



SOCIOLOGY 118 – SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER

University of California, San Diego

Winter 2026

Lecture Meetings: TuTh, 12:30pm-1:50pm in PETER 103

Instructor: Pablo Victoria Torres, Ph.D. (pvictori@ucsd.edu)

In over ten years teaching at the college level, what I have learned is that to convey the knowledge you are sharing, you must embody it. It is my pleasure to be able to do so.

Office Hours: Fridays, 2:00pm-3:00pm and by appointment at
<https://ucsd.zoom.us/my/pablotridentsup>

(Email me beforehand with plans of attending or let me know during class :D)

Teaching Apprentice: Ann Jiang (xij017@ucsd.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:00am-12:00pm

(On Zoom, in person in SSB 425, or by appt. - You can book a time at this link: <https://calendly.com/annjiang/office-hour>)

Course Description from the Course Catalog

An analysis of the social, biological, and psychological components of becoming a man or a woman. The course will survey a wide range of information in an attempt to specify what is distinctively social about gender roles and identities; i.e., to understand how a most basic part of the “self”—womanhood or manhood—is socially defined and socially learned behavior.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, you should be able to:

1. Become perceptive to the sociological perspective
2. Explain what a social construct is and identify processes that make gender a social construct
3. Apply concepts, theories, and ideas discussed in this class to multiple socio-historical contexts and to your own biography
4. Trust your own voice while recognizing and respecting others'
5. See why society needs you to be YOU <3

Learning Material (Readings and Movies)

Readings: I will provide you with all our readings. You can find these on our Canvas page.

Movies: I find that films are an effective teaching tool in social science courses. As such, we will be watching several movies that relate to the topics we cover. You are responsible for watching these as they appear on our course schedule own your own if you miss class or if a film is not shown in class. To the best of my knowledge, all the movies are available to rent or watch online on streaming services such as Google Play, Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+, etc. Rentals on non-subscription websites (such as Google Play) are about \$5. Some films are available for free at <https://www.kanopy.com/ucsd>. If you have trouble accessing a movie, please let me know and I'll figure something out for you.

Assignments

Written Reflections

Choose **ONLY 5 weeks** for which readings/movies are assigned (see our course schedule/calendar below) and submit a written reflection on one or two readings of your choice and/or the movie (if one is assigned for a week you choose). Each Written Reflection (**a TOTAL of 5 for the entire term**) is to be 2-3 typed double-spaced pages in length. Leave the weeks that you choose NOT to submit a Written Reflection for blank.

To guide your responses, you may address all or some of the following orienting questions:

Did you enjoy the reading(s)/movie? Why? Why not? (Taste/Interest)

Is (Are) the reading(s)/movie important? If so, why and for whom? If not, why not? (Relevance)

Can you apply the reading(s)/movie to a personal experience (past or present)? To a historical or current event? To a play or other artistic performance? To a novel or other written work? To a movie (either one assigned for this class or any other movie) or television show? (Application)

Did the reading(s)/movie inspire questioning/questions on your part? (Curiosity/Questioning)

Midterm and Final Papers

You are responsible for completing two examination papers this term. For each paper I will provide you with a set of prompts that you will be able to choose from. Prompts will be distributed two weeks before each paper is due. Each paper should be between 4-5 double-spaced pages long. Please submit these on Canvas.

Late and Incomplete Assignments

You are expected to maintain academic standards that reflect the highest level of honesty and integrity, including turning in your assignments on time.

Communicate with me as early as possible if meeting a deadline will be an issue.

Grading Distribution

Requirement	Percentage distribution toward final grade
1. 5 Reading Responses	50%
2. Midterm Examination Paper	25%
3. Final Examination Paper	25%
Final Grade	100%

Grades

I can't judge your opinion, therefore as long you voice that (your opinion) in written form via your submitted assignments, you will earn an "A" for your assignments. If you don't turn an assignment in, however, I have nothing to submit a grade for, therefore you will receive a 0 for that assignment.

Expectations

You wanted this experience. I wanted this experience. You're making me a part of your journey and I'm making you a part of mine. Be responsible *because* you're passionate. Let your curiosity guide you. Don't be afraid.

UC San Diego Principles of Community

The University of California, San Diego is dedicated to learning, teaching, and serving society through education, research, and public service. Our international reputation for excellence is due in large part to the cooperative and entrepreneurial nature of the UC San Diego community. UC San Diego faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to be creative and are rewarded for individual as well as collaborative achievements.

