Course Description

This course examines different perspectives on issues in the study of gender, science, and technology. Topics include the historical and contemporary studies of technoscientific and medical constructions of sex/gender differences; the impact of gender (and race) on scientific and biomedical productions; feminist critiques of scientific theories and methods; feminist proposals of new epistemologies; the work of women in science; and recent theories, debates on feminist epistemologies, and new directions of research in the field.

The issues we will discuss include methodological/theoretical and substantive concerns. Our questions will include: Is science gendered? Does the presence or absence of women in science create different kinds of scientific knowledge? How do our cultural conceptions of sex/gender influence our scientific knowledge and technologies? Does the influence extend only to the biological and medical sciences or to the physical sciences as well? How does science contribute to our understandings and constructions of sex/gender? We will also consider how scientific constructions of race differences overlap with and complicate scientific constructions of sex/gender differences. We will consider what effect feminist (and race) critiques of techno-scientific work have had. Finally, we will ask how sex/gender and science/technology/medicine discussions distribute across the globe.

Students should read critically for the perspectives, which inform the choice of substantive issues and the ways authors approach and write about these issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to complete the readings by the date indicated on the syllabus and to fully engage themselves in class discussions. My aim is to push you to read the material critically, analytically, and creatively.

Class meetings will include a short discussion led by two students per session. Student discussion leaders will prepare for their discussion session in the form of 2-3
page reports summarizing, analyzing and critiquing the required readings. These reports will be handed in on the day of our discussion. 30% of your grade will be based on your participation in class discussions, including the written report, your facilitation of a class discussion, and your participation in discussions led by other students.

There will be a mid-term examination and a final examination. 70% of your grade will be based on these examinations, 35% for the midterm, and 35% for the final. Graduate students will have the option to write a research paper in place of the exams.

READINGS

The readings listed below will be available at the online reserves of the Social Science Library. The library is physically located on the 8th floor of this building, but the readings will be available at the website for online reserves: http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/SocialSciRef/. We will discuss during the first day of class whether most of you are comfortable with this arrangement or whether we need to move to hard copy readers.
READING AND CLASS SCHEDULE

September 7
Week 1: Organization and Video

September 14
Week 2: Introduction to Gender and Science


September 21
Week 3:


Recommended:

September 28
Week 4:


Sander L. Gilman, "The Hottentot and the Prostitute: Toward an Iconography of Female Sexuality." Pp. 76-108 in his Difference and Pathology: Stereotypes of

Recommended:

But that was then and this is now? Twentieth Century Case Studies of the Interactions among Science, Culture, and Sex/Gender

October 12
Week 5: Eggs and Sperm


October 19
Week 6: Sexing the Brain


October 26
Week 7: Primates, Proto-Humans, and Humans


THEORIES OF GENDER AND SCIENCE

November 2
Week 8: Early Theories of Gender and Science


November 9
Week 9: Re-Theorizing Gender I


November 16
Week 10: Re-Theorizing Gender II: What is Woman?

Joan W. Scott, “Some Reflections on Gender and Politics.” In Myra Marx Ferree, Judith

**Recommended:**

**November 23**
**Week 11: Re-Theorizing Gender III: What is Sex?**


**Recommended:**

**November 30**
**Week 12: Re-Thinking Sex/Gender, Technoscience, and Epistemology**


**Recommended:**

**December 7**
Week 13: Readings to be determined.

December 14
Week 14: REVIEW SESSION