Course Description

This course offers an interdisciplinary look at the main theories and concepts regarding gender with a comparative and contrastive approach. Critical thinking is fostered through different assignments in which students must apply the theoretical framework they will learn during the semester. We will start with an introduction to the main concepts around sex and gender. We will then go through the male and female roles by examining case studies from different countries in Latin America. Finally, we will look at the future of the concept of gender in light of the current social movements taking place worldwide.

Course Objectives

A. Cognitive/Knowledge
The Student will:
- Identify, describe and explain the concepts dealing with gender and gender issues.
- Identify, describe and explain the main theories about gender and gender issues.
- Identify, describe and explain the perceptual context and its impact on gender issues.
- Identify, describe and explain the sociorelational context and its impact on gender issues.
- Identify, describe and explain the cultural differences regarding gender issues in the countries studied in the course.
- Identify, describe and explain the different stereotypes regarding sex and gender portrayed by the media.
- Analyze and explain how the different concepts around gender and gender issues apply to case studies, narrative texts and media articles, among others.
- Compare and contrast different cases dealing with gender and gender issues using the knowledge acquired during the course.
- Compare and contrast his/her own culture to the ones studied in class.

B. Affective/Attitudes
The Student will:
- Define and identify the different stages of his/her learning process regarding gender issues.
- Define and identify his/her own sex and gender stereotypes.
Identify and describe the factors that explain his/her own mental representations of sex and gender.
Define and identify his/her own learning process regarding the class topics.

Course Outline

1. UNIT 1: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
   1.1 Gender, psychological and sociological theories: Radical behaviorism, functionalism, psychoanalysis, social cognitive theory/social learning theory, cognitive theories, the conflict theory, the feminist sociological theory, radical feminism, etc.
   1.2 Sex, gender, masculinity and femininity in different cultures.
   1.3 Sex, gender and education in different cultures.
   1.4 Sex, gender and religious backgrounds.
   1.5 Sex, gender as portrayed by different Media.

2. UNIT 2: CASE STUDIES

2.1 Women and politics.
   a. Women in power: Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, Dilma Rousseff, Michelle Bachelet, Laura Chinchilla, etc.
   c. “Women’s Rights as Human Right-Rules, Realities and the Role of Culture: A Formula for Reform.”

2.2 Sex, gender and the ethnic factor.
   a. “Gender Differences in Communication: An Intercultural Experience.”
   b. “Shamans of the Foye Tree: Gender, Power and Healing Among Chilean Mapuche.”
   d.

2.3 Domestic violence in some cultures
   d. “Homicide in Brazil: A Gender and Diversity Analysis.”
   e.

2.4 Gender, state policies and health
   b. “Unhappy hours: Alcohol and Partner Aggression in the Americas.”
   c. “Alcohol, Gender, Culture and Harms in the Americas.”
d. “Violence against Women: The Health Sector Responds.”
e. “Gender, Equity and Indigenous Women’s Health in the Americas.”

2.5 Gender issues in the future
   a. “Informe Anual Derechos Humanos de la Diversidad Sexual Chilena.”
   b. “Changing Sexualities: Masculinity and Male Homosexuality in Brazil.”
   c. “Men and Their Histories: Restructuring, Gender Inequality, and Life Transitions in Urban Mexico.”
   d. “Malandros, María Lionza, and Masculinity in a Venezuelan Shantytown.”
   e. “Pancho Jaime and the Political Uses of Masculinity in Ecuador.”

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required Books

8. The Holy Bible. (THB)

Articles /Chapters


Course Evaluation

- 1-2 Evaluated Drafts of the Final Project: 10%
- 2-3 Evaluated Written Assignments: 20%
- 2 Take-Home Tests: 20%
- 1 Final Written Project: 25%
- 1 Final Exam: 25%