MEN AND MASCULINITIES (SYD 4820, x 06G8), Fall 2017

This section is NOT a Writing Requirement section for the 24,000 word writing requirement

Note: Because this is an upper division course. You should have taken at least one (preferably more than one) introductory course in sociology, women's studies, or psychology.

When: Tuesday 5-6 (11:45 a.m. - 1:40 p.m.), Thursday 6 (12:50 p.m. -1:40 p.m.)
Where: CSE E220

Final exam: 15B slot (Friday, Dec 15th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

Dr. William Marsiglio
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Office Phone: 294-7182
E-mail: marsig@ufl.edu (please use this email to contact me directly rather than using the Canvas system)
Home Page: http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/marsig/

Office Hours:
Tuesday: 10:40 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Thursday: 10:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
And by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines males' diverse experiences as boys/men and public discourses about masculinities primarily in the U.S. The major thrust of the course is to examine how the gendered social order influences men's actions and the way men perceive themselves, other men, women, and social situations. We will use an intersectionality perspective to explore the relationships between multiple dimensions of social relations and inequalities: gender, race/ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation. We will also consider how masculinities are produced in various physical/social sites. This course evaluates the prospects for social change in how men think, feel, and act. It addresses issues such as: male socialization and boyhood/guyland culture, male body image, male friendship, male sexuality and fertility, men's experiences as fathers, men's involvement in volunteer and paid youth work, male aggression and violence, African American and Latino males' experiences, men's commitments to sports and work, media representations of boys and men, the social construction of masculinities in different historical and cultural contexts, and men's movements and networks.

Note: I will organize this course on E-learning/Canvas for the first time this semester.
CLASS FORMAT AND ETIQUETTE

The course will be a combination of lecture, class discussion, in-class small group exercises, and videos. Lectures supplement the assigned reading material so it is important that students attend class regularly in addition to reading the assignments. I encourage student participation and portions of many classes will be set aside specifically for class discussions on selected topics. Students will benefit the most from our classes if they keep up with the reading.

The subjective matter for this course should offer students plenty of opportunities to relate to our readings and class discussions. Students should feel free to think about how their personal experiences are relevant to our class discussions and group exercises; however, it is essential that students attempt to understand how their experiences illustrate sociological concepts and general patterns or represent exceptions to those patterns.

Because many students are likely to have strong personal opinions about the issues we will cover in this course, we need to create an environment in which students feel comfortable expressing their ideas and disagreeing with one another in a civil manner. My teaching philosophy is grounded on the assumption that it is better to "allow" students to take unpopular or unconventional stands on gender issues than to try and police speech. However, I expect students to direct their comments toward a specific idea or philosophy, rather than personalizing attacks against other students. So long as the comment does not reflect a personal attack, I will expect students to take the initiative to defend their own position in a civil way if they are offended by another student's way of thinking.

If all goes as planned, we should have a lot of fun and learn from each other!

REQUIRED READINGS

Course Packet: I have compiled a collection of readings (articles and book chapters) that can be purchased from BookiT, 1250 West University Avenue, Unit 2 (same plaza as the Holiday Inn hotel on University Ave and NW 13th St. They are on the 13th St side under the green awning that says "Buyback"), phone 352-371-9588. Website is: BookiT.com.bz (students can order the packet online, pickup in store). It is critical to acquire this material quickly so you can stay on top of the readings.


Optional Reading: Students will only need the book listed below if they decide to do term project option 4.


You should be able to find used copies of each on line--but please make sure you acquire them in time to read before we discuss them in class.

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

An item on the web should be downloaded for week 11.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Show students, both men and women, how an understanding of gender issues can provide them with fresh insights about their personal lives.

2. Clarify for students how they can interpret men's issues using various theoretical perspectives (e.g., life course, intersectionality, social constructionism, social psychological, and sociohistorical).

3. Stress the idea that there are multiple versions of masculinity that are shaped by age, race/ethnicity, social class, and sexual orientation.

