

School of Social Sciences and Humanities



**WGST 240
MEN AND MASCULINITIES I
FALL 2026
3 Credits**

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Shawkat Shareef	OFFICE HOURS	THURSDAYS 11am-1pm
OFFICE	A2017	CLASSROOM	A2406
E-MAIL	sshareef@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	TUESDAYS 4 PM-6.50 PM
TELEPHONE	867 456 8604	CRN	10094
		DATES	SEP. 1-DEC. 8, 2026
Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What does it mean to be a man? The course sets out to find answers to this question by exploring the social meanings of masculinity. We will examine the creation and negotiation of male identities, in Canada and other countries, in past and contemporary times. From the school yard to the work place, through initiation rites and adult relationships, variations in male experience and behaviors are presented. The framework of readings and multimedia will investigate popular culture, film, fiction, life story, and academic theory. This range of perspectives will illustrate how diverse men “do gender”.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites: WGST 100. ENGL 100 or ENGL 101 strongly recommended.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course aims to provide students with:

- An understanding about the social construction of gender.
- The means to examine ideas about men and male behaviors through a sociological lens
- A framework of major theory which enables students to identify and evaluate the local and global issues men face today
- A range of masculinities literature and media by and about men

COURSE FORMAT

Classes will consist of lectures on and discussions of the texts, readings and films/video clips specified in the course syllabus. However, we will have a fully resourced online Moodle section for this class for unforeseen circumstances. Discussion topics, exams, assignments etc. are discussed in the lectures but may run through the Moodle sometimes. Having said that, this class is based on predetermined timetable for assignments and exams.

EVALUATION

Midterm Exam	25% (October 20, 4-7 pm)
Final Exam	35% (December 10, 4-7 pm)
Assignment 1: Reflexive Commentaries	10% (October 15, by 7 PM)
Assignment 2: Reflexive Commentaries	10% (November 25, by 7 PM)
Research Paper	20% (Due December 5, by 11.59 PM)
Total	100%

ASSESSMENTS

Participation

There are no assigned value for class participation but it is essential to the development of class unity and the learning process for everyone. Discussion forums in the Moodle (not always but sometimes) offer students a forum in which to express ideas and be educated through the ideas of others. We will create together a respectful environment where everyone will feel safe and encouraged to speak. This means that students and instructor must monitor their speech so as not to give more than their fair share.

Students will also write a number of short assignments through practicing reflexive commentaries, demonstrating their understanding of theories about masculinities and the practical implications of those theories in the understanding of patriarchal structures and the male cultures in general.

Written Examinations

There will be two written exams: one midterm and the final exam. While the midterm exam is 25 percent of the total value of the course, the final will be 35 percent. The exams are non-cumulative and will only contain long and short essay questions.

Assignments

There will be two reflexive commentary assignments. The topics for the assignments are self-chosen by the students based on their experience in practice reflexive commentaries. However, the students must run their assignment topic ideas by the professor. Each assignment will weigh 10 percent of the total value of the course.

Research Paper

Students will write one research paper on a self-researched topic about the issues regarding masculinity and patriarchy. The paper topic must be approved by the professor. The paper should be documented and formatted according to APA style and maximum of fifteen (15) pages (excluding the references) using double line spacing and 12 point fonts.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

Men's Lives, Michael S. Kimmel and Michael S. Messner (ed.), 2019. New York: Oxford.

A copy of the text is available in the Yukon University Library reserve.

EXAM FORMATS

All exams, midterm and the final, will use short and long essays. Short questions will be "definitions" based and will require paragraph-long answer. Finally, the long essay topics will be drawn from major ideas/themes from the course readings. All exams are non-cumulative. All exams will use textbook and other materials used in the course.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters. Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit,

using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities:

www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Week 1	COURSE INTRODUCTION AND KNOW-YOUR-SYLLABUS Readings • Part I: Masculinities • Article 1, 2.	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 2	Reading • Part I: Masculinities • Article: 3, 4.	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 3	Reading • Part II: Boyhood • Article: 6, 9.	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 4	Reading • Part III: Men and Work • Article: 11, 12.	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 5 Week 6	Reading • Part III: Men and Work • Article: 13, 14.	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 7	Reading • Part IV: Men and Health: Body and Mind • Article: 15, 16.	Assignment 1: Reflexive Commentary due: October 15

Week 8	Reading - Part V: Men, Sex and Relationships: - Article: 20.	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 8	MIDTERM, OCTOBER 20	Class room
Week 9	Reading - Part VI: Men in Families - Article: 24, 25.	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 10 Week 11	Reading - Part VII: Masculinities in Religion - Article: 27, 29	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 12	Reading - Part VIII: Masculinities in the Media and Popular Culture - Article: 31, 32.	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 13	Reading - Part VIII: Masculinities in the Media and Popular Culture - Article: 33, 34.	Assignment 2: Reflexive Commentary due: November 25
Week 14	Reading - Part IX: Violence and Masculinities - Article: 36, 37.	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 15	Reading: - Part X: Politics of Masculinities - Article: 39, 41.	Research paper due: December 6
Week 16	Final Exam, December 10	Class room