to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty

Thursday December 8, 2022: Fall Term classes end.

December 10-22, 2022: Examination period.

### **Student Absences:**

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

***Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade:*** For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade (i.e. individual Article Responses), I have the capacity to grant academic considerations without referring you to academic counsellors. Come and speak to me and we can likely reach a fair and reasonable arrangement. I reserve the right to extend the deadline up to 5 days (with or without penalty and/or to re-weight the overall Article Responses assignment).

***Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:*** For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.

Once the documentation is complete, we can discuss an appropriate extension on quizzes and written assignments or a rescheduling of your Discussion Facilitation to a later date.

***Absences from Final Examinations (not applicable to our course):*** Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Academic Counselling will determine eligibility to write a Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

**Note:** missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

## **Course Schedule and Readings:**

Full course reading list and links available on OWL.

### **Important Policies**

***Academic Consideration for Missed Work:*** Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation in order to receive accommodation for missed work worth 10% or more of the final grade in the course. All required documentation for absences must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty. Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). The student medical certificate is available at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

***Religious Accommodation:*** When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

***Accessibility Options:*** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: [www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

***Scholastic Offences:*** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

***A Note on Plagiarism:*** Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

***Plagiarism Checking:*** All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of

detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

***Mental Health:*** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western ([www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academic_counselling/).

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html) .To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

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