Sociology 200: Gender in Contemporary Society  
Spring 2016  
Instructor: Brandi Woodell; bwoodell@huskers.unl.edu

Required Text:  

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

Course Description:  
This course examines how gender is socially constructed in contemporary U.S. society. We will discuss gender identity including femininity, masculinity, transgender, and genderqueer. Students will engage with theories, research, and social policies that focus on gender as it relates to other key institutions like work, family, religion, and politics. Students will learn how conceptions about gender create and enforce a system of gender difference and inequality. Throughout the course we will emphasize the ways in which people experience gender opportunities and constraints differently according to their race, gender, class, and sexuality.

Course Goals:  
- Utilize the sociological imagination and understand different perspectives of gender.  
- Know the differences between sex, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation, how these characteristics are socially constructed, and what maintains them.  
- Recognize the structural processes at work in maintaining gender inequality.  
- Apply these concepts to your life, class discussions, and assignments.

Additional Information:  
While there will be some lecture, this course will be largely discussion based. You will be expected to come to class, readings in hand, ready to give your insight on class topics. Since this class will be discussion based, coming to class prepared will be a part of your grade. Missing too many classes will negatively impact your grade in this course.