

The University of Western Ontario
Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies Program
Distance Studies, Office of the Registrar
MOS 3355F: Women in the Canadian Workplace

REQUIRED READINGS:

Custom Course Material (CCM) to be purchased from the UWO Book Store, 2011.

Benoit, Cecilia M., Women, Work and Social Rights: Canada in Historical and Comparative Perspective, Prentice Hall Canada Inc., Scarborough, ON, 2000.

Reskin, Barbara, and Irene Padavic. Women and Men at Work, 2nd edition, Thousand Oaks, California: Pine Forge (Sage), 2002.

Internet sources as available - posted on course site.

Instructor:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the distribution of women in the occupational structure, the effects of class and race discrimination on women's paid and unpaid work experience and the social organization of work, including dominant ideologies, economic and institutional structures, legislative frameworks and social policy agendas, management and labour relations and other processes that affect women in the Canadian workplace.

AREAS OF ANALYSIS

How does a person's gender affect their work and employment opportunities? What is the participation and experience of women in the Canadian workplace? How does it compare to that of men? What is the evolution of women's work (from the home to the market)? How has the occupational distribution of women, their working conditions, pay and prospects changed over time? How do larger social forces affect how gender and work are perceived and organized? What changes might we see in the future?

FORMAT

This is an on-line (computer-mediated) course offered by the DAN Management and Organizational Studies Program, Office of the Registrar, UWO.

This course can be accessed at: <http://webct.uwo.ca/>

Please have your UWO ID and password ready. Be sure to activate your UWO e-mail account as correspondence regarding course issues, including feedback and grades may be sent to you

via your UWO e-mail account or via the course site, which also requires use of your UWO email.

This course is designed to:

- expose students to theoretical and conceptual frameworks and research, drawn from the social sciences, that will assist in understanding the historical and contemporary position of women in the Canadian workplace;
- provide an inter-disciplinary learning environment in which students will examine such issues as experiences of social class differences among working women, racial and ethnic discrimination, gender segregation in the workplace, the pay gap, the experience of women in "women's" occupations, women's experience in unions, relationships between paid and unpaid work, and impacts on women of current transformations in the nature of work and the workplace;
- encourage students to set and attain their own learning objectives through the use of a variety of resources including study groups, discussions of readings, sharing of experience and participatory learning; and
- provide students with an opportunity to develop skills in critical thinking, written expression, on-line communication and learning, and working with others in a computer-mediated learning environment.

EVALUATION

Participation:

On-line Contribution to Learning: 20 % - Continuous. There will be a participation “check-in” during week 7.

Written Assignments:

Essay Proposal: 10 % - Due at the end of week 4.

Essay: 30 % - Due at the end of week 8.

Final Exam:

Essay Format: 40 % - Scheduled during the final examination period.

PARTICIPATION (on-line contribution):

The instructor's assessment of each student's participation and contribution to the learning of other participants in the class will be based on:

- quality of weekly contributions to on-line discussions;
- extent to which contributions reflect the student's ability to understand and apply the assigned readings;
- peer and professor assessments and;
- contributions of current and relevant information and material.

There is more information about expectations for participation on the course web site.

ACCESSIBILITY

DAN Management and Organizational Studies strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 #82147 for any specific questions regarding an accommodation. More information about “Accessibility at Western” is available at: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca>.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

The written assignment will be an essay proposal *and* an 8 to 10 page essay, both in MLA or APA format, which explores the application of course concepts and frameworks to the work experience of women in Canada. Student may choose to examine the changing work experience of women in a particular field or profession, the participation of women in particular professions or the changing nature of work as it affects women in the Canadian workplace. Topic ideas will be posted in Week Two.

The assignment will be introduced during the first two weeks of the course. Students will be asked to decide on a topic by the third week. The essay proposal (2-3 pages in length, typed, double-spaced and in complete sentences) is to be submitted no later than the end of week 4. The essay is due at the end of week 8. Papers will not be accepted after the due date except in the case of serious illness or other emergencies - for which documentation is required. Assignments that are late for any other reason will be penalized - 10% per day. More information is available on the course web site.

