Contents

1	Introduction to the Sociology of Gender	1
	Chapter Objectives	1
	Introduction	2
	Sociological Vantage Points	3
	A Brief History of the Sociological Study of Gender	5
	Defining Gender	8
	Three Frameworks for Understanding Gender	16
	Gender Matters	18
	Who is to Blame? Understanding Gender Inequality	19
	Chapter Summary	20
	Further Reading	21
	Key Terms	21
	Critical Thinking Questions	21
PA	ART I: CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES	23
2	The Gendered Person	25
	Chapter Objectives	25
	Sex Differences in Traits, Abilities,	
	or Behavioral Dispositions	27
	-	

	The Origins of Sex Differences	31
	Environmental Explanations of Sex Differences:	
	Becoming Gendered	36
	Sex Differences and Social Policy: The Case of	
	Mathematics Aptitude	50
	Sex Differences and Gender Inequality	54
	Chapter Summary	56
	Further Reading	57
	Key Terms	57
	Critical Thinking Questions	58
3	Gender in Interaction and Institutions	59
	Chapter Objectives	59
	Interactionist Views of Gender	60
	Gendered Organizations/Gendered Institutions	86
	Toward a Multilayered Conception of Gender	92
	Chapter Summary	92
	Further Reading	93
	Key Terms	93
	Critical Thinking Questions	94
PA	ART II: GENDER IN CONTEXT	95
4	Work and Family as Gendered Institutions	97
	Chapter Objectives	97
	The Division of Labor	98
	Work, Family, and Gender in the Industrial Age	100
	A Half-Century of Gender Change: Work, Education,	
	and Gender Egalitarian Beliefs	105
	Changes in Gender, Family, and Caregiving	112
	Gender, Work, and Family: The Roles of Social Policy	
	and the State	122
	Gender, Work, and Family in the Twenty-First Century:	
	Looking Ahead	126
	Chapter Summary	130
	Further Reading	132
	Key Terms	132

	Critical Thinking Questions	132
5	Gender, Childhood, and Family Life	135
	Chapter Objectives	135
	Parents' Preferences for Children's Sex	136
	"Is it a Boy or a Girl?": Gender Construction in Families	137
	Childhood and the Importance of Same-Gender Peers	154
	Gender Socialization in Childhood Reconsidered	158
	The Household Division of Labor and the Family	159
	Explaining Women's and Men's Involvement in	
	Household Work and Childcare	165
	Lesbian and Gay Families Rewriting Family Life	174
	Marriage, Families, and Their Consequences for Women	
	and Men	175
	Chapter Summary	185
	Further Reading	187
	Key Terms	187
	Critical Thinking Questions	188
6	Gendered Jobs and Gendered Workers	189
	Chapter Objectives	189
	Sex Segregation and the Division of Labor in Paid Work	190
	Explaining Sex Segregation	198
	Gender Typing of Jobs, Hierarchies, and	
	Workplace Expectations	203
	The Gender Pay Gap	213
	Explaining the Gender Pay Gap	217
	Chapter Summary	220
	Further Reading	221
	Key Terms	222
	Critical Thinking Questions	222
PA	ART III: EPILOGUE	223
7	Deconstructing Gender Differences and Inequalities	225
	Chapter Objectives	225
	Gender Distinctions and Gender Inequalities	227

The Reproduction of Gender Inequality	229
Challenging Gender Inequality	236
Making Gender Matter Less	240
Chapter Summary	241
Further Reading	242
Key Terms	242
Critical Thinking Questions	243
References	245
Index	265