

What does it mean to have a gender or a race? How do the social constructs of gender and race differ, how are they similar to one another, and importantly how do they intersect with one another? Is a world without gender or race possible? If so, what would such a world be like and would it be desirable? Is race, not just gender, the kind of thing that one can change? This course examines questions like these with the ultimate purpose of dissecting and better understanding the social categories of gender and race. Our investigations will take us into debates about (among other topics) the science of gender and race, the nature of sexism and racism, and race, gender, and parenthood. The last of these topics involves the politics of engaging in methods of having children that allow one to choose their sex, gender, or race (e.g., reproductive sex selection), and also of instilling certain gender or racial identities in one's children.