Rutgers University  
School of Management and Labor Relations

Women and Work  
Labor Studies 38:578:541:90  
Spring 2024

Professor Yana Rodgers  
Office Hours: Zoom by appt.  
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Course Information
This graduate-level course examines issues related to women’s paid and unpaid work in a global context. Students will analyze the role of government policy, institutions, and social movements in raising women's wages, promoting equal opportunity, fighting discrimination in the workplace, and improving working conditions. We will also examine issues related to women’s work that does not pass through the market as women continue to perform most of the unpaid work caring for children and the elderly. Economic, political, and social aspects of women’s working lives will gain our attention, as we examine a host of important issues ranging from the work-family balance, the glass ceiling, sexual harassment, sexual orientation, women in developing countries, and the relationship between women’s reproductive health and economic empowerment.

Learning Objectives
This course meets SMLR learning objective IV: Theoretical Perspectives – Demonstrate an understanding of relevant theories and apply them given the background context of a particular work situation. It also meets learning objective V: Understanding Context – Evaluate the context of workplace issues, public policies, and management decisions. Differential treatment of employees by gender is a major contextual issue for labor and employment relations. This course explores that problem using theoretical frameworks related to labor supply and demand, the economics of discrimination, occupational stratification, and theories of women and work.

Course Requirements
Evaluation: Grades are determined by online discussion of weekly readings (40%), an occupational segregation problem set (15%), an interview project (15%), and a final course project (30%).

1. Discussion of weekly readings (40%)
The online discussion of weekly readings is worth a total of 400 points. Discussion of the week #1 readings is 10 points, and discussion of the readings in the remaining 13 weeks is 30 points for each week (10+13*30=400 points). The format and instructions for discussing the readings are discussed in a separate file.

2. Occupational data assignment (15%)
This assignment is worth 150 points. Your occupational segregation assignment is central to the goal of this course; it requires you to collect data about an occupation. It is due by the end of week 5.

3. Interview project (15%)
This assignment is worth 150 points. This project requires that you conduct an interview with a paid employee who has children to critically analyze the tradeoffs between paid and unpaid work. It is due by the end of week 11.

4. Final Course Project (30%)
The final course project is worth 300 points. Students will prepare a policy brief containing a recommendation for a policy reform they think that President Biden should push to legislation. The specific topic is up to each student and should be approved by the professor through email by the end of week 12. The brief should contain two components: (1) A 5-page double spaced written report explaining the background and the need for policy reform, including at least 2 charts with supporting data; and (2) A PowerPoint presentation with 10-12 slides summarizing the key points in the report and in the data. Students will be graded on both content and style. The completed course project must be turned in during week 14, by the last day of Rutgers classes.

Your writing for all assignments will be assessed on the content of your arguments, your use of assigned materials, and how effectively you express your ideas in writing. For each week late, the grade on the paper will be lowered by one letter grade. I will not give extra credit in this course.

**Grading Scale**
This is a points-based course. The final grade is based on a 1000 point system. Total points accumulated determines final course grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>1000 – 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>899 – 870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>869 – 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>799 – 770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>699 – 670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Below 600</td>
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</tbody>
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**Class Sessions**
The course delivery mode is remote asynchronous; meaning that the learning activities take place online (virtually) and students will access the course material on their own timing according to the following guidelines. Each course week begins on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am and ends the following week Monday, 11:59pm

* A weekly message will be published and a notification sent that the message is available in a student’s inbox by 10:00am Tuesdays. Information about content and assignment procedure is available in the weekly message, and students will also be directed to a presentation within the course.

* Each week is 7 days in length. Students may enter the course and engage in coursework at any time 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Student Resources**

*Academic Integrity*
You will be held to the Rutgers Policy on Academic Integrity, which can be found online at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism or related topics, just ask. Cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, or plagiarism will be reported. Depending on the individual case, you might fail the assignment or the class, be required to take an ethics seminar, be placed on disciplinary probation, or be suspended from Rutgers for a semester or more.

Disability Services
(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / https://ods.rutgers.edu/

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

We are utilizing the Canvas learning management system to access learning materials, discuss the readings, post announcements, submit assignments, communicate via the Inbox feature, and view grades. Be sure to check this site frequently as there will be announcements and instructions. Checking your Rutgers email account frequently is also highly recommended.

Schedule of Readings and Assignment Due Dates

Week 1 – Introduction to Women and Work: Can Women Have it All?

* Readings:


Week 2 – The Gender Wage Gap

* Readings:


**Week 3 – Theorizing Gender at Work**

*Readings:*


**Week 4 – COVID-19 and Women’s Work**

*Readings:*


**Week 5 – Gender Bias**

*Readings:*


*Occupational data assignment due

**Week 6 – The Intersection of Gender and Race at Work**

*Readings:*


**Week 7 – Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policies**

* Readings:


**Week 8 – Gender in the Gig Economy**

* Readings:


**Week 9 – Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation at Work**

* Readings:


**Week 10 – Labor Standards and Corporate Social Responsibility**
Week 1 – Women in High-Level Positions

* Readings:


Week 11 – Women in High-Level Positions

* Readings:

   Sheryl Sandberg, chapter 1 from *Lean In*; and commentary by bell hooks, in Feminist Wire, [http://www.thefeministwire.com/2013/10/17973/](http://www.thefeministwire.com/2013/10/17973/)


* Interview Projects Due

Week 12 – Women in STEM

* Readings:


* Due date: Email professor with topic of final course project for approval

Week 13 – Paid Care Workers

* Readings:


**Week 14 – Women’s Reproductive Health and Economic Empowerment**

* Readings:


* Final Course Project due