

COURSE OUTLINE

**Social Science 134  
Women, Men and Society**

**I. Catalog Statement**

Social Science 134 is a survey course which explores the experience of women and men in American society. The course will use an interdisciplinary approach to look at old and new research about women and men. The sexist assumptions of most academic disciplines requires not just that material on women be integrated into these disciplines but that material on both sexes must be studied in new way.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

**Total Course Units: 3**

Total Laboratory Hours: 48.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48**

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 120 or ESL 151

**II. Course Entry Expectations**

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 6; Writing 6; Listening/Speaking 6; Math 2

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

1. read at the 12<sup>th</sup> grade level;
2. write an organized and grammatically correct essay which focuses on a central idea and employs specific details; complete a library research paper with limited assistance;
3. take good lecture notes; follow complex oral directions; make individual or group oral presentation;
4. add, subtract, multiply, and divide using whole numbers, fractions and decimals.  
Convert fractions to decimals to percentages.

**III. Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. compare and contrast the different roles of women and men in society;
2. analyze the vast changes in gender roles that are occurring in contemporary society;
3. discuss new ideas about gender roles;
4. analyze the new feminist-male, his source for new meaning and pressure on him for power-sharing.

**IV. Course Content****Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48 hours**

A. Introduction to Gender Studies	3 hours
1. Definition of gender	
2. Explaining gender inequality	
B. Social Control of Gender	3 hours
1. Theoretical models	
2. The impoverishment of women and men	
C. Conventional Beliefs about Gender	6 hours
1. Belief in natural differences	
2. "Biology is destiny"	
3. Belief in patriarchy	
4. Belief in separate male and female spheres	
D. Socialization and Gender Identification	6 hours
1. Childhood psychological development	
2. Learning "proper" gender roles as an adolescent	
3. Adulthood- maintenance of the script	
E. Social Institutions and Gender Inequality	3 hours
1. Inequality in the family	
2. Inequality at the workplace	
F. Gender and Social Change	3 hours
1. Theoretical models for gender based change	
2. Tension within gender roles	
3. Alternatives	
G. New Beliefs about Gender	6 hours
1. Feminism	
a. Reform	
b. Radical	
c. Socialist	
d. Marxist	
e. Lesbian	
f. Spiritual	
2. Personal liberation from defined roles	
H. Women's and Men's Personalities	6 hours
1. Stereotypes of femininity-masculinity	
2. Historical and cultural developments of female/male personalities	
3. Psychoanalytic theories about women's and men's personalities	
I. The Family	6 hours

1. Relationships within the family
2. Wives; husbands
3. Motherhood; fatherhood
4. Choosing alternatives

J. Women and Men in Society

6 hours

1. Women/men and political power
2. Women/men and economic power

**V. Methods of Instruction**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. lecture;
2. discussion;
3. small group projects;
4. classroom observations;
5. guest speakers.

**VI. Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

1. journals;
2. reading materials;
3. research paper (e.g. develop a Public Service Announcement [PSA] that promotes awareness about the weaknesses and strengths of traditional gender roles).

**VII. Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in this course:

1. written papers;
2. oral reports;
3. midterms;
4. final examination.

**VIII. Textbook**

McKee, Nancy & Linda Stone. *Gender and Culture in America*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

New York: Sloan Educational Publishing, 2006. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN #: 978-1597380089

Zinn, Maxine Baca, ed. *Gender Through the Prism of Difference*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. Print.

13<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN#: 978-0199743025

**IX. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. compare and contrast the different roles of women and men in society;
2. analyze the vast changes in gender roles that are occurring in contemporary society;
3. discuss new ideas about gender roles;
4. analyze the new feminist-male, his source for new meaning and pressure on him for power-sharing.