Submission Details

Grade: 3 / 3

Discussion Board #11

Lladira Rivera submitted Oct 10 at 9:58pm

The submissions for this assignment are posts in the assignment's discussion. Below are the discussion posts for Lladira Rivera, or you can **view the full discussion**.

from **Discussion Board #11** Oct 10, 2025 9:58PM



In *Black Feminist Thought*, Patricia Hill Collins talks about how society uses “controlling images” to define and limit Black women. These images, like the “mammy,” the “welfare queen,” and the “Jezebel,” aren’t just stereotypes—they’re ways that social power keeps inequality in place. The “mammy” image makes Black women seem like they exist only to care for others, ignoring their own needs. The “welfare queen” suggests Black women are lazy or dependent, which justifies neglecting economic and social support. The “Jezebel” stereotype hypersexualizes Black women, leading to discrimination and mistreatment. Collins shows that these images aren’t real traits; they’re socially created and connected to race, gender, and class, shaping how Black women are seen and treated in everyday life. They affect opportunities in jobs, schools, and communities and can even influence how Black women see themselves, creating pressure to fit limited societal expectations. Collins emphasizes the importance of listening to Black women’s voices and valuing their experiences to challenge these harmful ideas. By understanding how these controlling images work, we can better see how power operates in society and work toward creating space for more accurate, respectful representation. Recognizing and questioning these stereotypes is an important step toward equality and empowerment.

I’ve noticed that even today, some of these stereotypes still show up in society. Controlling images in movies, social media, or news stories. How this affects the way people treat Black women today and other race..

Lladira, great overview of controlling images, their logic, and some examples. I absolutely agree with you: these images endure today and might be applicable to other groups like Latinas.

Victor Corona , Oct 13 at 5:57pm

Yes, Professor and thank you..

Lladira Rivera , Oct 13 at 7:31pm

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Submission Details

Grade: 3 / 3

Discussion Board #4

Stacie Cheatham submitted Sep 17 at 7:11pm

from **Discussion Board #4** Sep 17, 2025 7:11PM



This is what I've observed as a kid growing up was a classic example of a traditional gender role, known as functionalism, in my grandparents' home. This setup clearly shows how society's expectations can influence people's behavior. My grandfather, the instrumental leader, handles all the external responsibilities, such as paying bills and maintaining the yard. My grandmother, on the other hand, is the expressive leader. She manages the internal family life, which includes raising us kids, taking care of our schooling, and preparing meals. She even takes on all the extracurricular activities with us. This is a prime example of the traditional division of labor that is often linked to functionalism.

Functionalism and Gender Identity

The gender roles my grandparents have adopted relate directly to the concept of gender identity, which is a person's inner sense of being male, female, or neither. Their roles weren't just about the tasks they performed, they were deeply connected to their sense of self. My grandfather's identity as a man was tied to his role as the financial provider, while my grandmother's identity as a woman was fundamental to her role as the caregiver. This highlights how the values of society and parents are passed down, leading children to adopt a gender identity early on and develop gender-role preferences.

This example also showcases the difference between gender roles, the societal expectations and gender identity, an individual's internal feeling. While my grandparents identities align with their prescribed roles, this isn't always the case for everyone. In their generation, there was a strong expectation that a man's identity was linked to being the breadwinner and a woman's to being a homemaker. Today, there's a lot more fluidity and a better understanding that a person's gender identity doesn't have to be defined by a specific role. My grandparents experience is a snapshot of how a particular social structure can heavily influence and reinforce an individual's sense of self. It's a reality in almost everyone's life that gender roles exist and shape our perceptions, but because they aren't biologically determined, they can differ across generations and even between individuals.

Marvelous discussion here, Stacie. Very strong arguments throughout, and the way you brought in and applied the functionalist approach was excellent. Extremely insightful!

Victor Corona , Sep 18 at 5:17pm

Thank you 😊

Stacie Cheatham , Sep 18 at 8:02pm

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Submission Details

Grade: 3 / 3

Discussion Board #13

Remi Ayodeleelhearns submitted Oct 17 at 9:57pm

from **Discussion Board #13** Oct 17, 2025 9:57PM

In The York Times article, “Why People Ghost — and How to Get Over It” the discussion highlights societies fragility in attempting to conform to the many tedious expectations placed upon our social interactions. While addressing the action of “Ghosting” the author points out that how we react to our engagements with people and experiences has a lot to do with the preconceived notions that shape our everyday perceptions. The author writes, Those with less of a fixed mind-set exhibit fewer feelings of helplessness and express themselves in conflicts with romantic partners.

In light of the textbook we have been reading, it makes sense to me that our reactions to discomfort in our social dynamics has a lot to do with our comfort in the gender roles prescribed to us. Our imbalanced perceptions of what it means to act right or act wrong are unaligned with inner truth. When we feel we have failed to meet the expectations set upon us we can either react with extremes or fully disengage from what we feel is challenging our role.

One example I could imagine would lead to avoidance or “Ghosting” is maybe a man might not find it masculine to be vulnerable and communicate feelings of fear, insecurity, or unease. So instead of opening up about his needs and desires in a relationship he might avoid the entanglement in totality. On the other hand it may be engrained in many cultures that women should fear a very historical backlash when setting boundaries, or exhibiting full autonomy, decisiveness, or resistance.

Both gendered roles fearing the possibility of being considered stereotypical or demeaned for their emotional choice. Heavily enforced social expectations of a heterosexual relationship and the roles assumed by man or woman can strain any natural relationship. Fostering quickness to disregard any person that doesn’t fit the mold that society sets on our genders. Often leaving no room for women and men to create their own authentic dynamics.

