

Working Women in American Society 37:575:309:80  
Fall - 2012  
Monday, 9:15 AM – 11:55 AM  
Western Monmouth  
DRAFT

Instructor: Dianne Mills McKay, Chair  
Council on Gender Parity in Labor and Education  
Course Number: 37:575:309

Phone: 609-261-0255  
Fax: 609-267-1888  
Email: damckay@rci.rutgers.edu

Course Description:

This course examines the experience of American women and work both in the paid workforce and in the home. We will explore how the socialization of girls effects their future employment as women. The role of popular culture, especially media and advertising images, will be examined for the ways in which it perpetuates gender stereotypes. Students will develop an understanding of the current status of women in the workplace and the gender barriers that continue to impede them from reaching full equality. We will discuss issues of work and family and the efforts women make to seek balance in their daily lives. Finally, we will address women's efforts to crack the glass ceiling and raise themselves off the sticky floor of low wages and poverty.

Course Readings:

Crittenden, Ann. The Price of Motherhood: Why the Most Important Job in the World is Still the least Valued, (2010-Picador Ed.)

Dubeck, Paula J. and Dana Dunn. Workplace/Women's Place: An Anthology, 3rd Ed. (2006: Roxbury Publishing Company)

Ehrenreich, Barbara. Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America, (2001: Metropolitan Books) Afterword (2008)

Additional Readings:

"A Fabulous Child's Story", Lois Gould  
Pearce, Diana. New Jersey Self-Sufficiency Standard-2012

Additional readings may be assigned. The course schedule may be altered at the discretion of the instructor.

### Attendance and Assignments:

Regular attendance is necessary to successfully complete this course. Assignments are due on the dates scheduled in the syllabus. If you cannot complete an assignment on time please see the instructor prior to the scheduled due date for any special consideration. Office hours are available on appointment.

If you have any special needs as a student please speak to the instructor before the second week of class.

All cell phones, pagers and electronic devices must be turned off prior to class. Please make every effort to arrive on time to class and to stay until the class is dismissed.

### Evaluation:

#### Three Generations of Women and Work in Your Family

This paper will include interviews with your grandmothers, mother and yourself. Your inquiry should include childhood dreams and goals for the future, educational opportunities, roles of men and women, work experience (at home and/or in the office) and messages of encouragement or discouragement from others. Ask your foremothers about changes that they have seen in the roles of women during their lifetime. Include your personal education, career and family goals and what advantages or disadvantages your gender may play in their achievement. If you cannot interview your grandmothers or mother, you may select other women from the same age cohort. 4-6 pages

Paper due 9/24 15%

#### Gender Stereotypes in Advertising

Analysis of four advertisements: Two which depict men and women in the workplace and two depicting traditional stereotyped roles for men and women in our society. Elements of the paper will be further explained in class.

3-5 pages

Paper due 10/20 15%

Group Report on the problem of balancing work and family using the The Price of Motherhood. A worksheet will be provided for individuals and to facilitate group discussion.

Groups will present their findings orally to the class.

In class 10/13 10%

#### Nickel and Dimed: Reactions and Analysis

Utilizing Barbara Ehrenreich's study questions as a guideline write a paper on your response to the book which incorporates your readings, class discussion, personal reactions and experience. Please include the economic and social consequences of your suggestions as to how America's women can avoid being nickel and dimed.

Paper due 12/01

20%

### Midterm and Final Exams

The exams will include terminology and material from class discussion and readings. The format will largely be short essays. The midterm exam covers material from the first half of the class and the final exam covers material from the second half of the class. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade.

40%

### Course Schedule

9/10	Introduction to Working Women in American Society “Who Am I: exercise View “There’s No Such Thing as Women’s Work” Assign Three Generations of Women paper due 9/24	Read Dubeck pp.1-12 Sakai- “A Fabulous Child’s Story”
9/17	Discuss “A Fabulous Child’s Story” Early gender socialization Extra Credit in-class assignment	
9/24	Gender Culture and Socialization From Mother Goddess to Second Class Status View “Gender Wars”	Read Dubeck pp.15-52
10/1	Socialization in Schools Dateline tapes “Hostile Hallways”, Sexual Harassment in Schools Discussion of Three Generations Paper	Read Dubeck pp.110- 118 272-283
10/8	Workplace Inequality –Sex Segregation and Earnings Differences Understanding Pay Equity	Read Dubeck pp.53- 87
10/15	Gendered Structures and their Consequences Gender Stereotypes in Advertising and the Media View “Gender Guise” View “Killing Us Softly” Assign ad analysis paper due 10/29	
10/22	The Glass Ceiling Barriers to Advancement	Read Dubeck pp.88-109

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- 10/29 The Gender Gap in the 2012 Election Read Dubeck Unit 3  
 Guest speaker invited.  
 Review for Midterm
- 11/05 Midterm Read  
 Dubeck 324-349
- 11/12 Seeking a Balance Between Work and Family Read Dubeck 309-323  
 First Second and Third Shifts 351-364  
 Assign Nickel and Dime paper due 4/21
- 11/10 Group Reports in class on The Price of Motherhood
- 11/19 Discussion of “Tipped Over the Edge”  
 Read Dubeck Unit 4.  
 Read Gatta-Digiclass
- 11/26 NJ Family Leave Act and the FMLA  
 Guest speaker Karen White  
 Women in Management and the Professions Read Dubeck pp.340  
 -350
- 12/3 Nickel and Dime paper due  
 Discussion of paper findings  
 Review for final
- 12/10 Is there a War on Women, if so- How should we fight?  
 Review for final exam



