SOC 557: GENDER AND LABOR MARKETS  
Spring 2007

PROFESSOR:
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Social Sciences 433  
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Wednesday 2:00-4:30
Social Sciences 415  
Office hours: Fri. 1:30-3:00 ABA

Course Description
This course surveys the body of theoretical and empirical research on gender and labor markets in sociology. This course will consider historical trends and current patterns of labor market participation and competing theories of gender inequality and sex-segregation. Work is analyzed as a “gendered” institution: one in which the design, perception, and compensation of jobs encompass assumptions about the gender division of labor. Race and class differences intersect with gender to further stratify the labor market. We will also explore changes in employment legislation and welfare policies accompanying women’s changing labor force participation, the feminization of poverty, work-family conflict, and the gender implications of globalization.

You will be reading work that defines the contemporary field and, by semester’s end, you will have some solid theoretical and analytical tools for studying gender and labor markets. Many of the readings for the course have been drawn from the Gender comprehensive exam reading list, and will help students to prepare for exams in this area. Students are expected to always come to class prepared to participate in a discussion of the readings.

Non-Sociology Graduate Students: You must have permission from the instructor to take this course. Please contact me for a face-to-face meeting before the 2nd class.

Requirements
(1) Submit two discussion questions each week. These questions can address conceptual ambiguities in the readings, interesting similarities or differences across readings, or the relevance of readings for other research. Questions are due by email by 2pm on Tuesday. These questions will be an important part of the agenda for each class meeting; come prepared to explain your question, why it is worth asking, and how you have begun to think of an answer. Discussion questions will be part of your class participation grade. You may also submit clarification questions with your discussion question.

(2) Each student will lead one week’s discussion with an analysis of one of the week’s readings.

(3) Two 4-6 pages conceptual papers, due in weeks 5 and 9.
(4) Final project, due during exam period. You have three choices:

1. You may write a proposal in which you design a research study that you could execute in the future, possibly as a Masters paper or dissertation proposal. After choosing a topic, you will need to find a data source or design a data collection procedure. You may find a statistical source in the statistical resources available through SBSRI, or your question may require some type of data collection. Regardless of which methodology you use, the data should fit the question that you pose and you should describe the data or data collection thoroughly. Also be sure to explain thoroughly how you will analyze the data.

2. You may use a research proposal that you have designed for another class that is related to gender and labor markets, and use the semester to refine the topic, sharpen its gender focus, execute the research and write it up as an empirical paper. Students working on a related MA topic may submit a draft of their MA paper as their final paper.

3. You may substantially revise a paper that you have written in another class in order to submit it for publication. The original paper must be related to gender and labor markets, or you may add a related dimension if this will strengthen the central argument of the paper. You may also introduce an empirical data analysis to a paper that was formerly only a literature review. If you choose this option, you should have a paper suitable for journal submission by the end of the semester.

Choosing one of the second two options means that you will be writing a paper that analyzes empirical data.

A 1-2 page description of your intentions for the final assignment and the data source you plan to use or how you will collect data will be due in Week 3. The final proposal or paper is due on the last Wednesday of the exam period. The last two class sessions will be devoted to assisting each other with your proposals or papers.

**Grade**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Two 4-6 page conceptual papers (15% each)</td>
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<td>15%</td>
<td>Class participation (includes submitted questions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Description of final project</td>
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<td>50%</td>
<td>Final project</td>
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Books


All articles and other book excerpts will be available in scanned .pdf form or through electronic reserves at [http://eres.library.arizona.edu](http://eres.library.arizona.edu). The password is *inequality*. 
COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Introduction

WEEK 2: Supply-Side Theories for Inequality in Paid Work


WEEK 3: Demand-Side Theories for Inequality in Paid Work


Description of final project research question and data due

WEEK 4: Occupational Segregation


WEEK 5: Gendered Organizations
*Gender and Society*, 4(2): 139-158.


**Conceptual paper #1 due**

WEEK 6: Female-dominated Occupations


**WEEK 7: Male-dominated Occupations**


WEEK 8: Domestic Labor and Childcare


WEEK 9: Gender and Work-Family Issues


Conceptual paper #2 due

WEEK 10: Work-family Policies


**WEEK 11: The Feminization of Poverty and Welfare**


**WEEK 12: Gender, Labor, and the State**


**WEEK 13 Gender and the Global Economy**


WEEK 14: WORKSHOP RESEARCH PROJECTS

WEEK 15: WORKSHOP RESEARCH PROJECTS

Final Project due Wednesday, May 9 at noon.