The class will focus on three goals, reflected in the provisional schedule below:

(1) To provide a brief introduction to contending theoretical frameworks for explaining gender. These approaches mirror the analytic tensions and debates that most contemporary social theories confront: disentangling processes of reproduction and change; theorizing the interaction between structure and agency; balancing the influence of coercion and choice; and accounting for the dynamics of similarity and difference.

(2) To examine the links between gender inequality and the institutions of work and family through a sampling of core studies. We will use a work-family lens to understand gender dynamics in post-industrial contexts and, conversely, use a gender lens to explore the shape of work and family arrangements.

(3) To provide a chance to “do” sociology on this topic in one of three ways – by formulating a research project, by conducting original research, or by preparing for a comprehensive exam.

Jan. 17: Introduction and Class Overview

Part I: Explaining Gender Inequality: A Whirlwind Tour of Theoretical Approaches
Jan. 24: Gender Theory: Paradoxes, Dilemmas, Tensions
Jan. 31: Classical Roots and Early Feminist Responses
Feb. 7: Contending Contemporary Frameworks
Feb. 14: Confronting Difference: Race, Class, and Gender Diversity

Part II: Selected Studies in Gender, Work, and Family
Feb. 21: Gender and Work-Family Connections
Feb. 28: Gender, Class, and Carework
Mar. 7: Social Change and Gender Transformations
Mar. 14: Spring Break

Part III: Digging Deeper: Doing Research on Gender, Work, and Family
Mar. 21: Developing Research Projects
Mar. 28: Developing Projects, cont.
Apr. 4: Designing/Conducting Research Projects
Apr. 11: Designing/Conducting Projects, cont.
Apr. 18: Writing Research Proposals/Papers
Apr. 25: Writing Proposals/Papers, cont.
**Course Requirements:**

Class meetings will be organized around student discussion and write-ups.

For Parts I and II, short memos (no longer than 1-3 pages) are due each week. They may contain either (1) a brief list of the central questions (and range of answers) raised by the assigned readings, or (2) a short summary of the main arguments and debates. The memos should be brought to class to be used as guide for class discussion. Memos will not be graded, although failure to write one will be duly noted.

For Part III, students will work on their individual projects, with short write-ups that contribute to developing a research project or preparing for a comprehensive exam. A paper, due at the end of the semester, can take the form of either a research report, a research proposal, or a critical review of the issues to be covered in the comps.

**Books Ordered:**

**Theoretical Overviews of Gender Inequality:**
Judith Lorber, *Gender Inequality: Feminist Theories and Politics* (Roxbury, 3rd Edition)

**Selected Studies in Gender, Work, and Family:**
Sharon Hays, *The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood* (Yale University Press)
Joan Williams, *Unbending Gender: Why Work and Family Conflict and What to Do About It* (Oxford University Press)

A longer (but still incomplete) list of recommended readings, organized by general (albeit arbitrary) categories is appended.
Provisional Topics and Assigned Readings

1. Explaining Gender Inequality: Paradoxes, Dilemmas, Tensions

   Connell, *Gender and Power*
   Introduction
   Part I: Theorizing Gender
   Part II: The Structure of Gender Relations

   Lorber, *Gender Inequality*
   Part I: The Variety of Feminisms and Their Contributions to Gender Inequality

   Recommended:


2. Classical Theoretical Frameworks and Early Feminist Responses

Lorber, *Gender Inequality*
  Chapter 1. Liberal Feminism
  Chapter 2. Marxist Feminism
  Chapter 3. Socialist Feminism
  Chapter 5. Radical Feminism
  Chapter 6. Lesbian Feminism
  Chapter 7. Psychoanalytic Feminism

A. Functionalism and the “Sex Roles” Paradigm


B. Psychoanalytic, Marxist, and Weberian Reformulations


3. Contemporary Frameworks: The Social Construction of Gender

Connell, *Gender and Power*
   Part III: Femininity and Masculinity
   Part IV: Sexual Politics