Excellent appraisal of the ghosting debate here, Niamaya. You highlighted themes around "fragility," "social expectations," and the salience of gender roles, which are exactly the ideas I was hoping that students would develop while reading the article.

Victor Corona , Oct 19 at 12:54pm

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Submission Details

Grade: 3 / 3

Discussion Board #3

Malik Barron submitted Sep 10 at 1:42pm



Select one of the three theories we reviewed earlier. What would a theorist from that perspective say about the diversity of gender roles discussed in chapter 2?

I select Feminist Theory. A theorist standing on this perspective would argue that the varied gender roles discussed in Chapter 2 result from socio-cultural influences rather than biological differences. In other words, gender roles are taught, not inborn. A Feminist theorist would note that the society teaches its people which behaviors, attitudes, and responsibilities are acceptable for men and women. Such gender specific roles get taught and enforced through various channels, starting right at the family level. Schooling, religious teachings, media channels and such other institutions are also used to teach and enforce gender roles. However, such gender roles may evolve over time and are not universal across all cultures.

A feminist theorist would also point out that people get to experience gender roles differently, depending on various aspects such as their race and social class. This is evident in the way gender roles and expectations on how women are supposed to behave differs in a big way from one culture to another. As well, even within a similar culture, people from different social classes may get to experience gender roles differently. Those from a high social class may be to some extend cushioned by their class from some harsh realities of some gender roles.

A Feminist theorist would also question the rational of embracing rigid gender norms, and instead advocate for a society where individuals do not live their lives confined / limited by societal expectations based on gender.

A feminist theorist would most likely look at the diversity of gender roles as a testament that gender is a social construct, influenced by various social factors. A feminist theorist would invest time in trying to understand how this diversity can help reveal and expose the inequalities therein. A feminist theorist would focus on trying to promote a more inclusive society where people are free to define their own identities and roles.

Excellent theorizing here, Malik! I like how you also brought in elements of race and class, which definitely emphasizes an intersectional approach to gender. Keep up the good work!

Victor Corona , Sep 15 at 5:25pm

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Submission Details

Grade: 3 / 3

Discussion Board #5

Michael Lavergne submitted Sep 15 at 3:42am

from **Discussion Board #5** Sep 15, 2025 3:42AM



What is **hegemonic masculinity**? Please define it and give one example of it that you have observed.

Hegemonic masculinity is a sociological concept referring to the dominant and most valued form of masculinity in a given society. According to Hopkins and Giazitzoglu (2025), hegemonic is not an accurate reflection of the actual behavior of most men but rather an idealized standard that all men are encouraged to aspire to. This form of masculinity is defined by traits such as stoicism, aggression, heterosexuality, and a rejection of femininity. It establishes a hierarchy among masculinities, positioning it as the norm against which other forms of masculinity (and femininity) are measured and often subordinated. Hegemonic masculinity is maintained and reproduced through social institutions, media, and everyday interactions.

One example of hegemonic masculinity I have observed is the tough guy persona often celebrated in action movies and sports culture. In many blockbuster films, the male protagonist is depicted as emotionally distant, physically powerful, and independent. He rarely shows vulnerability or asks for help, preferring to solve problems through force and aggression. This archetype reinforces the idea that true masculinity is about dominance and emotional suppression. We see this in professional sports as well, where male athletes are often praised for playing through injuries and showing no signs of pain, a clear demonstration of the toughness expected by hegemonic standards. This behavior is held up as a model for young men to emulate, perpetuating the belief that showing emotion or weakness is unmanly.

References

Hopkins, P., & Giazitzoglu, A. (2025). Hegemonic masculinity: new spaces, practices, and relations. *Progress in Human Geography*, *49*(1), 84-98.

Good work here, Michael. Popular culture and professional sports offer excellent contexts for thinking about how hegemonic masculinity plays out, especially when it comes to how young people are socialized.

Victor Corona , Sep 20 at 7:39pm

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Submission Details

Grade: 3 / 3

Discussion Board #7

Alexis Buch submitted Sep 25 at 4:09pm

from **Discussion Board #7** Sep 25, 2025 4:09PM



Despite progress toward gender equality in the US disparities continue to exist in multiple areas. One major example is the gender pay gap. Women often earn less than men for similar work, and this disparity can be even greater for women of color. Factors contributing to this include differences in occupational choices, time taken off for caregiving, and discrimination in hiring. Even when women have the same qualifications as men, they frequently face obstacles to earning equal pay.

Another area where gender inequality persists is representation in leadership and politics. Women are still underrepresented in government, business, and other positions of power. This lack of representation limits women's influence over decisions and policies that affect their lives, including workplace protections, family leave, and access to leadership opportunities.

A third way gender inequality shows up is through unequal expectations around caregiving and domestic work. Women continue to take on the majority of unpaid household chores and childcare, even when both partners are working full-time. This imbalance can affect women's career growth, financial stability, and overall well-being. Cultural and social norms about what is considered "appropriate" for men and women continue to shape these patterns. Changing these norms is essential to allow men and women to share domestic responsibilities more equally and to create a society where women's professional contributions are valued equally.

Overall, gender inequality in the US persists through pay disparities, underrepresentation in leadership, and disproportionate domestic responsibilities. Addressing these issues requires both policy changes, such as workplace protections and shifts in societal attitudes that challenge traditional gender roles. While progress has been made, there is still work to be done to achieve true equality between men and women, and continued awareness and action is needed.

Very powerful and compelling insights here, Alexis. You touched on three key areas of enduring inequality in this country. This was well written and nicely structured in flowing paragraphs. I do enjoy reading your submissions so keep up the good work!

Victor Corona , Sep 27 at 11:16am

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