

Teaching Gender
AKD Teaching & Learning Workshop
Midwest Sociological Society 2019

The Sociology of Gender is a common course or unit for introductory sociology in university departments and high school curriculums. Why should we talk about teaching gender?

Sex and gender are topics sometimes met with resistance from students because they already live in a gendered world and have “experience” with gender. Additionally, educators must choose what topics to include or exclude when approaching gender and sex.

Respond to Questions/Comments from Sociology of Gender Courses

1) I know rape is bad, but what about all the false accusations? Girls have ruined men’s lives. Accusers want money from celebrities and athletes.

2) Workplace/income inequality is because women choose not to work.

3) I don’t believe in gay and trans people.

4) Aren’t you biased because you are a woman?

5) This is all liberal propaganda.

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Of course, there are mostly wonderful comments from teaching gender courses and those should also be highlighted:

- I had no idea about forced sterilization – I’m going to write about this for med school applications.
- Thank you for making my identity visible, I will never forget you.
- This class taught me about sexual assault and helped me heal from my own experiences.
- This class made me love sociology, thank you!

There are many rewards and reasons to teach Sociology of Gender – but what do you include? What do you think are the most important topics to cover? Why? What will you exclude?

Other Topics from Discussion:
