Sociology 277
Spring 2008

MASCULINITIES

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

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

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


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


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)


February 7: What is Masculinity? Continued

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


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


February 25: Adolescent Masculinity

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


**FIRST PAPER DUE**
February 28: Adult Masculinity: Men at Work


March 3: Adult Masculinity: Men in Families


March 6: Men, Masculinity, and Sex


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.

March 20: No Class

March 31 The Culture of Masculinity, continued

April 3 Men and Violence: War as Sport, Sport as War


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)


Watch conversation/debate between Pinker and Spelke at: http://www.edge.org/3rd_culture/debate05/debate05_index.html


April 24 (Tuesday): Mens’ Movements


SECOND PAPER DUE

April 28: Men’s Movements, continued


May 1: Student-led discussions

May 5: Student-led discussions