Instructor: Dr. Marieke Van Willigen  
Office: 406 Brewster Wing A  
Phone: 328-6092 (leave a message on my voice mail if I am not in)  
E-mail: vanwilligenm@mail.ecu.edu  
Course Website: http://ecu.blackboard.com  
Instructor Home Page: http://core.ecu.edu/soci/vanwilligenm/home.htm  
Office Hours: T-Th 11:30am - 1:00pm

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to a sociological understanding of sex and gender. Specific areas to be covered include: defining sex and gender, gender socialization, theories about the role of gender in societies, gender’s influence over families, gender in the workplace, and global variations in sex/gender systems.

Course Structure: This course will be taught as about seventy percent a traditional course and thirty percent an on-line course. As on-line courses are becoming more and more common, I believe it is important for Sociology students (as well as other students) to have some experience with the kinds of activities that happen in on-line courses. Thus instead of physically meeting as a class five days a week, after the first week we will meet as a class three days (Tuesday - Thursday) and meet on-line for discussions between Friday-Monday.

Readings: You are expected to have the reading completed before the day it is discussed. Much class time will be devoted to discussing the readings as a group and relating them to other materials introduced in class. Readings include 1) *Thinking About the Baby* by Susan Walzer; 2) *Women and Men at Work* by Irene Padavic and Barbara Reskin; 3) *Gender Diversity: Crosscultural Variations* by Serena Nanda; and 4) articles handed out in class and/or available through the course website. Readings are referred to on the schedule by the last name(s) of the author(s).

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is to introduce students to the concepts, theories and empirical work that enable us to better understand our social past, present and to better understand social changes that are likely in the future. More specific goals will include:

1) Understanding the concepts of sex and gender as well as related concepts, their application in the United States, and variations across the world.
2) Understanding the social processes by which humans are “taught” to be masculine and/or feminine.
3) Understanding major theories about the role that gender plays within societies.
4) Understanding some of the challenges associated with doing research on gender.
5) Understanding how gender structures the family and workplace in the United States and how these social institutions reinforce our notions of what it means to be male or female.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend class on time and stay until class is dismissed. For perfect on-time attendance you will earn three percentage points on your final grade. In other words, perfect attendance would raise an 89% average to a final average of 92%. You will not be counted as present if you sleep or read during class; in fact, you may be asked to leave. The only exceptions to the attendance policy will be university excused absences.

Course Requirements: Your final grade will be based on quizzes, 2 papers and on-line discussion assignments. Active participation during in-class discussion and significant improvement in grades may boost your final grade if you are on the borderline.

Quizzes: Every Thursday we will have a quiz on the readings and class material covered since the last quiz. Quizzes will be multiple choice and short answer. The quizzes count 30% total towards your final grade in the course.

Papers: You will be expected to complete 2 3-5 page papers during the course. The assignments will be made available on the course webpage and are due in class (see schedule below). All assignments must be word-processed or typed. You will be graded
on content, grammar and spelling. NO late papers will be accepted. The papers will contribute 40% total towards your final grade in the course.

Assignments: Every week questions will be posed on the course webpage for on-line discussion. These discussions will take the place of our Monday and Friday meeting times beginning Monday, June 30th. These questions will relate to the reading, class material, and paper assignments. They may require you to seek out additional information from designated websites. Your contributions to the discussion will be graded on attendance (10%), quantity (20%) and quality (70%). These will be explained in greater depth in class and on the course website. The first two discussions will count half as much as the rest, so that you can learn the system and get feedback on your work.

I grade on a ten-point scale (90-100% = A, 80-89 = B, etc). Your final grade will be made up of the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Papers</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 On-line assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic integrity is expected in this class and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes taking answers from another person’s test/quiz and giving someone else answers to a test/quiz. It also includes handing another person’s work in as your own, and using another person’s words or ideas without giving that person credit. See the *Student Handbook* for a more detailed explanation of what constitutes academic dishonesty, procedures, penalties, and appeals process. There is also a link to a website on the course webpage which explains plagiarism in greater depth. You are expected to be familiar with this information. If you have any questions it is your responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss your questions. Cheating or plagiarizing in this class will at least earn you a zero on the assignment, test, or quiz in question, and may earn you an F in the class.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**Thursday, June 26th**
INTRODUCTIONS/OVERVIEW

**Friday, June 27th**


**Monday, June 30th**

**Tuesday, July 1st**


**Wednesday, July 2nd**


**Thursday, July 3rd**

**Friday, July 4th**

NO CLASS

**Monday, July 7th**

**Tuesday, July 8th**

Walzer Chapt 1-4

**Wednesday, July 9th**

**Thursday, July 10th**

**Friday, July 11th**

Walzer Chapt 5-8

**Monday, July 14th**

**Tuesday, July 15th**

**Wednesday, July 16th**

PAPER 1 DUE

**Thursday, July 17th**

**Friday, July 18th**

Padavic and Reskin Chapters 1-3

**Monday, July 21st**

**Tuesday, July 22nd**

**Wednesday, July 23rd**

Padavic and Reskin Chapters 4-7

**Thursday, July 24th**

**GENDER AND FAMILIES**

**Monday, July 7th**

**Tuesday, July 8th**

**Wednesday, July 9th**

**Thursday, July 10th**

**Friday, July 11th**

**Wednesday, July 16th**

PAPER 1 DUE

**Thursday, July 17th**

QUIZ 3

**Friday, July 18th**

ONLINE DISCUSSION 4

**Monday, July 21st**

ONLINE DISCUSSION 4

**Tuesday, July 22nd**

**Wednesday, July 23rd**

Padavic and Reskin Chapters 4-7

**Thursday, July 24th**

QUIZ 4

**GENDER AND WORK**

**Friday, July 25th**

Nanda Chapters 1-3

**Monday, July 28th**

**Tuesday, July 29th**

**Wednesday, July 30th**

Nanda Chapters 4-7

**Thursday, July 31st**

QUIZ 5 and PAPER 2 DUE

**GENDER DIVERSITY**

**Friday, July 25th**

ONLINE DISCUSSION 5

**Monday, July 28th**

ONLINE DISCUSSION 5

**Tuesday, July 29th**

**Wednesday, July 30th**

Nanda Chapters 4-7

**Thursday, July 31st**

QUIZ 5 and PAPER 2 DUE