PLAGIARISM

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be an in-class, essay format exam that will cover the content of the entire course. Students will participate in designing the essay questions for the final exam. Details will be discussed during the final weeks of the course, and potential examination questions and areas of inquiry will be noted or discussed throughout the course.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Please note: *Some readings will be revisited in subsequent weeks. The final version of this syllabus will be posted on the course site.

September 12 Week 1: Introduction to the Course

Readings: on-line readings posted on the course web site.

A discussion about the learning environment, course expectations, introducing the instructor and course participants and an opportunity to become familiar with posting and responding in on-line discussions.

PART II: INTRODUCTION TO WORK AND GENDER

September 19 Week 2: Conceptualizing Women's Work

Readings:

Benoit: Introduction & Chapter 1

Reskin & Padavic: Chapter 1

hooks: "Rethinking the Nature of Work" (CCM)*

September 26 Week 3: Historical Perspectives

Readings:

Benoit: Chapter 2

Reskin & Padavic: Chapter 2

Phillips & Phillips: "Women's Work in Canada: the Historical Perspective" (CCM)

October 3 Week 4: The Gender Structure of the Workplace

Readings:

Reskin & Padavic: Chapters 3

Vosko: "Labour is Not A Commodity" (CCM)

Please Note: The essay proposal is to be submitted electronically and is due by midnight on Friday, October 7, 2011

PART III: UNDERSTANDING INEQUALITY

October 11 Week 5: Defining Inequality

Readings:

Benoit: Chapter 3

Day & Brodsky: "Women's Economic Inequality and the Canadian Human Rights Act" (INTERNET)

hooks: "Rethinking the Nature of Work" (CCM)*

Please note: Monday, October 10, 2011 is Thanksgiving Day.

October 17 Week 6: Occupational Segregation and Inequality

Readings:

Reskin & Padavic: Chapter 4

Kirk: "Gender Inequality and Medical Education" (CCM)

October 24 Week 7: The Dynamics of Systemic Discrimination

Readings:

Reskin & Padavic: Chapter 5

*Participation Check-In.

October 31 Week 8: The Wage Gap

Readings:

Reskin & Padavic: Chapter 6

Drolet: "The persistent gap: new evidence on the Canadian gender wage gap" (INTERNET)

Please Note: The essay is due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 4, 2011. Please submit a hard copy of your essay to the Distance Studies office using the Assignment Sheet you received from Distance Studies via email to your uwo email account. You may also fax your essay to the Distance Studies office - 519- 661-3615. Be sure to number your pages (3 of 10 eg.) and include your cover sheet. Please see the Student Handbook for details.

PART IV: SOME ISSUES

November 7 Week 9: Women and the Labour Movement

Readings:

Kerr: "Emergence of Nursing Unions as a Social Force in Canada" (CCM)

Yates: "Challenging Misconceptions about Organizing Women into Unions" (CCM)

Das Gupta: "Racism/Anti-racism, Precarious Employment, and Unions" (CCM)

November 14 Week 10: "Women's Work"

Readings:

Ng: "Home-working: Dream Realized or Freedom Constrained" (CCM)

Schechter: "The Mistress-Servant Relationship" (CCM)

Williams: "The Glass Escalator: Hidden Advantages for Men in the "Female Professions" (CCM)

Bruckert: "The World of the Professional Stripper" (CCM)

November 21 Week 11: The Double Day: Work and Family

Readings:

Reskin & Padavic: Chapter 7

Hochschild: "The Second Shift" (CCM)

Pupo: "Always Working, Never Done" (CCM)

Blakely: "Who Else Would Do It? Female Caregivers in Canada" (CCM)

November 28 Week 12: Action for Change: Legislative and Policy Responses

Readings:

McDermott: "Pay and Employment Equity - why separate policies?" (CCM)

Jacobs: "Equity and Opportunity" (CCM)

Grey: "Inequality blights too many women's lives." (CCM)

PART V: OVERVIEW AND REVIEW

December 5 Week 13: Overview: Looking Back, Looking Forward

Review and Exam Preparation.

Please Note: The final exam will be held during the examination period. The date, time and location of the exam will be posted on the course site as soon as it is available.