To foster the best possible working and learning environment, UC San Diego strives to maintain a climate of fairness, cooperation, and professionalism. These principles of community are vital to the success of the University and the well being of its constituents. UC San Diego faculty, staff, and students are expected to practice these basic principles as individuals and in groups.

- We value each member of the UC San Diego community for his or her individual and unique talents, and applaud all efforts to enhance the quality of campus life. We recognize that each individual's effort is vital to achieving the goals of the University.
- We affirm each individual's right to dignity and strive to maintain a climate of justice marked by mutual respect for each other.
- We value the cultural diversity of UC San Diego because it enriches our lives and the University. We celebrate this diversity and support respect for all cultures, by both individuals and the University as a whole.
- We are a university that adapts responsibly to cultural differences among the faculty, staff, students, and community.
- We acknowledge that our society carries historical and divisive biases based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and political beliefs. Therefore, we seek to foster understanding and tolerance among individuals and groups, and we promote awareness through education and constructive strategies for resolving conflict.
- We reject acts of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and political beliefs, and, we will confront and appropriately respond to such acts.
- We affirm the right to freedom of expression at UC San Diego. We promote open expression of our individuality and our diversity within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity, confidentiality, and respect.
- We are committed to the highest standards of civility and decency toward all. We are committed to promoting and supporting a community where all people can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of abusive or demeaning treatment.
- We are committed to the enforcement of policies that promote the fulfillment of these principles.

We represent diverse races, creeds, cultures, and social affiliations coming together for the good of the University and those communities we serve. By working together as members of the UC San Diego community, we can enhance the excellence of our institution.

These policies include but are not limited to Academic Personnel M015 – The University of California Policy on Faculty Conduct and the Administration of Discipline; The University of California Personnel Policies for Staff Members and UC San Diego Implementing Procedures, Appendix II – Personnel Policies for Senior Managers; the University of California, San Diego Student Conduct Code; UC San Diego House Officer Policy and Procedure Document; and applicable university collective bargaining agreements. For further information or inquiries, contact the Director of the Office of Academic Diversity and Equal Opportunity, the Director of ACCES and the office of Equal Opportunity/Staff Affirmative Action, and/or the Director of the Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination. To the extent that any information presented in this document is interpreted as being in conflict with University policies, procedures, or applicable collective bargaining agreements the terms of those University policies, procedures, and agreements shall govern.

Disability and Accessibility Accommodations

The University of California, San Diego is committed to providing a barrier-free environment for learning and an electronic environment that is accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course, please refer to the steps delineated on the Office for Students with Disabilities website:
<https://osd.ucsd.edu/students/registering.html#STEP-1:-Schedule-an-Intake-Appo>

Privacy Practices

As your instructor, I am committed to protecting your privacy by only using university-approved course technologies and adhering to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Campus Privacy Office guidelines. This includes using your educational data only as allowed by FERPA (for example for legitimate educational purposes such as submitting your final grades to the registrar's office). Communications in this course are subject to the UC Principles of Community

UCSD Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is essential for an academic community, including UC San Diego. Academic integrity is built on a foundation of honest, responsible, fair and trustworthy scholarly activity.[\[i\]](#) Without it, the degrees we confer, the research we conduct, and our reputation all diminish in value.

Thus, the University expects that both faculty and students will adhere to its standards of academic integrity. The UC San Diego Academic Integrity Policy (herein the “Policy”) states the general rules associated with student integrity of scholarship. The Procedures for Resolving Alleged Violations of the Policy (herein the “Procedures”) are found at: </media/633239/ai-procedures.pdf> and authorized by the San Diego Division of the Academic Senate’s Educational Policy Committee.

The rest of the Policy can be found here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2>.

*****COURSE SCHEDULE BELOW*****

Keep scrolling...



Almost there...

