

**WOMEN'S STUDIES 206/SOCIOLOGY 206
WOMEN AND WORK**

Dr. Marie Laberge

Office: 34 W Delaware Ave.

Office hrs: T & Th 11:00 - 12:15 pm

or by appointment

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TEXTS: Paula J. Dubeck & Dana Dunn, Workplace/Women's Place, Roxbury Press, 2006
Barbara Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By, Owl Books, 2002
Irene Padavic & Barbara Reskin, Men and Women At Work, Pine Forge Press, 2002

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course explores women's historical and contemporary work experiences in traditional and non-traditional occupations. The topics covered include gender-based discrimination, such as wage inequities, sexual harassment, and exclusionary policies, women's contributions to the household and market economy, the role of the law in shaping conditions for women in the workplace and women's organized efforts to improve their lives.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

I expect students to come to class prepared to raise questions and participate in discussions. All assigned readings are required. Reading assignments are listed on the syllabus for the current week's class. You are expected to incorporate material from class meetings, lectures, discussions videos and readings into all of your class work. Grades will be based on points acquired through class participation, three exams, and a paper.

DUE DATES AND POINT COUNTS

First exam - Sept 27	up to 25 points
Second Exam - Oct. 30	up to 25 points
Final Exam - Exam week	up to 25 points
Participation/Activities	up to 5 points
Reading Journals	up to 10 points
Paper, Nickel and Dimed	up to 10 points
- Nov. 13	

Total	up to 100 points
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GRADE COMPUTATION:

94-100 pts = A
90-93 pts = A-
87-89 pts = B+
83-86 pts = B
80-82 pts = B-
77-79 pts = C+
73-76 pts = C
70-72 pts = C-
67-69 pts = D+
63-66 pts = D
60-62 pts = D-

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Participation (up to 15 points)

As stated above, students are expected to come prepared to discuss readings and other class material. Your class participation grade (15% of the course grade) will be based on the following assignments and attendance. Failure to complete these assignments on the dates indicated will result in a zero, unless official medical excuses or pre-arranged excuses are submitted.

Class Activities/ Discussions: (5 points) As we progress through the semester, there will be regular assignments related to the topic being discussed. Students will be given questions to answer or activities to carry out and are responsible for these assignments. Students will write up short informal responses or analysis of activities. These short writing assignments will be collected and checked off. Failure to turn in an assignment on time will result in a zero for that assignment. The short assignments function to promote attendance, preparedness and good class discussion.

On some occasions, students will be broken up into groups to discuss materials related to specific issues. By the end of the period, each group will come to a conclusion that they will share with the class. Group activities and discussions are meant to be interactive, therefore, missed groups cannot be made-up. Thus, if you foresee missing many classes, I strongly suggest that you take another course.

Reading journals: (10 points) As part of your participation grade you will be doing reading journals. For the essays from the Dubeck and Dunn book you will write two entries in a journal. The journal will be divided down the middle of the page. On the left hand side the entry will be a summary of the materials in the reading and on the right hand side of the page will be your reaction to the reading materials. This side might be to raise some questions about the reading or to compare it to what we have read before or reflections on how it relates to what you know is happening in the "real" world. These will be important tools to help develop discussion in class, you will not need to bring the textbooks to class if you have done these reading journals.

I will collect these journals 3 times over the course of the semester. They will not be given a grade but will instead be checked off that you have been doing them. I will also be using them to see what questions you might have about the material we have been covering. We will discuss these in detail the first week of class so that you have an example of what is expected. More info to follow.

Examinations: (25 points each) There will be THREE exams. These exams will be given in class and will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answers and short essay questions. The dates of the exams are listed above.

Nickel and Dimed: (10 points) We will be discussing Ehrenreich's book Nickel and Dimed as part of our discussion of Work, Poverty and Welfare. There will be a paper on Nickel and Dimed due on Oct 23rd. Each student will write a 3- 4 page paper on their reaction to the book and its relationship to other materials we have discussed in class. The essay must be double spaced and typed. More information to follow.

EXTRA CREDIT: There are several possible options you have for earning extra credit. 5 possible points may be added to your final grade. Extra credit requires application of theories and concepts covered in the course. Must be passed in by Nov. 29th to be accepted.

1. Short paper - write an analysis of something in the popular media - using material from class.
2. Attend Women's Studies discussion or event and write up report with analysis.
3. Volunteer at shelter or with group working on issues and write up summary of experience.
4. Other options may arise during the semester, I will make announcements in class.

Helpful Hints: 1) When in doubt, ask questions. If you don't understand something, ask for clarification. 2) Come to class prepared; jot down questions to be asked in class. Try to keep up with the reading. You will find your learning experience will be enhanced if you read as much of the material as you can before class. Class lectures will not necessarily repeat information given in the textbook. 3) The key to passing the course and getting a decent grade is to READ the assignments. 4) If I talk too fast, ask me to slow down.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Aug 28, 30

Introductions/ Overview of the Course

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn pp 1-14

Padavic & Reskin, Chp. 2, pp 17-29; Chp. 4, pp 57-67

Sept. 4, 6, 11

Theories about Women's Employment: Psychological and Socialization Influences

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn, Chp. 2, 3

Padavic & Reskin, Chp 1, all; Ch 3, pp 37-44

Sept. 13, 18, 20

Theories about Women's Employment: Cultural and Structural Influences

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn, Chp. 5, 6

Padavic & Reskin, Chp 3, pp 44-55; Ch. 6, all

Sept 25, 27

Theories about Women's Employment: Race, Class, Gender and Work

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn, Chp. 4, 17, 18, 20

Padavic & Reskin, Chp 2, pp 29-36; Ch 4, 68-95

EXAM I - Thursday, Sept. 27th

Oct 2, 4

Individual Choices and Strategies: Paid Work, Housework and Family Life

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn, Chp. 12, 13, 16

Padavic & Reskin, Chp 7

Oct. 9, 11

Corporate Responses & Strategies: Can Work and Family Co-exist?

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn, Chp.14, 28, 27

Oct 16, 18

Female Dominated "Semi-professional" Work

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn, Chp. 21, 24

Oct. 23, 25

Inequity in the Professions

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn, Chp. 9, 10, 15, 18

Padavic & Reskin, Chp. 5 all

EXAM II - Tuesday Oct 30

Oct 30, Nov. 1

Clerical, Service, & Sales

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn, Chp. 25, 26

Nov. 6, 8

Work, Poverty and Welfare

Readings: Barbara Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed, all

Paper on Ehrenreich, Tuesday, Nov. 13 th in class

Nov. 13, 15

Blue Collar Work // Access, Accommodation and Obstruction

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn, Chp. 11, 22, 23

Nov. 20, 27 No class Nov 22 Thanksgiving Break

Public Policy and Solutions

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn, Chp. 7, 29, 30

Nov. 29

Women's Ways of Working

Readings: Dubeck & Dunn, Chp. 8

Dec. 4

Exam review and Film - No additional readings

Final Exam - Will be held During Exam Week - date and time to be announced.