4. Demonstrate how the expressions of gender and masculinities are embedded within a sociopolitical and sociohistorical context.

5. Introduce students to various substantive topics relevant to men's lives (e.g., sex, work, fatherhood, friendship, sports).

6. Encourage students to appreciate how the gender order is fundamentally affected by men's orientation towards children, both as fathers and men more generally (e.g., relatives, workers, volunteers, neighbors, friends, and strangers).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. (10%) In-class projects/attendance.

2. (30%) The midterm exam will be primarily multiple choice but students may be required to answer an essay question as well (specific details about the exam will be given later). Exam format will be contingent on class size.

3. (35%) Term Project (4 options available)
4. (25%) A final exam will be given during the scheduled exam period. As with the midterm, it will be primarily a multiple choice format although an essay question may also be included. It will cover the final 7-8 weeks of the semester and it may also include a small amount of material from the first part of the course (specific details about the exam will be given later.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class projects, reading assignments, and attendance</td>
<td>Week 2 – Week 16</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>Oct 10 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Project Options</td>
<td>Nov 16 (Thursday)</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Photo Journal Essay (Note: brief written proposals for this assignment must be submitted by Oct 31st--Thursday)</td>
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<td>• Mentor Essay</td>
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<td>• Website Analysis, Blogging, and Resource Development</td>
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<td>• Creative Critique of The Male Clock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Dec. 15th, (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>250</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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EXAM, PAPER, AND GRADING POLICIES

The exams will include multiple choice questions that will require you to understand the meaning of concepts and theories. All exams are the property of this course. Students are not permitted to take an exam out of the classroom or office nor may they write down exam questions--failure to comply will result in an "E" since non-compliance is, in effect, cheating. Cheating or copying during an exam also results in an "E" and I will not hesitate to take students to honor court.

I expect all students to take the exams during the scheduled class periods. I do not give make-up exams except under the rarest of circumstances. You MUST NOTIFY ME IN ADVANCE that there is a very serious problem and I will decide if you are allowed to take the make-up. If you do not take the scheduled exam, you are given a grade of zero for the exam and will fail the course. If I do administer a make-up exam, I reserve the right to give an exam that is different from the exam the class took and to give an essay exam. Students who take make-up exams, regardless of their reason for doing so, will NOT be eligible for the class curve if there is one. My policy is designed to promote fairness for students taking the exam during the
scheduled period because those who might take it late have additional time to study. Please do not take this course if you anticipate that you might miss an exam for any reason.

I expect to receive all student papers by the assigned due dates. I will assign a late penalty of 20 points per DAY (not class period) for papers handed in after the announced due date (regardless of your excuse). If you hand in a paper a day late, for example, and you would have earned a score of 315 out of 350 if you had honored the due date (90%, A-), you will wind up with a score of 295 (84%, B). A good rule of thumb, then, is to plan to hand the paper in a few days in advance and then spend those last few days making minor changes to it if necessary.

Your final grade will be based on your attendance, performance on the in-class projects and reading assignments, mentor essay, two exams, and a personal journal essay assignment or interview-based term project. In addition, I may, on rare occasions, award a student from 1-10 additional points if he/she has done an EXCEPTIONAL job in class discussions and has stellar attendance. Offering insightful comments and asking thought provoking questions on a regular basis throughout the course is required--simply talking a lot does not suffice nor will an occasional brilliant comment earn you any of the points. Being present and being prepared EVERY day (having read the material) is part of EXCEPTIONAL participation in my mind. To clarify my philosophy regarding these potential points, I'll describe a specific student I once had who would have risen to the level of being awarded some EXCEPTIONAL participation points (she actually earned an A so she didn't need them). The person attended class EVERY day; she was on time EVERY day; she did her readings on time throughout the ENTIRE semester; she actually read them early in the morning prior to each class period; she was able to answer EVERY question regarding the readings that other students could not; she offered insightful commentary on a consistent basis throughout the ENTIRE semester--not in spurts; she asked thought provoking questions at various points throughout the ENTIRE semester; and she was a leader in her small in-class group projects. This student is the standard I use to assess EXCEPTIONAL participation. There are some classes in which no students distinguish themselves as being eligible for these participation points.

