

Welcome Letter

Sociology 208: Introduction to Gender Studies (CRN 33205)

Spring 2018 | Start and End Dates: January 16-May 18, 2018

**THIS COURSE IS FULLY ONLINE.
THERE ARE NO MANDATORY FACE TO FACE MEETINGS.**

Instructor: Dr. Thien-Huong T. Ninh (thienhuong_ninh@cuesta.edu)

Online Office Hour: TBD

Dear Student:

Welcome to **Introduction to Gender Studies!**

I am Dr. Thien-Huong Ninh and I'll be your instructor for this course.

Thank you for your interest in this online version of Introduction to Gender Studies (**Soc 208**)! I love sociology and I hope that through this course and our interactions, you will come to appreciate it as well.

Before you consider enrolling, please read through this welcome letter.

As this is an online course, please be aware that the demand on you as the student is much greater than a typical face-to-face course. You are responsible for doing all the assigned course work, meet all the deadlines, and regularly participate in online course activities. These tasks require a great deal of self-motivation and discipline on your part.

You will need to access our online Canvas course site during the first day of the course (more information about Canvas in this Welcome Letter).

If you have any problems logging in to Canvas during the first week of the term, please contact technical support at support@my.cuesta.edu.

Throughout the term, I will be communicating with you primarily through Canvas (e.g. Announcements forum). It is your responsibility to check your Canvas and email accounts regularly. This means that you need to have a reliable working computer with stable Wifi connection.

Feel free to contact me if you have further questions and I look forward to meeting you online!

Sincerely,
Dr. Ninh
thienhuong_ninh@cuesta.edu

Course Description

This course is intended to teach students about the interaction of gender and society. It will introduce theories of gender differentiation, stratification, and gender roles, and presents research methodology and examines current research on gender, both within and outside the United States. We will investigate how social and cultural factors (e.g., race, class) have shaped the lives of men and women as well as how they have affected their social and cultural environments. We will also explore the role and status of U.S. women and men within the larger social structure. Women and men in varying cultural settings will be examined, with an emphasis on how social systems shape the roles of women and affect larger U.S. institutions.

The course is acceptable for credit at CSU and UC campuses, and meets general education and Cuesta diversity requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate that I have the knowledge and skills required to succeed in the study of sociology.
- Use critical thinking and perceptive reading skills.
- Use my skills for sociological analysis.
- Demonstrate an understanding of sociological perspectives on gender.
- Analyze gender differences in various aspects of society.
- Demonstrate knowledge about women's struggles for power, justice, and access to resources.

Text Book and Materials

- **REQUIRED BOOKS:** [Cuesta bookstore](#).) **OR** Lisa Wade & Myra Marx Ferree, 2014, *GENDER Ideas, Interactions, Institutions*, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. (ISBN: 978-0-393-28841-4). Ebook is available through the publisher's website at discounted price.
- A working Cuesta e-mail account, access to Adobe Acrobat Reader, Quicktime and the Internet (and a back-up plan if your internet access or computer go down).
- Basic computer experience
- Working computer with stable Wifi connection
- Current browser with flash
- Microsoft Office suite
- PDF reader
- Media player

Course Environment

This online course will be using a Web-based Learning Management System Canvas as the method to disseminate information. Canvas provides the framework for the course including PowerPoint presentations, student data files, the tools to receive and send course materials, and a grade book. Using the communication tools, you can communicate using e-mail, and you can share materials and ideas with other course participants via the discussion forums and groups.

Class opens / Accessing Canvas

Prior to the Monday classes start, you will receive an email to your my.Cuesta.edu address providing you with a reminder that class will be starting and log in procedures for Canvas, the learning management system (LMS) used to deliver course content. You can access Canvas by logging into MyCuesta, then clicking on the Resources Tab, then clicking on Canvas in the Online Learning Channel, or by typing cuesta.instructure.com into your browser address bar. Do not bookmark / favorite the canvas site after your login, or you will get an error message next time you try to log in. You must access the canvas log in directly.

If you are not familiar with logging into canvas, please refer to the [Canvas Quick Reference Guide](#). Once logged into Canvas you will be directed on where to get started. Be sure to read all the direction on the course home page.

Technical Support

Cuesta students are encouraged to direct all technical support inquiries to support@my.cuesta.edu. If you are having issues with Canvas, you should contact the Canvas Support Hotline at (877) 921-7680, or click on the help button on the Canvas Navigation to report a problem.

If you are having difficulty viewing the course or logging in, it may be because you are not using the correct url: cuesta.instructure.com or you are using your phone or using an unsupported browser.

Your learning environment is best accessed from a desktop or laptop computer, using Firefox or Chrome. This may solve your problem! Please review the [browser requirements and minimum computer specifications](#).

Online Learning

If you have never taken an online class or this is your first experience with Canvas, please be patient with yourself. Online classes are not inherently easier, although they may be much more convenient for many students. You should expect to spend at least as much time, if not more on

this course as you would on a course that meets face to face. Since there is no lecture component, much of this time will be self-directed and there will be a substantial amount of reading, viewing, studying, and writing required. This course is completely online using Canvas; all coursework (discussions, assignments, quizzes) is submitted online. There are no face-to-face meetings. Please be prepared to spend 8 - 12 hours per week on coursework for this class

IS an ONLINE CLASS FOR YOU?

- First of all, go to the [Online Readiness Resources](#) and take the "self assessment " and review all the resources that were designed to help you understand the basis for an online class and the skills necessary for success. (If the tutorials do **NOT** describe you, then taking this class online is **NOT** for you and I strongly suggest that you drop the online class and enroll in a traditional classroom section.)

Instructor Contact Expectations

The best and fastest way to contact me is Conversations or Inbox in Canvas (basically emails in Canvas). I will generally respond to your messages within 24-48 hours during weekdays only. During busy times of the semester, the response time may increase to 72 hours. On weekends and holidays, I will do my best to get back to you ASAP but I cannot guarantee an expeditious response.

Regular Effective Contact Policy

Regular and Effective Instructor Contact will be met through weekly instructor initiated threaded discussion forums; weekly announcements to students; timely and effective feedback on student assignments; email, phone or messaging to individuals; and virtual office hours.

As this is a fully online course, you must regularly check your college email and Canvas course site (at least 3x/week).

Accommodations

This course is designed using an accessible Learning Management System, and course materials have been created with ADA compliance in mind. If you have a disability and might need accommodations in this class such as extended time on exams or other resources. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible so that you can receive appropriate accommodations in a timely manner. You should also contact [DSPS \(Disabled Student Programs & Services\)](#) at (805) 546-3148.

College & Course Policies

Academic Honesty Policy: Authenticating student identity will be conducted through the use of the Learning Management System, Canvas. Canvas requires each student to log into the program using a secure login and password to access.

You are responsible for submitting your own work. Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated. Engaging in academic dishonesty will result in failure in the course and possibly additional penalties, including expulsion. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the College's Academic Policies (http://www.cuesta.edu/student/aboutacad/acad_policies/).

In addition to my course policy, please note all students attending San Luis Obispo County Community College District at any district site and when representing Cuesta College in any off-campus activity, assume an obligation to conduct themselves in an acceptable manner compatible with the Student Code of conduct. Please review the [Cuesta College Student Code of Conduct](#).

Add / Drop Policy: Students will be dropped from the course if they do not complete assignments due during the first week of class.

In addition to my policy, please review the Cuesta policy for drops

- [Add Policy](#)
- [Drop Policy](#)

Waitlist Policy: Students will be given add codes based on available space in the course and their position on the course waitlist. In addition to my course specific procedures, please review [Cuesta's waitlist procedure and instructions](#).