1. In class this week we look at Gender & Sexuality and interpreted how gender is social constructed by the expectations associated with being a boy or a girl are passed on throughout society. This unit also looks at how gender is influenced by modern technology, parents, peers, the media, schools, and religious organizations. This relates to the 3rd course specific outcome, “Demonstrate knowledge of the core concepts within sociology.” During class this week we were able to analyze the effects of gender and sexuality with participating in poll everywhere questions and looking at pay gaps between males and female in the same career field. This activity further emphasized that gender is social constructed through an array of social, political, economic, and cultural experience in each society. Lastly, in class this week we did a word bubble and students inputted five words in that they associate with masculinity or femininity.

1. This week we discussed how Gender & Sexuality has associated men with being natural leaders in societal institutions including family, politics, business, and religion. Whereas, Women are best suited for housework, taking care of children including being nurses, teachers, and secretaries. This relates to the 2nd course learning objective, “Explain how sociologists work and what sociologists do.” This unit related to this learning outcome because we analyzed Gender and Sexuality for different sociological perspectives such as: Structural Functionalist Perspectives, Conflict Perspective, Symbolic Interactionist Perspective, and social structure perspective as stated in Chapter eight of Sociology in Action. Structural Functionalist believe that women and men are essentially different and complementary. The Conflict Perspective is a macro-level approach that examines gender through seven institutions: family, religion, economy, education, government, health care, and media. The Conflict perspective also looks at the unequal distribution of resources between genders, the roles/responsibilities assigned to each gender, and the messages these roles/responsibilities convey about men and women. Symbolic Interactionist perspective focuses on the lesion we learn as children and how these lessons are defined/interpreted throughout our lives. The social structure perspective emphasis that gender is not just taught to us as children but retaught to us through our interactions with others. Chapter eight relates to the 2nd learning objective because it fully explains how sociologist work to understand and interpret how gender is a social construct.
2. I am still thinking a lot about how gender is socialized before we are even born. I never consider that from the moment we are born gender is taught to us from movies, my peers, or parents. I found the ugly duckling story interesting as it relates to gender & sexuality. That the ducking is a male that overcomes obstacles to be a swan. This was interesting to me because I did not even realize that majority of characters in children’s books are male and this gives us the notion that males are more important that females. Whereas, females are just portrayed as being beautiful and being rewarded for their beauty. Also, it was very interesting to see how much the wage gap was for potential career paths and see how much more men are paid on the dollar to women.