Lorber, *Gender Inequality*
   Chapter 4. Post-Colonial Feminism
   Chapter 8. Standpoint Feminism
   Chapter 11. Social Construction Feminism
   Chapter 12. Postmodern Feminism
   Chapter 13. Third-Wave Feminism

Gender as Interaction and Performance


Gender as the Interplay of Structure and Agency
Gerson, *Hard Choices*,
   Chapter 1. Women’s Work and Family Decisions
   Chapter 2. Explaining Women’s Behavior

Hochschild, *The Second Shift*
   Chapter 1. A Speed-up in the Family
   Chapter 2. Marriage in the Stalled Revolution
   Chapter 3. The Cultural Cover-up

The Influence of Culture and Cultural Contradictions
Hays, *Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood*
   Chapters 1 – 3

Blair-Loy, *Competing Devotions*
   Introduction

Gender as a Multi-layered Institution
Risman, *Gender Vertigo*
   Introduction
   Chapter 1. Gender as Structure
4. Confronting Difference: Gender, Race, and Class Diversity

Lorber, *Gender Inequality*
Chapter 9. Multicultural/Multiracial Feminism
Chapter 10. Feminist Studies of Men
Part V: Do We Need a New Feminism?

Hill Collins, Patricia. *Black Feminist Thought*
Part I: The Social Construction of Black Feminist Thought
Chapter 3. Work, Family, and Black Women’s Oppression
Chapter 4. Mammies, Matriarchs, and Other Controlling Images
Chapter 6: Black Women and Motherhood
Part III: Black Feminism and Epistemology


Recommended:


McCall, Leslie.

Willis, Paul. *Learning to Labor*

5. Gender and Work-Family Connections

Blair Loy, *Competing Devotions*
Chapters 1 – 4. Skim

Gerson, *Hard Choices*
Chapters 3 – 7. Skim

Hays, *The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood*
Chapters 4 – 5. Skim

Hochschild, *The Second Shift*
Chapters 4 - 12. Skim
Chapter 13. Beneath the Cover-up: Strategies and Strains

Risman, *Gender Vertigo*
Chapters 3 – 5. Skim

Williams, Joan. *Unbending Gender*
Introduction
Chapters 1 – 4. Skim

Recommended:


Coltrane, Scott. “Household Labor and the Routine Production of Gender”


6. Gender, Class, and Carework


Hays, *The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood*
Chapter 6. The Mommy Wars

Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Domestica* (skim)

Williams, *Unbending Gender*
Chapter 5. How Domesticity’s Gender Wars Take on Elements of Class and Race Conflict
Chapter 6. Do Women Share an Ethic of Care?

Recommended:


Folbre, Nancy, *The Invisible Heart*


7. Gender Transformations and Social Change

Blair-Loy, *Competing Devotions*
   Chapter 5. Turning Points
   Chapter 6. Implications

Gerson, *Hard Choices*
   Chapter 8. The Changing Contours of Women’s Place
   Chapter 9. The Politics of Parenthood


Hays, *The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood*
   Chapter 7. Love, Self-Interest, Power, and Opposition

Hochschild, *The Second Shift*
   Chapter 14. Tensions in Marriage in an Age of Divorce
   Chapter 15. Men Who Do and Men Who Don’t
   Chapter 16. The Working Wife as Urbanizing Peasant
   Chapter 17. Stepping into Old Biographies or Making History Happen?

Risman, *Gender Vertigo*
   Chapter 6. Ideology, Experience, and Identity
   Chapter 7. Toward a Dizzy but Liberating Future

Williams, *Unbending Gender*
   Chapter 7. Do Women Need Special Treatment? Do Feminists Need Equality?
   Chapter 8. The New Paradigm Theorized
   Four Themes of Conclusion
**Recommended**


Additional Topics and Suggested Readings:
Gender and the Workplace


Reskin, Barbara. “Bringing Men Back In: Sex Differentiation and Devaluation of Women’s Work. *Gender and Society*. (Kimmel reader)


Gender Politics and the State

Edin, Kathryn, and Maria Kefalas, *Promises I Can Keep*


