Course Description

Analyzes influence of major social institutions and socialization in shaping and changing sex roles in contemporary society. Looks at gendered experience in society’s major social institutions, and at the interaction of gender, ethnicity, race, class, and culture. Examines differential access to positions of public power and authority for men and women. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

To provide students with an understanding of how one of their most basic aspects of personal identity – gender – is socially and culturally shaped. To increase students’ understanding of social dynamics by examining social life through the lens of gender. Providing students with empirical knowledge about the ways in which men and women experience social life in contemporary society and encouraging students to examine their experience of gender roles and feel empowered to alter these if they choose to do so.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

SOC 200, 201 or 202, or permission of the instructor.

Major Topics to be Included

- The difference between sex and gender
- Gender socialization
- Gender and the major social institutions, such as education, media, family, economy, justice, politics, military, religion, and health.
- The relationship between gender, race, and class

Extra Topics – May be Covered

- Gender in different cultures
- Biological differences between men and women