

Social Theory notes – Tuesday, March 21, 2006  
Reader, Gilman, from *Androcentrism*.  
Recorded by Patty Tran

Take the exam sometime after class Thursday (23<sup>rd</sup>) but before class would end on next Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup>. No class on Thursday March 30.  
Next Tuesday's (28<sup>th</sup>) class is an optional review session... no penalty if you miss. Dr. Brush will be in class; bring questions to review.

We exchanged our q-cards with our neighbors and discussed answers to their questions.

Man/masculine—[andro]cracy—rule or leader

- men rule, rule by half the people
- is this idea dated? Not dated... still goes on today (no female President, etc. but women's circumstances have changed since then... didn't even have the right to vote til 1920, didn't really have any power back then)
- perhaps (today) not as much of an androcracy... there was a female British Prime Minister for instance

meritocracy – based on merit, who's best for the job

- could be an androcracy and still be right/best

demos = people—[demo]cracy

- rule by the people

androcentrism – men at center, women on the outside (larger circle outside a smaller circle)

*morbidity excessive sex distinction* – for humans we tend not to talk about what is human in general but what's masculine and feminine

- example of male and female forms for words in Spanish, etc.
- p. 146 first full paragraph: “All our human scheme of things rests on the same tacit assumption; man being held the human type; women a sort of accompaniment and subordinate assistant, merely essential to the making of people.”
- p. 145 bottom right-146 too feminine, not masculine enough → bad

Sandra Bem – lenses of gender (three circles that overlap)

1. androcentrism
2. gender polarization (Gilman – excessive sex distinction)
3. biological essentialism

(comparing Gilman to Marx, Durkheim, Weber... will turn in next class?)

Malign Features of Our Industrial Life

Gilman – mostly dealing with how society is androcentric (male-centered), women not important... conflicts between men and women

- p. 148 2<sup>nd</sup> to last paragraph: “So absolutely interwoven ... absurd...”
- not saying men and women are the same (Mill – men and women same, sounds more like Durkheim than Mill)
- women are sort of alienated [Marx]
- social systems, fairness, etc. [Durkheim]

Marx – subordinate group (bourgeoisie and proletariat), social differentiation

- labor and work important
- unlike Marx because gender not class
- Gilman is an idealist, ideas important and can change things

Durkheim – functionalist, order

Weber –