**Policy on Extra Credit:** There is absolutely NO additional extra credit for this course. Please do not ask me if you can do extra credit.

**Paper/Project submissions:** Only hard copies of all assignments will be accepted. I do NOT accept email copies for any type of assignment.

VERY IMPORTANT: Your final point total, and the letter grade associated with it, are FINAL. I will NOT simply add a point or two to someone's final point total so he or she can get a passing grade or a score that will enable the student to graduate that semester. Students should not ask for preferential treatment; it's unfair to the other students and challenges the integrity of the grading scale. Students must complete ALL assignments to pass the course.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Students are not permitted to sell class notes or tapes of lectures, presentations, or discussions.
I encourage students who have arranged a special needs accommodation letter through the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) to see me immediately to present their paper work and to figure a plan of action. The SDS office is located in 001 Reid Hall, phone: 392-8565.

Students interested in seeking writing assistance should consider visiting the UF Reading & Writing Center (RWC). It provides 30-minute consultations. The RWC is located in SW Broward Hall. Phone 392-6420. http://www.at.ufl.edu/rwcenter

FINAL GRADE DISTRIBUTION

In accordance with the Faculty Senate resolution of December 14, 2006, The University of Florida's grading scale includes minus grades. The distribution I've listed below shows the grade point value in terms of how a student's grade will be calculated into his or her GPA, the percentage range I will be using to assign final grades, and the point value range that I'll use to determine final grades. If you have taken a course with me in the past, note that I've modified my grade distribution to make it consistent with the university regulations. PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT IF YOU EARN A GRADE OF "C-" OR BELOW IT WILL NOT BE COUNTED TOWARD YOU GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OR YOUR SOCIOLOGY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS. In other words, you will need at least 730 total points in this class in order for it to count toward your Gen Ed or sociology major requirements.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
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<td>93-100</td>
<td>930-1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>A -</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>900-929</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3.33</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>870-899</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>830-869</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>E</td>
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<td>599 and below</td>
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UNIVERSITY OF FLORDIA HONOR CODE

Found at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php

Preamble: In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Student and faculty support are crucial
to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

(1) All students are required to abide by the Student Honor Code.

(2) The conduct set forth hereinafter constitutes a violation of the Student Honor Code. Those adjudged to have committed such conduct shall be subject to sanctions provided in Rule 6C1-4.016, F.A.C.

Any form of "paper sharing," electronic paper purchasing, or plagiarism will not be tolerated. I will fail students for the entire COURSE for any form of academic misconduct regarding the preparation of their paper. Please do your own work!

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

In-Class Projects, Reading Assignments, Attendance (worth 100 points)

At various times throughout the course (11 times total--scores from the highest 10 I will count) I will ask students to complete projects during the class period or I will have students answer questions that they will need to bring to class. I will NOT accept assignments as EMAILS for attendance related assignments after the class is over because they are ATTENDANCE-related. I want to encourage and reward students to read their assigned readings on time in order to improve the quality of our interactive class discussions. Some of the in-class projects will involve small group exercises.

Students who miss class will be responsible for checking their email for any possible questions I may post. In general, if you miss an announcement that I make at the beginning of class because you are late or did not attend, it is your responsibility to know what's going on in class. All students should make several "class-buddies" to keep them informed if they are late or miss a class. This is especially true for courses held twice a week—missing the double block session is like missing two classes of the MWF variety.

I will award up from 1-10 points for those persons who participate and satisfactorily complete their small group projects. Fewer points will be awarded to groups (persons) that do only a mediocre job. For the written assignments on the readings, I will assign 0-10 points to students' work based on its quality.
You cannot make-up these in-class projects under any circumstances. Hence, if you miss class that day, you forfeit those 10 points (1% of your final grade). Do NOT email answers to me. If one of these in-class project days falls on a day when you have a UNIVERSITY AUTHORIZED absence for travel or illness, you must show me written documentation of this conflict and I will add 1% to the weight of your final exam for each instance.

