

Sociology 277

Spring 2008

MASCULINITIES

Mr. T. Cushman (tcushman@wellesley.edu)

Mr. J. Imber (jimber@wellesley.edu)

Office Hours: TC M: 1:30 -2:30; Th: 1:30- 2:30
JI M: 10-11:00; Th: 10-11:00
and by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS

Robert Bly	<i>Iron John: A Book About Men</i>
Michael S. Kimmel	<i>Manhood in America: A Cultural History</i>
Michael S. Kimmel	<i>Men's Lives</i> (7th edition)
Christina Hoff Sommers	<i>The War Against Boys: How Misguided Feminism Is Harming Our Young Men</i>
Waller R. Newell	<i>What is a Man?</i>
Lionel Tiger	<i>The Decline of Males: The First Look at an Unexpected New World for Men and Women</i>

Reserve readings (all on e-reserve)

General Expectations:

All students are expected to attend class. We do not calculate an exact percentage of the grade based on attendance and participation, but we will take attendance occasionally and will keep note of participation and use that record when making close decisions about a final grade. Once per week, we will ask you to write a short 1 page commentary on class readings. These short assignments will be collected at the end of class and considered in the determination of your final grade. Missing more than two classes will result in the deduction of one-third of a letter grade in the final grade for the class. Class participation in the form of raising questions and furthering discussion is a vital part of an interesting class. **Your enrollment in this course means that we may call upon you at any time in class.**

Examinations and Papers

A. Midterm Exam on March 13 (identifications and short essay questions on lectures and readings)

B. Two Five-Page Papers

1. Paper one due February 25 in class

2. Paper two due April 14 in class

All assignments are due on the date indicated and must be typewritten.
Papers handed in late **will automatically** be penalized, a third of a grade per day.

C. Final Exam (take home, open book, distributed the last day of class, due last day of finals)

Statement on the nature of this course: This is a course which deals with many topics that are perceived in our society as provocative, controversial, prurient and offensive. We approach such topics with the objectivity and disinterestedness that are characteristic of sociology as a discipline.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

January 28: Introduction to the course. Explanation of assignments.

“No offense: On disinterestedness and the challenges of teaching women about masculinity.”

January 31: The Meaning of Man: Perspectives from American History

Waller R. Newell, *What is a Man?*, “Manhood in America,” pp. 430-460.

Michael S. Kimmel, *Manhood in America*, “Introduction” and Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-79.

February 4: What is Masculinity? The Social Construction of Gendered Reality

Waller R. Newell, *What is a Man?*, “The Kingly Man,” pp. 268-297.

Hans van Wees, “A Brief History of Tears: Gender Differentiation in Archaic Greece,” in *When Men Were Men: Masculinity, Power and Identity in Classical Antiquity* (e-reserve)

Tom Lutz, "Town Criers" in *The New Republic*, January 18, 2008, published online (in conference folder)

Michael S. Kimmel, *Men's Lives*, "Introduction," pp. xiii-xxiii, and Chapters 1-6, pp. 1-72.

Michael S. Kimmel, *Manhood in America*, Chapters 3-5, pp. 57-124.

February 7: What is Masculinity? Continued

February 11: Basic Biology of Men and Women: Guest lecture (first of two) by Professor Elissa Koff

Laura A. Freberg, "Sexual Behavior," in *Discovering Biological Psychology* (2006), pp. 284-311 (distributed in class)

Wrangham and Peterson, "Raiding," in *Demonic Males: Apes and the Origins of Human Violence* (e-reserve)

February 14: Evolutionary Psychology of Men: Guest Lecture (second of two) by Professor Elissa Koff

Roy F. Baumeister, "Is There Anything Good About Men?" (e-reserve)

February 18: No Class, President's Day

February 21: Boyhood

Michael S. Kimmel, *Men's Lives*, Part 2, pp. 79-150.

Waller R. Newell, *What is a Man*, "The Wise Man," pp. 125-182.

