Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus (Fall 2020)

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| Course Title ( Credits ) | SOC 3112: Topics in Sociology (3 Credits) |
| Course Designation for TC | N/A |
| Instructor | Prof. Erik Bond |
| E-mail address | ebond@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp |
| Office/Ext | MIC 1-212/ ext. 3720 |
| Office hours | Tuesday/Thursday 14:30-16:00 |

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| Course Description: |
| Analyzes recent sociological discourses and examines a variety of social phenomena, especially focusing on social transition, change, & globalization as seen through contemporary social theories.  In this course, we will explore the concept and reality of gender from different perspectives, focusing on its role in contemporary, global society. We will begin by discussing biology and how it relates to the cultural narratives we use to frame gender. Then we explore social processes that create differences between gender categories and individuals. We’ll pay special attention to the ways that our thoughts, actions, and bodies become “gendered,” as well as the agents that contribute to these processes. We’ll also look at sexuality, its relationship to gender, and the causes and consequences of gendering sexuality. We’ll pay attention to both femininities and masculinities individually and as they relate to one another.  Later in the course, we’ll explore how gender differences become gender inequalities. We’ll look at how social, political, and economic contexts have shaped these unequal relationships. We’ll give special attention to institutions of work, marriage, and childbearing, and we’ll compare these institutions and inequalities across class, racial, sexual, and national boundaries.  The class format will consist of structured lectures, group activities, media viewing, and participatory activities. Deliverables in this course will include in-class worksheets, homework assignments, unit quizzes, and occasional presentations. As an introductory course, the course structure will emphasize the skills needed to think and engage as competent, university-level students, and enthusiastic participation will be of the highest importance. |

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| Course Objectives: |
| By the end of this course, students will be able to identify and discuss complex elements of gender as a social phenomenon, especially as it contributes to and is reinforced by the societies and inequalities in which they live. They will be able to demonstrate these abilities by… identifying the gendered components and influences of everyday experiences.   * interpreting those phenomena through sociological conceptions of gender. * discussing the causes and consequences of gendered social institutions and processes. |

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| Course Schedule | | |
| Day | Topic | Content/Activities |
| 1 | Introductions and Syllabus  **Biological and Scientific**  **Narratives** for constructing gender | What is gender to You? Begin reading Story of X;  Continue Story of X, reflection, and discussion;  Biological narratives of gender;  Neurosexism: fact and fiction |
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| 5 | **Social Constructions of**  **Gender**  Gender Performance  Gender non-conformity  and flexibility | History of gender in Japan;  Becoming a Gendered Body reading;  Theories of gender and gender performance;  Intersexuality and agender issues;  Gender transition experiences |
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| 10 | **Gendering Bodies**  Sex Education;  Socializing and  Gatekeeping Gender  Dating and  Mating Practices; | Gendering parenthood and childhood;  Sex education; Genderbased education, bullying, and harassment;  Dating and Mating expectations for men and women |
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| 16 | Working Period  Midterm | Work on sex & gender project ‘Constructing Gender’ project presentations |
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| 18 | **Gendered Inequalities in**  **Public**  Doing gender in public;  Work, government, and personal responsibility | Women’s bodies as public bodies;  One Way to be a Boy; Gendered suicide;  Gendered inequalities in employment;  Women in government; Masculinity and Missiles; Where do we place responsibility? |
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| 23 | Reflection and reporting of work on final project | Working Period  Present and discuss work on gender in public |
| 24 |
| 25 | **Gendered Inequalities at Home**  Housework and parenting;  Reproductive rights | More Different than Similar reading;  Sharing reproductive labor;  Same-sex couples and gender;  Gender, sexuality, and reproductive rights |
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| 29 | Review and final discussion of work on final project | Semester review and working period for final project on gender inequalities |
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|  | Final Exam | Submission of final project |
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| Required Materials: |
| Pen/pencil, paper, **tablet\*\*\***, binder, access to Moodle, and assigned readings.  **\*\*\*Important Note\*\*\*:**   * It is *extremely important* that you bring a tablet or laptop to *every class*.  This class will use mobile devices often, including to type assignments. * Each class period will begin with a writing prompt that you must answer on Moodle * If you do not have a device that is charged, with internet access, and allows you to type, you may be unable to complete some assignments, affecting your grade.     If you do not have access to a tablet, please talk to me in the *first week* of class to find a solution. |

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| Course Policies (Attendance, etc.) |
| Students are expected to attend all classes. Students are allowed a **maximum of 5 absences**, excused or unexcused. After the fifth absence, I will ask you to withdraw from the course because you have missed too much material to pass. In rare cases, you may ask to consider alternative plans, but there must be evidence of extreme circumstances, and even then it is possible you may have to withdraw. In general, coming to class more than 15 minutes late counts as an absence.    You should plan to attend ALL class meetings and complete ALL readings and assignments by the due date given. I will not accept late assignments, quizzes, and exams except in cases of extraordinary excused absences. I will evaluate exceptions on a case by case basis. When you must miss class, you should be sure to check Moodle for new assignments. If you are aware ahead of an upcoming assignment due date that you will be absent, you should submit the assignment early, either in person or by email.    I will not tolerate academic dishonesty (i.e., plagiarism, cheating, etc.) in this course. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an F in the course. Please see the College Bulletin for a description of college expectations and for actions considered unacceptable with reasonable cause.    If you have any difficulties in this course, including learning disabilities, physical or mental disabilities, stress or anxiety, or other personal problems, please seek help.   * I am happy to help you. Please talk to me in class or office hours, so I can support you. * There are also counseling services available. Please see Masashi Toyama in the General Affairs Office for more information.   I retain the right to alter the course schedule as necessary. Students will be given adequate notice of these changes. |

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| Class Preparation and Review |
| Students are expected to spend at least one hour reviewing and doing homework and one hour preparing for every hour of lesson time. |
| Grades and Grading Standards |
| You will be evaluated upon your performance in (1) Participation & Homework, (2) Quizzes, (3) a Midterm, (4), and (5) a Final Exam. |
| **(1) Participation & Homework 20%** |
| Good participation means that you show you are actively involved in class by speaking in English with your classmates, asking for help, answering questions, and making notes from the whiteboard. You will also be graded on how well you complete classwork. This could be reading a text in class, discussing or summarizing a text with classmates, dictionary skills, or vocabulary work. |
| **(2) Quizzes 20%** |
| There will be 4 unit quizzes each for 5%. |
| **(3) Midterm 20%** |
| The midterm evaluation will be based on a poster presentation. |
| **(4) Presentation 20%** |
| There will be a presentation and discussion before the new year break. |
| **(5) Final 20%** |
| The final exam will cover all of the skills that you learn during the semester. |
| **Total 100%** |
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| Methods of Feedback: |
| Feedback will be provided verbally in class and during office meetings, informally via email, through marks on students’ assignments, grades, and (where necessary) in formal writing. |

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| Diploma Policy Objectives: |
| Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s): DP1: Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)  DP2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations  DP3. The ability to identify and solve problems  DP4. Advanced communicative proficiency in English  DP5. Proficiency in the use of information technology |
| Notes: |
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