Classroom:     SO 2025                                         Instructor:    Gail Markle, Ph.D.
Class Hours:   TR  9:30 – 10:45                            Office:         SO 4071
Office Hours:  TR 12:30 – 2:30 pm                      E-mail:         gmarkle@kennesaw.edu
and by appointment

Course Description and Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to understand how race, class and gender intersect to fundamentally shape social interaction, conditions, and institutions in American society. This course examines the ways in which race, class and gender are socially constructed and how they interconnect to create and maintain systems of privilege and inequality.

The course begins by using sociological frameworks to understand the construction of race, class, and gender. Then using the case study method we will examine how these components of society intersect in the institutions of education, the labor market, the criminal justice system, and family and community life. Finally, we will discuss processes of social change.

Course Prerequisite: SOCI 1101/2201 Principles of Sociology

Course Goals:
• Develop an understanding of key sociological concepts of race, class, and gender
• Examine the ways in which race, class, and gender are socially constructed and reconstructed
• Understand why an intersectional framework is valuable for studying race, class, and gender
• Connect sociological theory and empirical research to everyday experiences of race, class, and gender
• Examine the consequences of race, gender, and class as manifested in the American educational system, labor market, criminal justice system and family and community life
• Examine and evaluate strategies for positive social change
• Cultivate the ability to think critically
• Improve analytical reading and writing skills

Principal Text: All students are expected to obtain the textbook for this class.

Additional Readings: The following articles are available on Electronic Reserve or D2L. The password for Electronic Reserve is .


Class Format: Class meetings will include a mixture of lectures, films, and discussions.

Expectations: Please silence your cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices. PLEASE NO LAPTOPS IN CLASS. Students are expected to read assignments prior to the class period, to listen to class presentations, and to participate in class discussions. You are under no obligation to agree with the authors or the instructor. Rather, your obligation is to demonstrate comprehension and thoughtful consideration. Critical thinking, a willingness to explore the ideas of others, and respect for other students are essential. Aspects of this course may at times make you feel uncomfortable; pay attention to these moments – they are valuable opportunities for enhanced understanding and personal growth. No part of this class may be electronically recorded or posted to any form of social media without the express written consent of the instructor.

Attendance: Regular and punctual attendance in class is required. If you must be absent please be aware that you are responsible for all announcements, assignments, and material covered during class time. Your attendance record will affect your grade. For perfect attendance 2 points will be added to your final grade. For 1-2 absences 1 point will be added to your grade. Beginning with the 4th absence 1 point will be deducted from your final grade. For each successive absence an additional point will be deducted from your final grade. For example, five absences would result in a 2 point deduction from your final grade; six absences would result in a 3 point deduction, and so on. Absence for KSU business and mandatory court appearances may be excused with proper documentation. Attendance will be taken by sign-in sheet. Anyone signing in for someone else is guilty of academic dishonesty and will be dealt with appropriately. Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in the course; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

Components of Evaluation:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exams (3@20%)</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Study Analyses (3@13.3%)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Exams: Exams will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. They will cover lectures, discussions, films shown in class, and reading assignments. Exams will be given February 9, March 9, and April 27. Makeup exams will be given only for exceptional cases with appropriate documentation and will consist of essay questions only. To be considered eligible for a make-up exam, students must contact the instructor prior to the originally scheduled exam time.

Case Study Analyses: Three case studies will be posted on D2L. You will prepare a written analysis of the ways in which race, class and gender intersect in each social situation. You should address the historical context, socially constructed differences, power relationships, implications at the micro and macro level, and the possibilities for social action for each situation. Each analysis must
be 3 ½ -4 12 point font, double spaced pages and include specific references to at least four relevant assigned readings. You must integrate answers to the questions at the end of the case studies into your analysis. Detailed instructions and a grading rubric will be provided. We will discuss these analyses in class. Analyses will be due March 21, April 11, and April 18.

Please do not e-mail me your papers. They are due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates. Late work will be penalized twenty points per day (24 hour period). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Definitions and consequences of plagiarism are posted on the KSU website: http://scai.kennesaw.edu/students/general-info/cheating.php

If any portion of your work is plagiarized you will receive a 0 for the assignment, an F for the course, and disciplinary action will be taken.

Grading Scale: 100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D; 59 and below = F.

Earning Grades: Grades are “earned” and are not arbitrarily “granted” in this class. Thus, unless I make an error in calculation, I will not change your grade at the end of the semester for HOPE eligibility, graduation requirements, or any other reason.

Strategies for Success: Students are encouraged to consult with the KSU Writing Center at http://writingcenter.kennesaw.edu/

Academic Honesty: Students are required to adhere to the tenets of the Kennesaw State University Policy on Academic Honesty. This policy can be found at: http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php

Accommodations: This course will be conducted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and make the appropriate arrangements with Disabled Student Support Services located in Suite 267 of the Carmichael Student Center Addition, 770-423-6443.
http://kennesaw.edu/sds/insitutionalpolicies.php

Academic Honesty: You are required to adhere to the tenets of the Kennesaw State University Policy on Academic Honesty. This policy can be found at:

Other Important Policies: Please familiarize yourself with the following important KSU policies:
Confidentiality and privacy (FERPA) http://enrollmentservices.kennesaw.edu/training/ferpa.php;
University Student Rights Statement http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=2263;
COURSE SCHEDULE

January 10   Introduction to the Course

**Part 1: Conceptualizing Race, Class and Gender**

**Race and Racism**

            Snipp, “The First Americans” D2L

January 17  Video: Race, The Power of an Illusion Part I

            Tatum, “Defining Racism, Can We Talk” RCG p. 123.

