

Course Code and Title : **SOC 319 Family, Gender and Society**
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Brief Course Description

This course will introduce students to a range of issues that impact on society from a specifically family and gendered perspectives. It will provide students with a sound understanding of family in traditional and post-modern context as a social institution and ideology. Traditionally, women's voices have been ignored, and the assumption has been that the male is the norm of the human race. However, changes have been made under the influence of feminism, democracy, and industrialization. Is our society becoming gender equal will be discussed in this course.

Students will be introduced to the patriarchal structures of society that have shaped and categorized gender roles and status, through a range of psychological and sociological discourses, including Politics, Literature, the Media, Religion, Race and Medicine. The focus on issues of race will include the structures, processes and mechanisms whereby gender as a social division is produced and reproduced. We will look at changes in family structures and family ideologies in Hong Kong, and how policies and processes in the public sphere are related to family and gender relations in the private sphere.

Aims / Objectives

To enable students to understand that the gendered division of labour and the family are not only consequences of biological differences, but also a result of social, cultural and psychosocial construction. In addition the social policy of the government continuously impacts on our modern family and gender construction will be examined.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to analyze family and gender issues from both sociological and psychological perspectives.

1. Distinguish between sex and gender.
2. Discuss the implications of gender for education, marriage, and household work, and how gender affects language and communication.
3. Discuss cross-cultural differences in gender.
4. Discuss how sexual orientation affects attitudes towards love.
5. Discuss the validity of love style classification, especially cross-culturally.

Indicative Content:

1. Introduction: sex, gender and family
2. Sexual attraction, healthy sexuality
3. Family and gender in Hong Kong and selected countries
4. Child birth and parenting
5. Gender socialization, formation of gender
6. Division of labour in private and public spheres
7. Women status, feminism
8. Men and women in paid work
9. Marriage and divorce

Assessment breakdown : Tutorial presentation and participation (20%)
Mid-term test (20%)
Term paper (20%)
End of term exam (40%)

Important:

- Medium of instruction is English
- Lecture outlines will be posted on WebCT
- Absence from tutorials will result in a 5% reduction in your final grade; you will be considered absent if you are late for more than 10 minutes
- Term paper deadline is 5pm 4th December, late papers will not be marked

Readings by topic:**Sex, Gender and Family**

- Chodorow, N. J. (2002). Gender as a personal and cultural construction. In Muriel, D., & Virginia, G. *Gender in psychoanalytic space* (pp. 237-261). New York: Other Press.
- Lorber, J. (1994). Men as women and women as men: Disrupting gender. In *Paradoxes of gender* (pp. 80-96). New Haven, London: Yale University Press.

Sexual Attraction, Sexuality

- Beck, U., & Beck-Gernsheim, E. (1995). *The normal chaos of love*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Butler, J. (2004). The end of sexual differences? In *Undoing gender* (pp. 174-203). New York: Routledge.
- Giddens, A. (1992). Romantic love and other attachments. In *The transformation of intimacy: Sexuality, love and eroticism in modern societies* (pp. 37-47). Cambridge: Polity press.

Family and Gender in Hong Kong and China

- Leung, H. C., & Lee, K. M. (2005). Immigration controls, life-course coordination, and livelihood strategies: A study of families living across the Mainland-Hong Kong border. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 26(4), 487-507.
- Ng, C. H. (2004). Bringing women back in: Family change in Hong Kong. In Chan, A. K. W., & Wong, W. L. (Eds). *Gendering Hong Kong* (pp. 219-243). Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.
- Wong, O. M. H. (2005). The socioeconomic determinants of the age at first marriage among women in Hong Kong. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 26(4), 529-550.

Child Birth and Parenting

- Cowdery, R. S., & Knudson-Martin, C. (2005). The construction of motherhood: Tasks, relational connection, and gender equality. *Family Relations*, 54, 335-345.
- Kolak, A. M., & Volling, B. L. (2007). Parental expressiveness as a moderator of coparenting and marital relationship quality. *Family Relations*, 56, 467-478.
- Mikelson, K. S. (2008). He said, she said: Comparing mother and father reports of father involvement. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70, 613-624.
- Oyserman, D., Brickman, D., & Rhodes, M. (2007). School success, possible selves, and parent school involvement. *Family Relations*, 56, 479-489.

Gender Socialization

- Kane, E. W. (2006). "No way my boys are going to be like that!": Parents' response to children's gender nonconformity. *Gender and Society*, 20(2), 149-176.
- Lips, H. M. (1995). Gender-role socialization: Lessons in Femininity. In Freeman, J. (Ed). *Women: A feminist perspective* (pp. 128-148). Mountainview: Mayfield.

Division of Labour in Public and Private Spheres

- Davis, S. N., & Greenstein, T. N. (2004). Cross-national variations in the division of household labour. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 66(5), 1260-1271.
- Erickson, R. J. (2005). Why emotion work matters: Sex, gender, and the division of household labor. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 67(2), 337-351.
- Fuwa, M. (2004). Macro-level gender inequality and the division of household labor in 22 countries. *American Sociological Review*, 69(6), 751-767.
- Lee, W. K. M. (2002). Gender ideology and the domestic division of labor in middle-class Chinese families in Hong Kong. *Gender, Place and Culture*, 9(3), 245-260.

Women Status and Feminism

- Ng, C. W., & Ng, E. G. H. (2004). The concept of state feminism and the case for Hong Kong. In Chan, A. K. W., & Wong, W. L. (Eds) *Gendering Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.
- Shu, X. L. (2004). Education and gender egalitarianism: The case of China. *Sociology of Education*, 77, 311-336.
- Sin, L. Y. M., So, S. L. M., Yau, O. H. M., & Kwong, K. (2001). Chinese women at the crossroads: An empirical study on their role orientations and consumption values in Chinese society. *The Journal of Consumer Marketing*, 18(4), 348-367.

Men and Women in Paid Work

- Brewster, K. L., & Rindfuss, R. R. (2000). Fertility and women's employment in industrialized nations. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26, 271-296.
- Karlin, C. A., England, P., & Richardson, M. (2002). Why do "women's jobs" have low pay for their educational level? *Gender Issues*, 20(4), 3-22.
- Lau, Y. K., Ma, J. L. C., & Chan, Y. K. (2006). Labor force participation of married women in Hong Kong: A feminist perspective. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 37(1), 93-112.
- Lorber, J. (1994). Separate and not equal: the gendered division of paid work. In *Paradoxes of Gender* (pp. 194-222). New Haven, London: Yale University Press.

Marriage and Divorce

- Bratter, J. L., & King, R. B. (2008). "But will it last?": Marital instability among interracial and same-race couples. *Family Relations*, 57, 160-171.
- Orbuch, T. L., Veroff, J., Hassan, H., & Horrocks, J. (2002). Who will divorce: A 14-year longitudinal study of black couples and white couples. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 19(2), 179-202.

Tang, C. S. K. (1999). Wife abuse in Hong Kong Chinese families: A community survey. *Journal of Family Violence, 14*(2), 173-191.

Tang, A. O. K., & Lui-Tsang, P. S. K. (2005). Violence against wives and children in Hong Kong. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues, 26*(4), 465-486.

EXAM ON NOVEMBER 30 (STUDENTS WILL DO THE EXAM IN THE LAST LECTURE OF TERM)

Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations.

According to Lingnan University and Social Sciences Programme policy, plagiarism is "presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgment of the source". Plagiarism (unattributed copying) will be heavily penalised and may attract a zero mark and disciplinary action.