In some instances I will simply take attendance and those who are present for the ENTIRE period(s) will receive 10 points. In fairness to the punctual students, if you come in late or leave early you will only receive partial credit. It is every student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet when they are present. If your name does not appear, you will be marked absent.

Honor code: Students should NEVER sign the name of another student to the attendance list. This is considered academic misconduct and will result in dismissal from the course.

TERM PROJECT OPTIONS: WORTH 350 TOTAL POINTS

Students have the option of choosing to complete 1 of 4 term project options described below. These options offer students a diverse set of creative opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of and ability to apply course material. **Note that option #1 (personal photo journal essay) requires a brief proposal and instructor approval prior to submitting the final document.**

**1: Personal Photo Journal Essay**

You will be responsible for completing a personal photo journal assignment relevant to the first and second course objectives. Your journal entry is to be submitted on the designated due date listed above. Late essays will be subject to a late penalty (see above). These essays are to be at least 7 pages and no more than 8 pages in length, double-spaced and typed (Times Roman, 12” font, 1 inch top and bottom margins, number your pages). The page length does NOT include pages devoted to your appendix that will include copies of your photos.

You will need to interpret a personal life event, process, situation, or relationship from a particular **theoretical perspective/framework** discussed in class (e.g., social psychological, life course, sociohistorical, social constructionist, situated fathering) directly relevant to the course material (either lectures or readings). You may combine and integrate theoretical perspectives, but you must explicitly show how you are applying the perspective(s). I will discuss the "theoretical focus" part of the assignment in class.

You MUST demonstrate your ability to use material effectively from this course to explore and make sense of your personal experience. Stream of consciousness papers that could have been written prior to taking this course will receive low grades. You will earn a higher score by demonstrating more rigor and creativity in incorporating ample material from the class into your analysis. I am NOT looking for you to just describe an experience; you need to ANALYZE your particular life experience using ideas from the course.
In most cases, you will be focusing on an experience you've observed relevant to your father, grandfather, husband/partner, or son--but you must still show how this experience implicates you specifically. In other words, I want you to be immersed in the experience in some way, so your personal standpoint is relevant. Note that some women might be permitted to choose a project that focuses on their own production of masculinity in specific types of contexts (e.g., intersexed person, person in a traditional male work environment)--students interested in exploring this route should chat with me BEFORE submitting a proposal.

The one basic question you should ask yourself is: How does one or more of the theoretical perspectives/frameworks, and various concepts associated with men and masculinities (as discussed in this class), help me interpret and make sense of my journal topic? You should keep in mind the types of issues we will address in class (work, sports, sexuality, fertility, aging, health, socialization, violence, etc.). You are free to focus on any issue that we address in the course. You should choose readings/issues that are meaningful to you.

A useful way of approaching this assignment is to pose a question or a series of closely related questions about yourself as a man, a woman who interacts with a particular man/men, or a woman exposed to masculine constructions that influence her life (e.g., woman rugby player). This question should be framed by your recognition that aspects of the gender order shape your perceptions and experiences (or those of the significant other(s) you're writing about). This strategy will direct you to the most relevant literature in the course readings.

**Photo Dimension (Appendix):** Because I'm asking you to incorporate a "photo" dimension into your analysis, some topics may be more suitable than others because you either have photos you can copy or you can easily take new photos (and then copy) that will provide you an opportunity to narrate your autoethnographic account. You should include at least 3 photos but you are free to include more if you like. Ideally, choosing and thinking about pre-existing photos will jog your memory and your analytic mind to reconstruct an account of a previous experience(s) that you can explore using a gender lens. If you take new photos for this assignment, the process of selecting particular photos should be guided by your memory and analysis as to what would be important to capture visually in order for you to present your particular narrative/analysis. The photos can be of place and/or people (individual, group, or a combination) directly relevant to you. Ideally, you'll want to choose photos that have distinct features that illustrate critical points (e.g., social processes of aggression or cooperation; playful gendered scenes; visually moving/revealing image of aspects of work setting--hard, dangerous, socially interactive; emotionally compelling elements imbedded in a particular place--grandfather's rocking chair sitting outside his farm house). Use your imagination!

