

St. Francis Xavier University

Men and Masculinities

Sociology 311 - 2004

Instructor: Donna MacDonald

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Office: MacNeil 23 (Old Science Hall – Engineering building)

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 –3:00

Friday after class

(I will also be available on certain days by appointment only)

Course Objectives:

In this course we will challenge essentialist biological notions about men and masculinities. We will examine how masculinities are reproduced in our society and reinforced as normal, naturally determined by sexual difference. This course will explore theories of masculinities as well as discuss the construction of masculinity in relation to structures of power and conflict in popular culture, violence, workplace, families and sports. We will also explore the diversity of men's experiences by examining race, class, sexuality and ability.

Course Readings:

There is no single textbook for the course. Chapters, essays and articles from numerous authors will be used throughout the term. We will also examine two texts that deal specifically with one topic as it relates to masculinity. They are:

Guys, Gangs and Girlfriend Abuse by Mark Totten

The Rights of Men: Manhood, Politics and the Culture of Sport by Varda Burstyn

Assigned RESERVE READINGS

Grade breakdown:

October quiz	20%
Research Paper (Due: November 5)	30%
Participation (summaries, attendance, assignments, class participation)	10%
Final Exam	40%

Summaries: Please submit one summary per week. Approximately (10 summaries). When reading articles students should ask the following questions: What is the main message the author is attempting to convey? (this could be a one sentence summary) What method does s/he use to convey their message? Is this 'method' effective? What are the implications of this article?

You are responsible for 2-3 participation assignments (details and due dates to be discussed in class)

Late assignments will be deducted by 1% per day

***All assignments must be handed in and all exams must be completed to receive a passing grade.**

ATTENDANCE is also mandatory to receive a passing grade.

The format of the class will include lectures, seminars and films. Students are required to do all of the assigned readings and come to class **prepared**. You will be expected to be familiar with lecture, reading material and films in your exams.