... *There you go :)*

Course Schedule

WEEK ONE			
Date	Readings and Movie	Topic	Due
Tuesday, 1/6/2026	None	Introduction	Nothing
Thursday, 1/8/2026			
WEEK TWO			
Date	Readings and Movie	Topic	Due
Tuesday, 1/13/2026	Mills: “The Promise”	Free Will	Watch Movie <i>La Mission</i> (2009), <i>Moonlight</i> (2016), or <i>Elemental</i> (2023) by Sunday, January 18 th , 2026
Thursday, 1/15/2026	Berger: “Sociology as an Individual Pastime” Durkheim: “What Makes Sociology Different?” Berger and Luckman: “Society as Objective Reality” – Part II in <i>The Social Construction of Reality</i> Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “In the Beginning: It’s All in the Program” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i> Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “Symbols and Agreements: The Art of Humans” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i> Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “The Story of You: The First Agreement:		Written Reflection due by Sunday, January 18 th , 2026

	<p>Be Impeccable with Your Word” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i></p> <p>Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “Every Mind Is A World: The Second Agreement: Don’t Take Anything Personally” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i></p>		
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WEEK THREE

Date	Readings and Movie	Topic	Due
Tuesday, 1/20/2026	Rosenhan: “On Being Sane in Insane Places”	Social Constructionism and Reality	Watch Movie <i>Legally Blonde</i> (2001) or <i>Barbie</i> (2023) by Sunday, January 25 th , 2026
Thursday, 1/22/2026	<p>Schivelbusch: “Coffee and the Protestant Ethic”</p> <p>Glass: “Behavior Analytic Grounding of Sociological Constructionism”</p> <p>Berger and Luckman: “Society as Subjective Reality” – Part III in <i>The Social Construction of Reality</i></p> <p>Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “Truth or Fiction: The Third Agreement: Don’t Make Assumptions” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i></p> <p>Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “The Power of Belief: The Symbol of Santa Claus” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i></p> <p>Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “Practice Makes the Master: The Fourth Agreement: Always Do Your</p>		<p>Written Reflection due by Sunday, January 25th, 2026</p>

	<p>Best” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i></p> <p>Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “The Power of Doubt: The Fifth Agreement: Be Skeptical, but Learn to Listen” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i></p>		
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WEEK FOUR

Date	Readings and Movie	Topic	Due
Tuesday, 1/27/2026	Readings: Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “The Dream of the First Attention: The Victims” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i>	The “Rules” for Sociology and Life	Watch Movie <i>A Fantastic Woman</i> (2018) by Sunday, February 1 st , 2026
Thursday, 1/29/2026	Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “The Dream of the Second Attention: The Warriors” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i> Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “The Dream of the Third Attention: The Masters” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i> Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “Becoming a Seer: A New Point of View” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i> Ruiz and Ruiz with Janet Mills: “The Three Languages: What Kind of Messenger Are You?” in <i>The Fifth Agreement: A Practical Guide to Self-Mastery</i>		Written Reflection due by Sunday, February 1 st , 2026

WEEK FIVE

Day/Date	Readings and Film	Topic	Due
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Tuesday, 2/3/2026	Readings: None	<i>Captain Fantastic</i> (2016)	Written Reflection due by Sunday, February 8th, 2026
Thursday, 2/5/2026			

WEEK SIX

Date	Reading	Topic	Due
Tuesday, 2/10/2026	Readings: Ridgeway: “Framed Before We Know It: How Gender Shapes Social Relations”	The Social Construction of Gender	Watch (and compare) Movies <i>Scream</i> (1996) and <i>Scream</i> (2022) by Sunday, February 15 th , 2026
Thursday, 2/12/2026	Collins: “Distinguishing Features of Black Feminist Thought” in <u>Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment Second Edition</u> West and Zimmerman: “Doing Gender” Lorber: “Night to His Day: The Social Construction of Gender” Martin: “The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles” Dozier: “Beards, Breasts, and Bodies: Doing Sex in a Gendered World”		Written Reflection due by Sunday, February 15 th , 2026

WEEK SEVEN

Date	Reading	Topic	Due
Tuesday, 2/17/2026	Readings: Reid, Webber, and Elliott: “It’s Like Being in Church and Being on a	Gender, Hooking Up, and Dating	Watch Movie <i>Shortbus</i> (2006) by Sunday,

Thursday, 2/19/2026	<p>Field Trip: 'The Date Versus Party Situation in College Students' Accounts of Hooking Up"</p> <p>Tompkins: "'There's No Chasing Involved': Cis/Trans Relationships, 'Tranny Chasers,' and the Future of a Sex-Positive Trans Politics"</p> <p>Beckmeyer and Jamison: "Identifying a Typology of Emerging Adult Romantic Relationships: Implications for Relationship Education"</p> <p>Sharabi and Dykstra-DeVette: "From First Email to First Date: Strategies for Initiating Relationships in Online Dating"</p>		February 22 nd , 2026 Written Reflection due by Sunday, February 22 nd , 2026
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WEEK EIGHT

