Description:

This course surveys research and theory in the growing area of work and family. A decade ago these realms of human activity were treated as “separate spheres,” in which the individual was supposed to maintain a sharp distinction between their responsibilities to their employers and loved ones. The past decade has witnessed increased research on how each institution affects the other. We will survey that research with the aim of discovering what we know, what we don’t know, and what we need to find out through systematic research.

Readings:

The majority of readings will be drawn from published research articles. Occasionally, I will supplement these articles with readings from the Internet. I will create a readings packet for you at DuBois bookstore. The packet should be ready in time for the fourth meeting of the course.

Course Format:

Since this course is a seminar, students are expected to read all of the material and be prepared to discuss it at the time of the assigned meeting. I assigned only 3-4 articles per class session. This should allow you the opportunity to reread if necessary. In addition, if students have an article they would like to add to the reading list, the calendar allows for that. At each class session, a student will be responsible for leading a discussion on a block of material. Here you will take an article or two, summarize them for the class, and offer some questions for class discussion. I will talk more about the presentations at our first meeting.

Evaluation:

I will evaluate you on your communication skills. Your participation in class sessions and your presentations will account for half of your grade. The other half will come from either a paper or from the final exam. If you elect to take a final exam, you will answer two "comp-type" questions during the final exam period (closed book). Students who elect to take the final are limited to earning a grade of no higher than B in the course. Students can try for an A by forgoing the final exam and writing an original paper of publishable quality. If you elect to write a paper, I will ask you for a prospectus and a central bibliography in week 7 or 8 of the course. I discourage people from taking an incomplete, but will allow it if you are working on a paper.
Course Calendar:

Week 1 (Jan 5) - Introduction to the Course/Getting Organized

Week 2 (Jan 12) – Trends in female labor force participation, family, and work

  Kemp, 1998, “Women's labor force participation in the Twentieth Century”

Week 3 (Jan 19) – Class Cancelled


Week 4 (Jan 26) -- Gender differences in work orientations

  Ireson and Gill, 1992, "Girls socialization for work"
  Reading from Handbook of gender
  Desai and Waite, 1991, "Women's employment during pregnancy and after the first birth," ASR

Week 5 (Feb 2) –Gender differences in economic rewards

  Reading from Handbook of gender
  Marsden, Kalleberg, and Cook, 1993, “Gender differences in organizational commitment” Work and Occupations

Week 6 (Feb 9) – Dual-earner families and the Time Bind

  Compilation of reviews collected on Jan 19.
  Hochschild, 1997, "Family values and reversed worlds." Chapter 4 of The Time Bind.
  Maume and Bellas, 1999, "The 'Overworked American' or 'The Time Bind'? Assessing competing explanations for time spent in paid labor. American Behavioral Scientist
  Estes and Glass, 1996, “Job changes following childbirth” Work and Occupations
Week 7 (Feb 16) – The division of household labor

Daniels, 1987, "Invisible work," Social Problems
Presser, 1994, “Employment schedules among dual-earner spouses and the division of household labor” ASR
Maume and Mullin, 1993, “Men’s participation in child care and women’s work attachment” Social Problems

Week 8 (Feb 23) – Work and Heath

Pavalko and Smith, 1999, "The rhythms of work" Social Forces
Wharton and Ericson, 1995, "The consequences of caring" Sociological Quarterly

Week 9 (Mar 1) – Parent’s jobs and children’s lives

Parcel, Nickoll, and Dufur, 1996, “The effects of parental work and maternal nonemployment on children’s reading and math achievement” Work and Occupations
Parcel and Menaghan, 1994, “Early parental work, family social capital, and early childhood outcomes” Work and Occupations

Week 10 (Mar 8) – “Family-friendly” organizations

Fried, 1999, Taking Time: Parental Leave and Corporate Culture
Glass and Fujimoto, 1995, “Employer characteristics and the provision of family-responsive policies” Work and Occupations
Galinsky and Stein, “Impact of human resource policies” Journal of Family Issues