

## Sociology 127: Men, Masculinity and Society

Section 1, TTh 9-10:15

ARC 1008

Todd A. Migliaccio

Amador 451D

Phone 278-7573

Hours: TTh 10:30-11:30, Th 12:30-1:30, or by appointment

[tmigliac@csus.edu](mailto:tmigliac@csus.edu)

WebCT URL: [online.csus.edu](http://online.csus.edu)

### **Course Description:**

Introduce students to the field of men and masculinity. Examines the construction of masculinity in sports, family, work and other social relationships, showing how it effects and is affected by people, institutions and society. Explores the diverse experiences based on race, class, occupation, physical ability and sexuality, and the implications for people from such diverse groups.

### **Learning Objectives (General Education, Area E, Understanding Personal Development):**

1. Recognize and critically examine the development of the gendered individual as an integrated physiological, psychological, and social being as a result of masculine expectations and behaviors in society.
2. Identify the internal and external influences that promote masculine dominance and portrayals in society, and ultimately influence the development and display of masculinity and masculine behavior throughout a person's life (both portrayers of masculinity and recipients of other's masculine performances).
3. Critically examine their own individual behavior in reference to issues surrounding masculinity and the social and natural environment, human sexuality, nutrition, health stress, family, aging and death.

### **Required Reading:**

*Men's Lives*. 2003. Kimmel & Messner (eds.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Reader: Articles located on-line

### **Assignments:**

**Journal:** Students will periodically turn in a journal that addresses how the topics discussed in class, and the corresponding readings have influenced and continue to effect their perception of themselves and others in society. They will be expected to address not only how outside forces have impacted them, but also how their own beliefs about issues surrounding masculinity how influenced how they interact with others in relation to the topics and readings. The journals will be no shorter than 2-3 pages each in length, being turned as stated in the calendar at the end of the syllabus (3 journal papers turned in). Students will be graded on their understanding of the theoretical discussions being presented in both the readings and the class, as well as to be able to appropriately apply it. They will also be graded on their ability to convey these ideas to the reader. The first topic will be given to them, but all subsequent papers will be left up to the student.

*GE Writing Requirement:* This assignment addresses the GE upper-division writing component that requires students to write 1500 or more words in written assignments that are turned in periodically over the course of the semester. The 4 journal papers will be graded separately, but will be compiled into a total grade for the class, worth 20% of the total course grade.

*On-line postings and in-class assignments:* Throughout the semester a series of short assignments will be given that incorporate the concepts of the class into your own lives. They will be both given out during class and on the web, so you will need to periodically check the web for new assignments or postings. Postings occur over the course of a week, but assignments will be due the class following when the assignment was given, as we will discuss them then. The questions/assignments will address a myriad of topics that will require students to engage contemporary issues, the readings and discuss them in relation to their own lives with other students. No make-ups for these are possible, unless you choose to use one of your extensions, and that is only available to be used on assignments. As well, quizzes about the readings may be given throughout the semester. Quizzes, assignments and postings will be worth 15% of your total grade.

### Presentation:

You are required to conduct 10 interviews of men from a specific cultural group, or subculture (racial, sexuality, class, age, religion, club, etc) about what they define as masculine. You will analyze their responses and present the patterns of masculinity from that culture. You will also compare your findings to the hegemonic notion of masculinity in Western society. You will turn in the questions and a bibliography prior to giving your presentation. It is strongly suggested that you work with someone on this project, but it is not required. This project will be worth 15% of your total grade.

Another 5% of your grade will be based on having conducted all 10 of the interviews. A brief synopsis of each interview will be turned in prior to your presentation. You will be required to turn in at least 5 of the interviews prior to the presentation, and the remainder on the first day of the presentations. Each interview synopsis will include demographic information about the person, how you got in contact with him or her and a brief summary of the interview.

### **Exams:**

Four exams will be given throughout the semester, but only three will be recorded, allowing students to drop one during the course of the semester. Each exam will consist of several short answer questions and a number of multiple-choice questions. Questions for the exams will derive from the class discussions, lectures, videos, readings and on-line discussion postings. The exams will be worth 15% each, for a total of 45% of their total grade.

### **Online Component:**

The class is located on the WebCT campus server. Accessing this site requires a login and password, which are the following: Login: your saclink id; Password: same as your saclink account password. You will be able to access the outlines for the course, any overheads used in class, any material that was handed out, a glossary of terms (if there is one not listed that you can not locate elsewhere, please let me know so I can include it), all of the assignments, as well as the posting questions and syllabus. You will also be able to locate your grade on-line if you desire.

POSTINGS: Each Thursday afternoon I will be putting up posting questions/assignments on-line. I will attempt to let you know that Thursday in class, but ultimately it is your responsibility to check. As for the postings, they will be questions that you will be required to answer that engage the ideas in the class, the readings and possibly current events. Beyond responding to the question itself, you are also required to respond to at least **two** other students' comments, preferably on a different day than you originally posted. If you are not talking in class, this is a good place to get participation points by responding in greater detail and more often. This is to help in the comprehension of the material, ideas and readings from the class, as well as to generate topics of discussion within the classroom.

## **Policies:**

The due dates for each of the papers are stated in the syllabus. No late papers will be accepted. The paper guidelines are on the web, as well as in a handout given at the beginning of class. As well, a brief statement in class about what is expected will be given. The due dates for each assignment are listed in the course calendar at the end of the syllabus. While I will attempt to offer reminders to impending due dates, it is ultimately your responsibility to insure that all papers are ready to be turned in by the expected due date.

Throughout the course, each student will be allotted four extensions for the papers/assignments. Each extension is worth one class day (ex. If the paper is due on Tuesday, and you turn it in on Thursday, that is one extension). You do not need permission from the professor. You may use these extensions whenever you want, but keep track of the number you have used to make sure you do not go over. The use of extensions is subject to the rules given below:

- 1) You get four extensions. Don't ask me for more- you will not get them. Hence, you should use extensions wisely when you really need them, such as sickness or an athletic event.*
- 2) You may use a maximum of two extensions on any one paper; by using two on one paper, you can turn the paper in two classes late.*
- 3) You can use one on any assignment given in the class, meaning the assignment can be turned in one class period later. Any assignment turned in later, or if you have used all of your extensions, will not be accepted.*
- 4) Any paper that is submitted later than two classes after it is due (regardless of your extension situation), or is turned in late after you have used all of your extensions will be penalized two full grades.*
- 5) Any assignments submitted after one class period (regardless of extension situation), or after you have used all of your extensions, the assignment will not be accepted.*
- 6) No extension can be used for posting assignments. If you fail to post before the end of the allotted time, then you lose those points.*

All papers must be typed and stapled and not placed in any covers, folders or any other such contraption. A title page is expected, which will contain the following information: Title of the paper, your name, and the name of the class (Sociology 127 for those of you not paying attention). Thank you.

Use of WebCT: While there are times when the site will be down, this is not an excuse for a missed assignment, posting or late paper. The material will be up with sufficient time to respond to it before it comes due. Ultimately it is your responsibility to either obtain it, or let me know of any problems you are having with it. Most problems are related to the computer department, so contact the help desk. If they are unable/unwilling to help you let me know, and I will attempt to correct any problems, but on occasion they are not always my fault (I know, that is hard to imagine, but it is true).

If you are a student who has a disability that may necessitate accommodations being made in the classroom, please contact SSD, (916) 278-6955.

Turn off all pagers and cell phones before entering class. I accept the right to answer any that ring (and make up any wild stories about you to the person who has called).

Finally, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are caught engaging in either of these activities, you will receive an F.

### **Grading Scale\***

A	=	92-100
A-	=	90-91
B+	=	88-89
B	=	82-87
C+	=	78-79
B-	=	80-81
C	=	72-77
C-	=	70-71
D+	=	68-69
D	=	62-67
D-	=	60-61
F	=	59 or below

\* This scale may be lowered but will not be raised

### Grade Breakdown

3 Exams * 15%	=	45%
Journals	=	20%
Presentation	=	15%
Interviews	=	5%
Postings/Assig	=	<u>15%</u>
Total	=	100%

## **Course Calendar:**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings:</u>
January 27 & 29	Introduction	Kimmel & Messner, Men's Lives, Intro; Schacht (7)
February 3, 5, & 10	Theory	Steinem (26); Powell (33); Pascoe (11) ONLINE: Man Laws article (website)
February 12 & 17	Men's Movements	b. hooks(54); Schultz(19); Goldstein(52) ONLINE: Iron John introduction, Promise Keepers Promises
<b>February 19: Exam 1</b>		
Feb. 24, 26 & March 3 <b>February 26: Journal 1 Due</b>	Violence	Messerschmidt (1); Ferguson (10); Boswell & Spade (15)
March 5 & 10	Marginalized Masculinities	Harper (4); Espiritu(2); Taylor & Rupp (37)
March 12 & 17	Sexualities	Kupers (32); Messner (34); Rochlin (35) ONLINE: Tualo sexuality; gay penguins
<b>March 19: Exam 2</b>		
March 24 & 26	Family	Deutsch (39); Coltrane (43)
<i>March 30-April 5: Spring Break</i>		
April 7, 9 & 14 <b>April 9: Journal 2 Due</b>	Sports	Dworkin & Wachs (44); Messner & Montez de Oca(45); Pappas, McKenry & Catlett(50); ONLINE: Tualo: pain
April 16 & 21 <b>April 16: First 5 Interviews Due</b>	Health	Sabo(25); Loe(38); Gerschick & Miller(27) ONLINE: Wayne, Roosevelt quotes
<b>April 23: Exam 3</b>		
April 28 & 30 <b>April 28: Journal 3 Due</b>	Friendships	Lyman (14); Nardi (30); Walker (29) ONLINE: Romano article
May 5 & 7 <b>May 8: Final 5 Interviews Due</b>	<b>Presentations</b>	
May 12 & 14	Relationships with women	Rubin (28); Beneke (31); Quinn (24) ONLINE: Hoffman poem
<b>May 19, Tuesday 8-10a: Exam 4</b>		