            Rothschild, “Muslim-American Running Back off the Team at New Mexico
            State” RCG p. 271.

**Gender and Sexuality**

January 26  Lorber, “‘Night to his Day’: the Social Construction of Gender” RCG p. 54.
            Connell, “Hegemonic Masculinity and Emphasized Femininity” e-res
            Fayad, “The Arab Woman and I” RCG p. 397.

January 31  Carter, “Between a ‘Soft’ and a ‘Hard’ Place” e-res
            Messner, “Masculinities and Athletic Careers” e-res
            Singer, “For You, My Lovely, a Face-Lift” RCG p. 455.
            Hochschild, “The Second Shift” D2L
            England, “Emerging Theories of Care Work” e-res
February 2  
Katz, “The Invention of Heterosexuality” RCG p. 68.  
Pharr, “Homophobia as a Weapon of Sexism” RCG p. 162.  
Seidman, “In the Closet” D2L  
West, “The Necessary Engagement with Youth Culture” D2L  
Perry, “The Venus Hip Hop and the Pink Ghetto” D2L

February 7  
Video: Beyond Beats and Rhymes

February 9  
**Exam 1**

**Social Class**

February 14  
Gans, “Deconstructing the Underclass” RCG p. 102  
Mantsios, “Class in America 2009” RCG p. 177  
Sklar, “Imagine a Country” RCG p. 307  
Portes, “Immigration’s Aftermath” RCG p. 365

February 16  
Johnson, “Income Gap is Widening” RCG p. 317  
Thompson, “Meet the Wealth Gap” RCG p. 319  
Collins and Yeskel, “Billionaires R Us” RCG p. 321  
Mantsios, “Media Magic: Making Class Invisible” RCG p. 610  
Ehrenreich, “Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America” D2L

February 21  
Lareau, “Unequal Childhoods” D2L  
Burd, “College Choices Limited for Students from Needy Families” RCG p. 287  
Gates, “Forty Acres and a Gap in Wealth” RCG p. 328  
Lui, “The Economic Reality of Being Asian American” RCG p. 334  
Schilt, “How Transmen make Gender Visible at Work: D2L

February 23  
Coniff, “Women Losing Ground” RCG p. 342  
Feldman, “‘Savage Inequalities’ Revisited” RCG p. 357  
Reuss, “Cause of Death: Inequality” RCG p. 360  
Video: Money, Power and the American Dream

**Privilege, Oppression, and Intersectionality Theory**

February 28  
Miller, “Domination and Subordination” RCG p. 108  
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, “The Problem: Civil Rights” RCG p. 243  
Frye, “Oppression” RCG p. 149  
Young, “The Five Faces of Oppression” e-res  
Parenti, “The Plutocratic Culture: Institutions, Values and Ideologies” RCG p. 603
March 1  Last day to withdraw without academic penalty

March 2  Crenshaw, “Traffic at the Crossroads: Multiple Oppressions” e-res
Collins, “Toward a New Vision: Race, Class, and Gender as Categories of Analysis and Connection” D2L

March 7  Messner, “White Men Misbehaving” D2L
Messner and Cook, “Gender in Televised Sports” D2L
Video: Not Just a Game

March 9  Exam 2

Part 2: Intersections of Race, Class and Gender
Education
March 14  Hoover, “Race and Family Income of Students Influence Guidance Counselors” RCG p. 286
Sax, “Her College Experience is not His” RCG p. 441
Matthews, “Wealthy Often Win Race for Merit-Based Scholarships” RCG p. 288

March 16  Welch and Payne, “Racial Threat and Punitive School Discipline” D2L
Morris, “‘Tuck in that Shirt!’ Race, Class, Gender and Discipline in an Urban School” D2L

March 21  Waller High School Case Study Analysis Due
Class Discussion

The Labor Market
March 23  Hondagneu-Sotelo, “Families on the Frontier: From Braceros in the Fields to Braceros in the Home” D2L
Pager, “The Mark of a Criminal Record” e-res
Jordan, “Blacks vs. Latinos at Work” RCG p. 266

March 28  Anderson, “Just Another Job?: The Commodification of Domestic Labor”

March 30  No Class Southern Sociological Conference

April 4  No Class Spring Break
April 6  No Class Spring Break

April 11  Valenzuela Family Case Study Analysis Due
Class Discussion
Criminal Justice
April 13  Reiman and Leighton, “The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison” e-res
         Cole, “No Equal Justice: Race and Class in the American Criminal Justice System” e-res
         Davis, “Masked Racism: Reflections on Prison Industrial Complex” RCG p. 643
         Anderson, “Code of the Streets” D2L
         Covington and Bloom, “Gendered Justice: Women in the Criminal Justice System” e-res

April 18  Cedar Woman Case Study Analysis Due
         Class Discussion

Family, Health and Community Life
April 20  Reuss, “Cause of Death: Inequality” RCG p. 360
         Williams and Collins, “The Color of Health in the U.S.” e-res
         Zenk, “Why Are There No Supermarkets in my Neighborhood?” e-res
         Stoller and Gibson, “The Diversity of American Families” e-res
         Feagin and McKinney, “The Family and Community Costs of Racism” e-res

Social Change
April 25  hooks, “Feminism: A Transformational Politic” RCG p. 670
         Thompson, “A New Vision of Masculinity” RCG p. 677
         Ayvazian, “Interrupting the Cycle of Oppression: The Role of Allies as Agents of Change” RCG p. 684
         Lovato, “Uploading Real Change” RCG p. 695

April 27  Exam 3

* The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary *