Preliminary Syllabus of “Doing Gender. Transitions in institutions, policies and practices”, SC, 7.5 ECTS-credits

1. Decision

The syllabus is approved by the Board of the Department of Sociology (Institutionsstyrelsen) at Stockholm University as of October 31, 2013.

2. General information

The course comprises 7.5 ECTS credits at the advanced level.
The syllabus is valid from the fall semester of 2013, onwards.

3. Course code

SO7250

4. Educational entry requirements

Bachelor’s degree

5. Course organization and content

The social construction of gender influence and structure women’s and men’s lives, it shapes their everyday experiences and the strategies they choose in their daily lives. Choices and constraints are mediated by gendered institutions, norms and policies. In this course, we will try to disentangle how these experiences and choices are shaped by different institutional settings and sites in which gender relations are being renegotiated—in families, workplaces, in organizations and professions, in local/national and political venues. As examples, we will discuss how the doing of gender applies to sexuality studies and how it links to the social regulation of (hetero)sexuality. The (implicitly) male worker norm will be discussed and the extent to which it shapes sex discrimination in the labor market and, directly and indirectly, influences women’s
work and career trajectories. If childless women and men spend similar amounts of time in paid and unpaid work, this often changes at the transition to parenthood. Hence, norms and structures related to the social construction of motherhood and fatherhood will be given special attention. A new, highly feminized and internationalized work area is domestic services. How do the migration of domestic women workers to countries such as Sweden relate to issues of social class and female subordination? How are gender relations being transformed by changing policies and discourses on gender equality and gender equity? To what extent are these changes producing differences among groups of men and women by age, ethnicity, religion, class, sexualities? These are issues that will be discussing in class.

The purpose of the course is to provide theoretical and empirical tools to assess the continuities and discontinuities in gender relations in advanced industrialized societies. The course aims to extend the knowledge base of gender in the social sciences; building upon the new research that recognizes gender as a dynamic and contested research terrain across different sites and within diverse groups. The course readings and lectures will reflect upon and engage with these perspectives.

The course will include a range of lecturers with different expertise in different spheres of doing gender: work, family, politics, sexualities, and ethnic/gender tensions, care and migration. The course will focus on both lived experiences (how men and women do gender) as well as how actors in different policymaking arenas frame and apply gender.

Course coordinator: Marie Evertsson, Department of Sociology, Stockholm University Email: marie.evertsson@sociology.su.se

Lecturers in the course:

Marie Evertsson  Sociology, SU
Vanessa Barker  Sociology, SU
Alexandra Bogren  Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs (SORAD)
Katarina Boye  Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI)
Barbara Hobson  Sociology, SU
Paul Lappalainen  Equality Ombudsman (DO)
Charlotta Magnusson  Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI)

6. Learning outcomes

After having completed the course, students will be able to:
- Understand, describe in theoretical terms and be able to apply in concrete situations the fundamental concepts in sociological theories and perspectives related to the causes and consequences of the social construction of gender in
families, workplaces, organizations and professions, in local/national and political venues.

- Compare, synthesize and evaluate different theoretical explanations for stability and change in gender structures and patterns of behavior in contemporary societies.

- Understand, explain and cite appropriate evidence for sources of stability, change and variation in gender structures and patterns of behavior in contemporary societies.

- Understand, explain and cite appropriate evidence for consequences of stability, change and variation in gender structures and patterns of behavior in contemporary societies.

- Understand, describe in theoretical terms and apply in concrete situations the relationships between gender and their social, economic, political and cultural contexts.

7. Teaching

Course meetings are divided in two parts. The first is a lecture by the invited lecturer. The second consist of a discussion of the literature (often based on questions assigned for discussion by the lecturer). Participation in course meetings is vital as examination builds on active participation in the group discussions. It is important that students read the literature before the lecture.

8. Assessment and examination

Examination will be in three parts.

* Students will receive questions on the assigned readings before each seminar meeting. In order to properly understand and discuss these questions, the students need to read the assigned literature prior to each meeting. All students are expected to actively discuss the questions. This means that attendance at the seminar meetings is highly recommended.

* Students prepare a brief written reflection of each question assigned for discussion. The written reflection may include a brief summary of the discussion in class and should include own ideas and reflections on the topic, based on the literature. In all, this document should be 1-2 pages.

* An essay of approximately 6-7 pages (excluding references), which addresses a well-defined research question or debate on a topic covered during the course. The essay can either be (i) analytical and address some of the key theoretical and/or empirical debates in doing gender considering different dimensions and intersectionalities (ethnicity, class, age, region etc) and/or from different
perspectives or sites of doing gender, or (ii) an analytical paper in which the student integrates the course readings and discussion to ongoing or future research.

Before writing the essay, students will present the topic and the overall framework of their essay to their peers (during the final seminar on the course). It is recommended that students get their essay topic approved by the course coordinator in due time before the final seminar.

The students’ performance is graded Not Sufficient, Sufficient, or Good on each of the following criteria:

(i) Choice of and argumentation for the topic chosen and formulation of the question addressed (essay)
(ii) Understanding of and ability to describe in theoretical terms fundamental concepts that are relevant to the chosen topic (essay)
(iii) Description of the major trends and/or variations in the phenomenon covered (essay)
(iv) Comparison, synthesis and evaluation of relevant theoretical approaches (essay)
(v) An understanding of the social, economic, political and institutional contexts of gender relevant to the chosen topic (essay)
(vi) Ability to communicate in a clear, flawless and structured manner (essay)
(vii) Classroom participation and written reflections on literature and group discussions

Each of these will be graded as Fail, Pass or Pass with distinction.

The essay is evaluated according to the following criterion-referenced assessment: A = Excellent, B = Very good, C = Good, D = Satisfactory, E = Sufficient, Fx = Not sufficient, F = Fail.

To receive grade A the judgement Good is needed for at least 6 of the 7 criteria.
To receive grade B the judgement Good is needed for at least 5 of the 7 criteria.
To receive grade C the judgement Good is needed for at least 3 of the 7 criteria.
To receive grade D the judgement Good is needed for at least 2 of the 7 criteria.
To receive grade E the judgement Sufficient is needed for all criteria.

The judgment Fail in one of the above criteria leads to grade Fx.
The judgment Fail in more than one of the above criteria leads to grade F.

Students receiving grade Fx or F are entitled to further examination as long as the course is provided in order to achieve at least grade E. A student with grade E is not entitled to another examination to raise his/her degree.
Students who received grade Fx or F on exams twice from the same examiner can request to be evaluated by another examiner. Such request should be sent to the Director of Studies.
Students can request to be examined according to this syllabus up to three semesters after it ceased to be valid. Such requests should be sent to the Director of Studies.

**Introduction:**

**Wednesday Nov. 6: 13.00 – 15.00, Room FB720**

**Lecturer Marie Evertsson:** *The social construction of gender*

**Readings:**


**Friday Nov 8: 13.00 – 15.00, Room D215**

**Lecturer Paul Lappalainen:** Power, equality and social change

**Readings:**


http://www.migration-boell.de/web/diversity/48_2666.asp

Monday Nov 11: 10.00 – 12.00, Room FB610
Lecturer Alexandra Bogren: Regulating gendered morality: Sexuality, Class and Race

Readings:


Thursday Nov. 14: 13.00 – 15.00, Room FB620
Lecturers Katarina Boye and Marie Evertsson: Becoming a mother/father. The social construction of parenthood

Readings:


Monday Nov 18: 9.00 – 11.00, Room FB620
Lecturer Alexandra Bogren: ‘Ladettes’ and ‘macho men’: (Re)producing gender and excess in alcohol and drug use

Readings:


Thursday Nov. 21: 13.00 – 15.00, Room FB620
Lecturer Barbara Hobson: Doing the dirty Work: Migrants, Markets and Domestic/care services in changing welfare regimes

Readings:


**Monday Nov. 25: 13.00 – 15.00, Room FB720**

**Lecturer Vanessa Barker**: The Veil: Gender, Ethnicity and Laïcité

**Readings:**

*Required readings: Introduction and chapters 1-3, chapters 4-5 recommended.*

Recommended readings:


**Thursday Nov. 28: 13.00 – 15.00, Room FB610**

**Lecturer: Charlotta Magnusson**: Occupational sex composition, gender atypical choices and wages

**Readings:**


**Monday Dec. 2: 13.00 – 15.00, Room FB610**

Lecturer Marie Evertsson: *Gender regimes. Sweden in an international perspective*

**Readings:**


**Wednesday Dec. 4: 10-12 and 13-15, Room FB610**

Lecturer: Marie Evertsson

*This lecture is devoted to discussing topics for course papers. No readings are assigned.*

**Course Requirements**

Students will be required to attend the lectures and to participate and comment on the readings, as each class meeting will be divided in two parts, an hour lecture and an hour of discussion. Each student will have to write one paper between 10-15 pages and we suggest two alternatives: (1) an analytical paper that addresses some of the key theoretical and/or empirical debates in doing gender considering different dimensions and intersectionalities (ethnicity, class, age, region etc) and/or from different perspectives, what we call sites of doing gender; (2) an analytical paper in which the student integrates the course readings and discussion to ongoing or future research.
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