Label your photos (Appendix A, B, C....), refer to them in your narrative, and include them at the end of your paper. PLEASE DO NOT GIVE ME ORGINALS--MAKE PHOTO COPIES, OR PRINT ELECTRONIC IMAGES (it is fine if they are black and white).

**Examples of Questions:** the following are examples of the types of things that might be relevant for your assignment. You can choose one of these if you like, or modify one, or choose something else--so long as it’s relevant to the course!
How did/does my father or father/mother interact with me in gendered ways based on particular places (athletic venues, part of the house, wilderness/nature, commercial sites, etc.)?

How are my same gender (applicable only to males) or opposite gender (applicable to males or females) friendships influenced by different types of settings that are gendered in some way?

Compared to my grandfather, how did my father construct his sense of masculinity relative to his work? [If you were to address a question like this one, you would need to also show how their experiences relate to your own perspective on work, or how you were able to relate to your grandfather and father interpersonally]

As a woman, how did I have to negotiate my experiences as an ROTC cadet?

Please note that I will collect, read, and return your essays in a confidential manner in case you want to deal with an experience you perceive to be personal.

You MUST obtain my approval for your paper topic PRIOR to submitting your final paper. This can be accomplished by submitting a brief (300 words) TYPED proposal of what you plan to write about. This proposal should:

a) briefly describe your topic,

b) explicitly show how you plan to apply a specific theoretical perspective(s) (e.g., symbolic interactionism, social constructionism, life course) to your project,

c) explicitly identify some of the key concepts and course readings you plan to incorporate into your analysis, and

d) discuss how you plan to analyze your material.

On a separate sheet you should list and describe the types of photos you plan to incorporate (you do not have to have them ready yet). If for some reason you wish to change your topic, after you have had a paper topic approved, you MUST clear this with me prior to submitting your final paper.

Guidelines and Grading: In order to receive an "A" grade for this paper you will need to raise and systematically address a question relevant to this course while demonstrating your ability to show how the gender social order and masculinity issues are relevant to your discussion. Your paper will need to be well-written and organized in a logical fashion. Creative and original thinking will be rewarded.

I will collect and return the Journal Assignment in a private fashion in case students wish to write about something they consider exceptionally personal. I will be the only one who reads these papers. I may ask a few students if they would like to talk about their project in class, but that would be strictly voluntary and NOT a graded feature of the assignment--just a fun opportunity to share.

You are expected to prepare this assignment in a professional manner. The following guidelines should be followed:
1. The proposal needs to be handed in on time and tailored according to the comments listed above. Proposals need to be 275-300 words, double-spaced (not including citation listings)—essentially one full page. A separate page should include a listing and description (a couple sentences) of the photos you plan to include.

2. When you turn in your final paper include a title page which includes the title of your report, your name, UF ID #, course title, date, and E-MAIL address. Attach to the end of your paper a copy of your proposal that I approved with my handwritten marks. I will NOT grade your paper unless you attach this sheet so make sure you don't lose it! Do NOT use binders of any kind—staple your paper together. You should make three copies of this paper. You will need to hand-in TWO COMPLETE COPIES—the master copy will include the attached proposal (I will return the one that I include my comments).

3. Papers should be neatly typed, double spaced (7-8 pages, NO extra spaces between paragraphs) not including tables or references and make sure you NUMBER your pages.

4. Five references needed. You should use AT LEAST 2 solid, scholarly references (academic peer-reviewed journals or books) IN ADDITION to your class readings. You can cite popular press magazine articles from Newsweek, Time, etc., but you should NOT count them as part of your required 2 outside references. You will need to use at least 3 readings from the course readings but they must be in addition to the 2 outside references. Your grade will not be affected by including additional references beyond these 5 references. It is best to make the most out of the limited references I've asked you to identify, rather than citing lots of references in a superficial way.