February 25: Adolescent Masculinity

Joseph Roisman, "Manly Youth," *The Rhetoric of Manhood* (e-reserve)

Michael S. Kimmel, *Men's Lives*, Part 3, pp. 151-222.

FIRST PAPER DUE

February 28: Adult Masculinity: Men at Work

Michael S. Kimmel, *Men's Lives*, Part 4, pp. 223-284.

March 3: Adult Masculinity: Men in Families

Waller R. Newell, *What is Man?*, "The Family Man," pp. 195-262.

Michael S. Kimmel, *Men's Lives*, Part 8, pp. 399-466.

Ulrich Beck and Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim, Introduction, "Individualization and ways of living and loving." and Chapter One, "Love or Freedom: Living Together, Apart or at War," pp. 1-44 in *The Normal Chaos of Love*. (e-reserve)

March 6: Men, Masculinity, and Sex

Waller R. Newell, *What is Man?*, "The Chivalrous Man," pp. 3-66.

Michael S. Kimmel, *Men's Lives*, Part 6, pp. 317-358, and Part 7, pp. 359-398.

March 10: Men, Masculinity and Sex: Phallocentrism

David M. Friedman, *A Life of Its Own: A Cultural History of the Penis*, Chapters 1 and 2 (e-reserve)

Elizabeth Stephens, "The Spectacularized Penis: Contemporary Representations of the Phallic Male Body" (e-reserve)

Mario Vargas Llosa, "The Penis or Life: The Bobbit Affair," in *Making Waves* (e-reserve)

MIDTERM EXAMINATION MARCH 13

March 17: The Culture of Masculinity

Waller R. Newell, *What is Man?*, "Manly Character and Conduct," pp. 91-123.

Michael S. Kimmel, Part 9, pp. 467-538.

- March 20: No Class
- March 31 The Culture of Masculinity, continued
- April 3 Men and Violence: War as Sport, Sport as War
 Michael S. Kimmel, Part 10, "Violence and Masculinities," pp. 539-601.
 Film: *Between Men: Masculinity and the Military*
- April 7: Men and Violence, continued
- April 10: The Social Control of Masculinity
 Lionel Tiger, *The Decline of Males*, Chapters 1-4, pp. 1-119.
- April 14: The Social Control of Masculinity, continued
 Lionel Tiger, *The Decline of Males*, Chapters 5-Conclusion, pp. 120-266.
- April 17: The Social Control of Masculinity
 Christina Hoff Sommers, *The War Against Boys*, in entirety
- April 22: Gender Wars: Heretics and Apostates
 Lawrence H. Summers, "Remarks at NBER Conference on Diversifying the Science & Engineering Workforce," January 14, 2005 (on e-reserve)
 Steven Pinker, "Sex Ed," in *The New Republic*, February 14, 2005, pp. 15-17.
 Elizabeth S. Spelke, "Sex Differences in Intrinsic Aptitude for Mathematics and Science? A Critical Review," in *American Psychologist*, December 2005, Vol. 60, No. 9, pp. 950-958. (on e-reserve)
 Watch conversation/debate between Pinker and Spelke at:
http://www.edge.org/3rd_culture/debate05/debate05_index.html

Peter Beinert, "What Lawrence Summers Did Wrong," in *The New Republic*, March 6, 2006, p. 6. (on e-reserve)

Martin Peretz, "Summers End," in *The New Republic*, March 6, 2006, p. 38. (on e-reserve)

Martin Peretz, "High Ground," in *The New Republic*, June 26, 2006, p. 34. (on e-reserve)

April 24 (Tuesday): Mens' Movements

Michael S. Kimmel, Part 11, "Men, Movement's and the Future," pp. 603-638.

SECOND PAPER DUE

April 28: Men's Movements, continued

Robert Bly, *Iron John: A Book about Men*

May 1: Student-led discussions

May 5: Student-led discussions