Date	Reading	Topic	Due
Tuesday, 2/24/2026	Readings: Summit, et al.: "Unraveling the Slut Narrative: Gender Constraints on Adolescent Girls' Sexual Decision-Making"	Toxic/Abusive Relationships	Watch <i>Midaq Alley</i> (1995) or <i>Monster</i> (2003) by Sunday, March 1 st , 2026
Thursday, 2/26/2026	<p>McDavitt and Mutchler: "'Dude, You're Such a Slut!' Barriers and Facilitators of Sexual Communication Among Young Gay Men and Their Best Friends"</p> <p>Rupp: "Queer Dilemmas of Desire"</p> <p>Armstrong, et al.: "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape"</p> <p>Walker, et al.: "Effects of Rape on Men: A Descriptive Analysis"</p>		Written Reflection due by Sunday, March 1 st , 2026

	<p>Edwards, et al.: “Rape Myths”</p> <p>Sweet: “The Sociology of Gaslighting”</p> <p>Stark: “Gaslighting, Misogyny, and Psychological Oppression”</p> <p>Abramson: “Turning Up the Lights on Gaslighting”</p> <p>Herrenkohl, et al.: “Child Maltreatment, Youth Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Elder Mistreatment: A Review and Theoretical Analysis of Research on Violence Across the Life Course”</p> <p>Mennicke, et al.: “Who do They Tell? College Students’ Formal and Informal Disclosure of Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment, Stalking, and Dating Violence, Gender, Sexual Identity, and Race”</p>		
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WEEK NINE

Date	Reading	Topic	Due
Tuesday, 3/3/2026	Readings:		
Thursday, 3/5/2026	<p>Voleker, et al.: ‘My Body Loves Me, So I Should Love it Back’: A Qualitative Evaluation of the Bodies in Motion Program with Female Collegiate Athletes”</p> <p>Peters and Phelps: “Body Image Dissatisfaction and Distortion, Steroid Use, and Sex Differences in College Age Bodybuilders”</p> <p>Acosta: ““How Could You Do This To Me?: How Lesbian, Bisexual,</p>	<p>Every Body Is Beautiful: Gender, Sexuality, and the Body</p>	<p>Watch Movie <i>Little Miss Sunshine</i> (2006) and/or <i>Embrace</i> (2016) by Sunday, March 8th, 2026</p> <p>Written Reflection due by Sunday,</p>

	<p>and Queer Latinas Negotiate Sexual Identity With Their Families”</p> <p>Williams, Weinberg, and Rosenberger: “Trans Men: Embodiments, Identities, and Sexualities”</p> <p>Rupp and Taylor: “Straight Girls Kissing”</p>		March 8 th , 2026
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WEEK TEN

Date	Reading	Topic	Due
Tuesday, 3/10/2026	Readings: Meyer and Chen: “Vanilla and Kink: Power and Communication in Marriages with a BDSM-Identifying Partner”	Boundaries, Kink, and Healthy Sexual Exploration	Watch Movie <i>Love and Leashes</i> (2022) and/or <i>Booksmart</i> (2019) by Sunday, March 15 th , 2026
Thursday, 3/12/2026	<p>McKay, et al.: “‘Their Type of Drugs’: Perceptions of Substance Use, Sex, and Social Boundaries among Young African American and Latino Gay and Bisexual Men”</p> <p>Sprott, et al.: “A Queer Boundary: How Sex and BDSM Interact for People Who Identify as Kinky”</p> <p>Newmahr: “Rethinking Kink: Sadomasochism as Serious Leisure”</p> <p>Vilkin and Sprott: “Consensual Non-Monogamy Among Kink-Identified Adults: Characteristics, Relationship Experiences, and Unique Motivations for Polyamory and Open Relationships”</p>		Written Reflection due by Sunday, March 15 th , 2026

	Johnson and Weigert: "Frames in Confession: The Social Construction of Sexual Sin"		
FINALS WEEK			
Date	Reading	Topic	Due
3/14-21/2026	None	Finals Week	Final Paper Due by Saturday, 3/21/2026