5. You may use whatever standard referencing format you prefer but please make sure that you reference you materials completely and consistently. YOU MUST HAVE A REFERENCE LIST WITH FULL CITATION INFORMATION.

6. Do NOT use extensive direct quotes in your paper. You may want to use a quote or two at some point (of the short variety), but the text should reflect your own synthesis of the material. Thus, you should paraphrase material and then include a citation at the end of the sentence or paragraph. If an entire paragraph is based on ideas from a particular source, reference that source at the beginning of the paragraph—you then won't have to reference that source after each sentence in the paragraph.

7. Place in **bold** and underline all key sociological concepts you used from the readings and lectures so that I can easily notice them.

8. Enjoy the process!
I will assess your completed research paper on the following specific criteria (use this as a check list):

1. Quality of literature review (breadth, depth, relevance) [40 points]
   - have you found an adequate number of relevant and compelling articles/books
   - have you located relevant materials
   - have you identified recent materials
   - have you incorporated the material into your analysis in a meaningful way

2. Degree and quality of analytic effort (MOST IMPORTANT) [200 points]
   - how insightful is your analysis, i.e., does it go beyond a superficial treatment of the subject and get at underlying themes and patterns
   - do you present your ideas in a logical fashion
   - does your analysis integrate key concepts in meaningful ways
   - do you compare/contrast key ideas in a way that demonstrates your deep understanding
   - have you used concepts and a theoretical perspective(s) accurately
   - have you incorporated your visual images effectively into your paper and developed your narrative analysis around them

3. Organizational structure and writing style [25 points]
   - is your paper easy to read, are your sentences lucid and without grammatical mistakes
   - is your paper well organized with topic sentences and logical transitions between paragraphs
   - is there a sense of continuity from the beginning to the end
   - have you included a strong opening and conclusion?

4. Creativity of thought and presentation [20 points]
   - do you keep my interest and motivate me to turn the pages
   - do you include thought provoking passages or questions that demonstrate original thinking
   - do your photos and analysis stimulate insightful thinking

5. Quality of professional presentation [15 points]
   - have you submitted your proposal and paper on or before the due date
   - is your paper the appropriate length
   - have you double and triple checked your paper to eliminate typos and misspellings
   - is your paper printed with neat and clear ink (no faded type please)
   - have you followed my directions for preparing your paper including the photo dimension
   - attached a separate page to the end of your paper and assigned a letter grade (e.g., A, A-, B+, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, E) to your effort for each of the five criteria I describe above. In other words, I want you to evaluate your own work.
Purpose: By engaging in this self-reflexive exercise, students will have an opportunity to see how theoretical perspectives and concepts relevant to this course are meaningful to them directly. Students should develop a deeper understanding of how processes associated with gendered practices connected to masculinities affect aspects of their everyday lives. In some instances, students may experience personal growth when they systematically analyze dimensions to their lives that they had either ignored or took for granted.

2. Mentor Essay

You are responsible for developing a 7-8 page essay (at least 7 pages and no more than 8 pages in length, double-spaced and typed, Times Roman, 12" font, 1 inch top and bottom margins, number your pages, with NO extra spaces between paragraphs) that integrates your gendered analysis of a male mentoring experience that affected your life. Your journal entry is to be submitted on the designated due date listed above. Late essays will be subject to a late penalty (see above).

You should explicitly incorporate insights gleaned from the book *Men on a Mission: Valuing Youth Work in Our Communities* and apply them to your real life experience. You should think of a nonfamily male person (e.g., school/music teacher, neighbor, coach, camp counselor, youth minister) who you interacted with at some point in your life and left an impression on you (good/bad/mixed). Some students will be able to identify such a person easily; others may have to focus on someone who wasn't as central to their youth or young adulthood. In either case, students need to choose someone and think about how this person interacted with you--and perhaps others.

