

Sociology 265H1F

Gender and Society

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:00-4:00

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Week 1: Introduction

I. The Course

- A. Slides, readings from scholarly journals, announcements, assignments -- on website.**
- B. Attendance essential; no text with overview**
- C. Careful reading aimed at understanding and recalling the main argument(s) and finding(s): really important**
- D. Tutorials: for skills training and discussion**

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II. The Questions in the Course

What are the causes of the gender inequalities we see around us?

III. How We Conceptualize Gender

A. Identity

B. Behaviour of individuals (Roles)

C. Interpersonal Relations with Regular Patterns

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D. The Organization of Families, Workplaces, etc. around the Assumption of Gender Difference

E. Ideas on the Culture

IV. A Starting Point: Can We Assume Gender Equity Today?

A. The 1950s: a quick look

- 1) sexuality – a “double standard” in heterosexual relations, “the closet” for gays and lesbians; adoption of babies born outside marriage

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- 2) marriage and family –
breadwinner/homemaker roles (unequal)
- 3) clothing – emphasized femininity
- 4) employment – sex segregation, earnings gap,
“marriage bars”
- 5) violence – considered a private matter

B. Change? Today...

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- 1) sexuality -- some change but ongoing
inequalities
- 2) marriage, family – change for gays and
lesbians, some change in heterosexual
relationships but ongoing inequalities
- 3) clothing – retro revival, but diverse choices
- 4) education & employment – huge increases
in women’s labour-force participation,
uneven change in sex segregation, and
small change in the earnings gap.
- 5) violence – change in attitudes about it

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6) Corporate power – mostly men

- Cda – 1 in 100 Cdn. CEOs in most influential corporations on stock exchange - women (2017); 4.8% of Fortune 500 Amn. CEOs (2018)

7) culture

C. Sociology: shifting the focus from the individual to social context

D. The importance of Race and Social Class when examining Gender

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