Course Description

In this course, we explore men’s and women’s roles as productive and reproductive laborers, historically and contemporarily. Our goal is to understand the dynamisms – i.e., the creation, reinforcement and challenge – of gender (in)equality in and outside of the home. The salience of other “axes of difference” (e.g., class, race, ethnicity) are also considered as critical factors in shaping the variable work experiences of men and women. Towards these ends, we will examine a wide array of empirical material and theoretical debates with a focus principally upon North American societies regarding: domestic labor; emotional labor; the relationship(s) between gender, organizations and bureaucracy; sexual harassment; gender-based segregation and stratification; and finally, work-family policy.

Course Materials

- Coursepack

The coursepack (prepared by Eastman Systems, Inc.) is available at the McGill University bookstore. A copy of the coursepack is also on reserve in the McLennan-Redpath library.

Additionally, I will be utilizing WebCT Vista to make available handouts, exam review sheets, etc…, so please check the course site on a regular basis.

Course Organization and Requirements

Class format: Lectures not only cover material from the readings, but also material which is not in the readings. So, while attendance is not mandatory, it is in your interest to attend lecture. Additionally, in order to be best prepared, you should do the readings as scheduled (see the “course schedule” below). This will enable you to better follow my lectures and to most effectively synthesize lecture and reading materials.

CONFERENCES: On Fridays conferences will be held. No sign up is necessary. You must attend six conferences in order to receive credit (i.e., 5% of your final grade). Should you attend any less than six you will receive no credit.

Note: On the Friday following the midterm, no conference will be held. Also, on Friday, April 10th no conference will be held due to the Easter holiday; however, a substitute conference will be held on Tuesday, April 14th.

Reading: These are the kinds of questions you should be thinking about as you are doing your reading for this course in order to best mentally process the materials:

1. What point or argument is the author trying to make?
2. How does the author go about supporting his/her argument? What kind of evidence is s/he relying on? What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of his/her argument and/or research?
3. What are the implications of the author’s argument(s) and/or findings? Are there questions that you think the author fails to ask that might otherwise enrich his/her work?

Course Requirements:

Midterm Exam = 25% (on Wednesday, February 18th)
Conference Attendance = 5%
Final Exam = 30% (to be scheduled during the final exam period)
Research Paper = 40% (due Wednesday, April 1st)

Note: If you have a disability and require any special accommodations, please let me know.

Exams

I consider all materials in this course including readings, lectures, videos, and any class discussion to be “fair game” for the exams.

Note: The Midterm exam CANNOT be made up except in instances of a doctor-verified illness, family emergency/death or natural disaster. Also, according to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the Calendar, section 4.7.2.1, General University Information and Regulations at www.mcgill.ca.

Research Paper

You are required to write an ~10 page (double-spaced) research paper on a topic of your choosing pertaining to gender and work in North America. You are required to submit a ~1½ pages (double-spaced) paper proposal. This proposal should include:

- a statement of your proposed topic/issue as a brief statement or question
- an explanation as to why you think this topic/issue is sociologically salient
- a brief but balanced list of the readings you anticipate using

Note: the paper MUST include at least 2 citations from the assigned course readings.

Late Paper Submission Policy: For each day that a paper is late, the paper grade will be lowered by half a grade (e.g., if your initial grade is a B- and you submit the paper a day late, your final grade will be a C+).

General Academic Policies

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

Course Schedule

* = helpful to read first in a given section

SECTION I: MAKING DISTINCTIONS: UNDERSTANDING SEX AND GENDER

January 5 and 7

January 12

In-Class Video Showing: “Her Brilliant Career” (50 minutes)

NO READINGS ASSIGNED

SECTION II: CHANGING ROLES, THE CHANGING ECONOMY: GENDER AND WORK IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

January 14 and 19

In-Class Video Clips Showing: Women in the Workforce Classics


SECTION III: REPRODUCTIVE LABOR

January 21, 26 and 28


February 2

In-Class Video Showing: “Chain of Love” (50 minutes)


SECTION IV: EMOTIONAL LABOR

February 4


SECTION V: GENDER AT/IN ORGANIZATIONS

February 9, 11 and 16


**February 18**
**MIDTERM EXAM** (in class)

**FEBRUARY 23-27 STUDY BREAK**

**SECTION VI: SEXUAL HARASSMENT (AND SEXUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE)**

**March 2 and 4**

**SECTION VII: AN OPT-OUT REVOLUTION?**

**March 9 and 11**

**SECTION VIII: GENDER-BASED SEGREGATION**

**March 16, 18 and 23**
**In-Class Video Showing: “Iron Ladies” (30 minutes)**

**SECTION IX: GENDER-BASED STRATIFICATION (ADVANCEMENT, NEGOTIATION AND EVALUATION)**

**March 25 and 30, and April 1 (Research Paper due Wednesday, April 1st)**

SECTION X: WORK-FAMILY POLICY

April 6 and 8

April 13
EASTER HOLIDAY – NO CLASS