You should develop a thematic essay that focuses explicitly on issues discussed in *Men on a Mission*. In addition, you need to frame explicitly your essay by drawing on at least one of the theoretical perspectives discussed in class (e.g., social psychological, life course, sociohistorical, social constructionist, situated fathering).

You might explore how you perceived this person treating you as a male/female differently than others who were not male/female. Perhaps you looked toward this person as a quasi-father figure. In some instances, you might have felt this person helped create masculinity validating rituals in sports or wilderness survival. Some may choose to focus on dimensions associated with physical and social places and how this man's interactions with you were gendered. The male
mentor might have helped you cope with a critical life course experience or enabled you to
develop your confidence in some area. Alternatively, the person might have violated your trust
or angered you with how poorly he treated you based on some type of gendered dynamic. You
may have wanted this person to mentor you, but you felt that he did not follow through. My
examples are only meant to stimulate your thinking; there are plenty of other options.

Make sure you include a separate cover page. Also, in your essay, **bold** and **underline** all key
concepts and perspectives relevant to our course. My evaluation will be based largely on how
well students systematically incorporate course material into their analyses. Papers should
clearly demonstrate that students have learned something in this course and from reading *Men on
a Mission* in particular.

Please note that I will collect, read, and return your essays in a confidential manner in case you
want to deal with an experience you perceive to be personal.

**Purpose:** Students will have the opportunity to apply sociological insights as they explore a
specific dimension to their personal development in a gendered world. The self-reflexive
exercise is designed to prompt students to appreciate more fully how a particular man helped or
hindered their personal growth.

### 3. Website Analysis, Blogging, and Resource Development

Students will have an opportunity to review my webpage *Dads & Kids: Health & Fitness Talk*
(www.dadsandkidshealth.com/) that focuses on the intersection of fathers’ and children’s
health.

Students will:

a) prepare a statement/essay that explores in a detailed way how themes and literature from our
Men and Masculinities course can provide an analytic frame to interpret the website’s
contents. (4 double space pages) [125 points]

b) prepare a critical review/analysis of the site including suggestions for improving the
substantive content/features of the site (between 3-4 double space pages). Students should
**NOT** focus on supplying technical sorts of feedback about font size, color scheme, tab
placement, etc. Rather students are expected to think sociologically and assess whether the
material is likely to be meaningful to particular audiences. Part of this commentary can also
explore how new material might reach the targeted audiences or how new audiences could be
addressed. [125 points]

c) prepare a sample blog entry (2-3 pages) relevant to the site’s mission and informed by Men
and Masculinities course content—it will **NOT** be posted to the site so it will remain private
(I might provide selective students the option of posting blogs if they’re interested) [100
points]. The material needs to be a sociologically critical piece that demonstrates the
students’ ability to integrate ideas from the course into his/her analysis.
Purpose: Students will have an opportunity to process materials in the internet world relevant to an important aspect of men’s lives as fathers. In doing so, they will consider how social science insights can have practical implications for people’s everyday lives. In other words, students can observe how social scientists can engage in applied types of outreach projects that make their research meaningful beyond an academic setting.

4. Creative Critique of THE MALE CLOCK: A Futuristic Novel about a Fertility Crisis, Gender Politics, and Identity

In this essay you should develop your observations about the futuristic world portrayed in this science fiction novel in which a virus compromises human fertility and fundamentally alters social life. You should focus on how gender themes shape individuals’ experiences with the family construction process. Your task is to reflect on the diverse issues presented in the novel and develop a critical analysis that explores the dimensions of the story that you find most compelling, troubling, or refreshing. Your approach can:

- highlight your own views on how gender power dynamics might unfold relative to a world experiencing the fertility crisis described in the book,
- identify new issues not covered in the book that you believe would be significant and life altering,
- note other institutional forces beyond those mentioned in the book that you believe would play a significant role in how men would perceive and construct families,
- refine, expound on, or challenge patterns depicted in the book and explain your reasoning,
- share insights about how interpersonal dynamics relevant to the romantic arena might change that differ from what is presented in the novel,
- present your creative interpretations and assessment of the storyline’s socially significant aspects.

