

Working Women in American Society
Summer 2017 37:575:309:T1

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Course Description

This course will focus on the contemporary experience of working women in American society, including an exploration of current legal strategies and social policies. The course will begin with an examination of the history of working women in the United States, through the current status of working women in today's society. Following this, we will examine current issues and reforms affecting working women including aspects such as wages, sex segregation and tokenism, sexual harassment, gendered roles, race & ethnicity, and collective action. We will explore the role of working women, as portrayed by the media. We will then look ahead to the future of working women in American society.

Course Competencies

This course incorporates the following SAS Core Codes: 21st Century Challenges (21C), Social Analysis (SCL).

Course Organization

This course will be organized into several units: Introduction to working women in America, the history of women's work, the current status of working women, issues and reforms affecting women's work, working women in the media, and the future of working women.

Course Requirements

The course involves the following components:

Reading, Audio/Video Assignments

Reading – Students will read book chapters, academic journal articles, newspapers articles and other reports. Most required reading is posted in the online classroom.

There is one required text for this class: **Ehrenreich, B (2011). *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*. Picador. ISBN: 9780312626686**

Audio/Visual – Student will occasionally be required to watch instructor generated video presentations as well as watch other videos and listen to audio presentations

related to the course. All video, powerpoint, and audio material is provided through links within the online classroom.

Writing Assignments

Writing Assignments are intended to assess students' understanding and application of course material. There are two areas of review within a student's reading response entries: content and mechanics. Each reading response should be an absolute minimum of 500 words. Grading Rubrics are located in the online classroom.

Forums

Forums are asynchronous discussions, which student groups use to process and synthesize course content. Leading questions will be posted with each forum. It is expected that you post your first post by the initial post deadline, and then engage your classmates in subsequent response posts. Grading Rubrics are located in the online classroom.

Course Project: Women and Media- Depiction vs Reality

This course examines the experiences of Women in the United States' labor market through a review of current scholarship in this field. In today's society, the media is often an outlet that people utilize to assist in their understanding of social issues. However, sometimes the depiction of working women from media sources, particularly in film, can be somewhat misconstrued to make a good storyline.

For this group course project, groups will choose one current or historic movie portraying women in working roles, and examine the reality of those roles in "real" society, preparing a Power Point presentation that summarizes their findings.

Upon completing this project, students will:

- Provide an analysis of the reality of working women in the US, as compared to the film depiction of their choice.
- Develop supporting evidence including factual knowledge, statistical evidence, authoritative testimony

See media information tab under Course Essentials in the online classroom for more details on the course project.

Online Exams

You will have a Final Exam for this course worth 200 points. This exam will be based on all material covered in this course and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay

questions. Students are encouraged to prepare notes throughout the course (based on the assigned readings, etc.) that can assist them on the final exam.

Grading

A final grade is based on a 1000-point system. Each assignment is worth a specific number of points. Total points accumulated determines final course grade.

A	900-1000 points
B+	870-899 points
B	800-869 points
C	700-799 points
D	600-699 points
F	599 points and below

The points are accumulated as follows:

Item % of Grade	Assignment and Associated Points
Writing Assignments 55%	Forums (350 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory Forum 50 points • Unit Content Related Forum 100 points each (3) Reading Response Entries (200 points) 100 points each (2)
Course Project 25%	Media Power Point Project 250 points
Online Exams 20%	Final Exam – 200 points

Policies and Procedures

Class Sessions

The success of this course depends on active engagement and dialogue by members of the class. You must be fully prepared to discuss and debate the issues raised in the assigned reading material. The course week begins on **WEDNESDAY** for all weeks, with the exception of week 1 which begins with the semester on a Tuesday.

A weekly Announcement will be posted in the classroom each Wednesday.

Keeping current with the material and assignments is vital to your success in the course. You are expected to participate in the online class each week fully prepared to discuss and debate the issues raised in the assigned reading material. Exam material will draw heavily from material covered in lecture notes and readings, reading response entries and forum discussions. **Everything covered in class is fair game for the exam!**

Due Dates

THIS IS NOT A SELF-PACED CLASS! All assignments must be completed by dates indicated on the course calendar. **All deadlines are listed in course calendar.**

Forums lock after 11:59pm on the Tuesday following the week in which it was assigned. No initial posts or responses can be posted after this time. **MISSED FORUMS CANNOT BE MADE UP, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Communication

You should inform the professor of any personal emergencies that may arise which will prevent you from getting online. I am available via the class inbox and email at any time. I generally try to answer emails and inbox messages on the same day they are received. You may also reach me on my cell phone at 334-663-4880 (you may also text me – but please be sure to identify yourself by name). **Please reserve this form of contact (phone calls) for only pressing issues.** I prefer not to be called before 9am or after 8pm. **COMMUNICATION IS CRUCIAL** to success, so please let me know if you run into an issue or problem throughout the course.

Accommodation Requests

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. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

**The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus, assignments, course content, etc. in any way to enhance the learning experience of this course*