

**Vocabulary** (know these concepts)

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|---|---|
| 1. Hegemonic definition of masculinity  | 10. Sociology of Knowledge                          |
| 2. Emphasized Femininity                | 11. Epistemology                                    |
| 3. Law of excluded middle               | 12. Issues vs. Troubles                             |
| 4. Interplanetary Theory of Gender Dif. | 13. Norm & Normative                                |
| 5. Just-so Stories                      | 14. Institution                                     |
| 6. Deceptive Distinctions               | 15. Power (know the tree levels discussed in class) |
| 7. "Doing Gender"                       | 16. Invisibility of Privilege                       |
| 8. Social Location/Position             | 18. Rituals of Gender                               |

**Kimmel Book****Introduction**

1. What similarities does Kimmel draw between the two schools of thought referred to in the debate "nature" vs. "nurture"?
2. What is Kimmel's main thesis?
  - a. How are gender differences, inequality, and male dominance connected to this thesis?
3. The invisibility of privilege
  - a. How is the invisibility of privilege connected to Kimmel's thesis?
  - b. What does Kimmel mean by "making gender visible"?
4. Define Emphasized Femininity & The Hegemonic Definition of Masculinity
  - a. How do these two types of gender maintain gender privilege?
  - b. How are deceptive distinctions used to make gender privilege invisible?
  - c. How is the "law of excluded middle" used to make gender privilege visible?

**Chapter Two: Biological Perspective**

1. What are the three main areas of focus when explaining gender differences?
2. What is the major focus of sociobiologists?
3. How does sociobiologist Barash explain the existence of rape?
4. What are the three areas of brain research?
5. How does neurobiologist Sapolsky explain that the presence of testosterone is not enough to explain aggression among males?
6. Endocrinology: sex differentiation occurs at which two stages?
7. Hormone studies tend to focus on which two topics?
8. What is Kimmel's primary critique of biological explanations of sex differences?

**Chapter Three: Anthropological Perspective**

1. Based on M. Mead's research, what are the four possible combinations of sex and definitions of gender?
2. How is power, the division of labor, and definitions of gender connected?
  - a. How do Functionalists explain sex-based divisions of labor?
  - b. How does Engels use *materialism* to explain male domination?
    - i. What role does private property play?
3. What factors/conditions improve women's status in a culture?
4. What are the key findings of cross-culture research on female status and male dominance?
5. How are rituals of gender used to create spacial sex segregations
  - a. Why is male circumcision linked to rape?

**Chapter Four: Psychoanalytic and Developmental models**

1. What are the two factors that set Freud's stage theory into motion?
2. What are the four elements of the Self according to Freud?
3. What are Freud's three developmental stages?
4. What are the three issues Kimmel feels are important to note about Freud's account of gender identity and sexuality?

## **Chapter Five: Social Constructionist Perspective**

1. What are the four elements of a social constructionist perspective on gender?
2. What does sociology contribute that social psychology of sex roles cannot?
3. What does Kimmel mean when he says, “to a sociologist, power is not an attitude or a possession; it’s not really a ‘thing’ at all.”
4. Sociology adds which three crucial dimensions to the study of gender?
5. What is the relationship between aging and gender?
6. What is meant by “doing gender”?

## **Articles**

### **The Sociological Imagination: Personal Experiences and Public Issues, C.W. Mills**

1. What does Mills mean by the sociological imagination?
2. What is the difference between issues and troubles
3. What are the three questions great social research must address?

### **Making Sexual History chapters 6 & 8, Jeffery Weeks**

#### Chapter 6

1. What does Weeks believe is "at the heart of the new sexual history?"
2. How does “the new sexual history” embody a constructionist approach?
3. What are the "five broad categories of social relations” which construct, shape and reshape sex and gender relations?

#### Chapter 8

4. What is the source of anxiety associated with the secularization of sexuality?
5. How does the “liberalization of attitudes” toward sexuality change how the topic is addressed in society today?
6. Why does Kimmel believe claims that the family and “traditional morals” are being lost are unfounded?

### **Creating Good Looking Genitalia, Kessler**

1. Why does Kessler focus on the question of how something is measured?
2. Kessler talks about a letter received from an intersexual woman, what was her criticism of Kessler’s article?

### **The Five Sexes, Fausto-Sterling**

1. What do the terms Herm, Ferm and Merm stand for?
2. According to Foucault, what does “Biopower” stand for?
  - a. Why is this term important to Fausto-Sterling’s argument?

### **Becoming Sexual: Difference between Children and Adult Sexuality, Rothbaum...**

1. What are the dimensions that differ between adult and child sexuality?
2. Why did the authors focus on “normal healthy behaviors” rather than those indicative of abuse?
3. What are the behaviors children display that “seem to be sexual?”
4. What are the authors’ suggestions for responding to children’s sexual behaviors?

### **The Social Constructionist’s Essential Guide to Sex, Gordon and Abbott**

1. Define Essentialism
  - a. How is essentialism used to explain orientation?
  - b. How do essentialist theories contribute to the invisibility of privilege?
2. Define “Moral Panic”
  - a. What social, political and economic conditions are reflected in the 1900s moral panic surrounding masturbation?
3. Define Social Construction Theory
  - a. What do the questions asked by a constructionist differ from an essentialist?
  - b. For example, instead of asking about what is “good” or “bad,” what would a constructionist focus on?
4. What are the eight myths associated with Social Construction and Essentialism?