In short, your essay needs to go beyond merely summarizing or describing the events depicted in the novel. Your essay should showcase your ability to apply a gender lens with an emphasis on masculinities as you think sociologically and critically about a futuristic social world that is likely to be quite different from our current reality.

Purpose: The assignment provides students a unique (and potentially fun) opportunity to think “outside the box” and consider how the procreative realm is shaped by gender norms, masculinities, and institutional forces. By engaging with this futuristic novel, students should develop a deeper appreciation for how our current socially constructed gendered order contextualizes how individuals develop and express their reproductive and familial identities. Using fiction as a literary medium, students should see more clearly both the social psychological and institutional dimensions to sexuality and the family construction process.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Please have the readings completed PRIOR to our class sessions. Your familiarity with the material in advance will enhance our class discussions and your learning.
Week 1 (Aug 21-25): INTRODUCTION


Optional Relevant Reading:


Week 2 (Aug 28 – Sept 1): INTRODUCTION (continued)


Optional Relevant Readings:


**Week 3 (Sept 4-8): CONSTRUCTING MASCULINITIES: HISTORICAL TIME AND PLACE**


**Optional Relevant Readings:**


**Week 4 (Sept 11-15): SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED MALE DEVELOPMENT: BOYHOOD AND GUYLAND**


**Optional Relevant Readings:**


Week 5 (Sept 18-22): SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED MALE DEVELOPMENT: BOYHOOD AND GUYLAND (continued)


Week 6 (Sept 25-29): MALE BODIES: PERCEPTIONS AND HEALTH ISSUES


Optional Relevant Reading:

Frank, Elena. (2014). Groomers and consumers: The meaning of male body depilation to a modern masculinity body project. Men and Masculinities, 17, 278-298.


**Week 7 (Oct 2-6): MEN AND SPORTS**


**Optional Relevant Reading**


**Week 8 (Oct 9-13): SEXUALITY AND RELATIONSHIPS**

**MIDTERM EXAM**


**Optional Relevant Reading:**


**Week 9 (Oct 16-20): PROCREATIVE CONSCIOUSNESS AND FATHERING**


**Optional Relevant Reading:**


**Week 10 (Oct 23-27): FATHERING**

1. Smith, Jeremy A. (2009). The astonishing science of fatherhood, or three more myths about male caregiving. Chapter 7 (pp. 120-145) in J. A. Smith’s *The daddy shift: How stay-at-home dads, breadwinning moms, and shared parenting are transforming the American family*. Boston: Beacon.


Optional Relevant Reading:


Week 11 (Oct 30 – Nov 3): MEN AND WORK


**Week 12 (Nov 6-10): MEN AND KIDS IN PUBLIC PLACES**


**Week 13 (Nov 13-17): MASCULINITIES, AGGRESSION, AND CRIME**

**TERM PROJECT DUE—Nov 16**


2. Optional Reading:


**Week 14 (Nov 20-24): MEN OF COLOR**


Optional Relevant Reading:


**Week 15 (Nov 27 – Dec 1): MEN OF COLOR (cont.) & MASCULINITIES, SOCIAL STRUCTURE, AND SOCIAL CHANGE**


Optional Relevant Reading:


**Week 16 (Dec 4-8): CONCLUSION**

Last class Dec 5th, no class Dec 7th

RESOURCES

Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities at Stony Brook University
http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/csmm/index.html

An extensive and relatively up-to-date bibliography compiled by Michael Flood for various book and article/chapters related to men’s issues can be found at: http://mensbiblio.xyonline.net/

**Journals:** *Men and Masculinities; Journal of Men's Studies; International Journal of Men's Health; Fathering: A Journal of Theory, Research, and Practice About Men as Fathers; Psychology of Men and Masculinity* (discontinued recently). Many other journals include articles that address men's issues, often using a gender lens (e.g. *Gender & Society, Journal of Marriage and Family, Journal of Family Issues, Sociology of Sport*)