This is the core required course for students specializing in Gender, Work, and Family in sociology. We will develop a familiarity with the empirical, theoretical and methodological foundations of research on the interrelation of gender, work and family; develop the ability to critically analyze work in this field; and advance students’ own research.

The following books are required reading:


Additional readings are listed below. URL links are provided as a convenience and may be subject to IP authentication and/or pay walls. Please leave yourself enough time to obtain the articles however necessary.

**Course requirements**

Class participation: Students are expected to do all required readings prior to class. We will address the readings’ conclusions and implications, as well as their methods and empirical findings. To facilitate the discussion and develop your writing facility, write a short essay each week (1-2 pages), addressing at a critical issue or question inspired by the readings for that week. Email me your statement by 5 p.m. each Monday so I can prepare the discussion.

Other rules:

- Class discussion runs on a system of courtesy and collaboration, with facilitation by me as needed. It’s great to disagree with or question each other’s points of view, but please don’t interrupt, belittle, mock, or ignore each other. Be polite.
- This is not a public discussion; no external dissemination of each other’s comments without permission.
- Laptops and tablets may be used for taking notes and reading course readings. No phones, no surfing, email, etc. If after a trial your devices become too distracting I’ll ban them.
Seminar paper: Students are expected to write an in-depth research proposal on a specific gender, work, and family issue. The seminar paper is to be a research proposal, with the following parts: (a) literature review; (b) statement on how the proposed study would contribute to this literature, and its limitations; (c) a description of methods and data, with as much specificity as possible (e.g., sample and variables or research site and collection strategy); and (d) statement of your thesis and hypotheses to be tested or explored. Good final papers will probably be about 20-25 pages. Students should submit their topic for approval, with some preliminary references, by **October 22.** A working outline, including review of the literature, is due on **November 5.** Seminar papers will be due in final form on **December 10.** (Note short essays are also due on these days, so plan ahead.)

Grading: The final grade will be based on roughly equal weighting of (a) class participation, (b) discussion questions and short papers, and (c) the seminar paper.

Academic integrity: There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course. Students should familiarize themselves with the UMD Code of Academic Integrity, available here: [http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/docs/III-100A.pdf](http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/docs/III-100A.pdf). (Assignments for this course are exempted from the Honor Pledge requirement.)

Notes: Assignments or classes missed because of religious conflicts can be made up within a reasonable time, with prior notice. Students with disabilities should inform me of any special needs at the beginning of the semester.

**Schedule**

**September 3 – Overviews**


**September 10 – Stalled progress toward equality**

September 17 – The persistence of gender inequality

- Ridgeway: *Framed by Gender: How Gender Inequality Persists in the Modern World.*

September 24 – Work-family


October 1 – Studying work-family decisions


October 8 – Philip @ the Penn State Symposium on Family Issues

October 15 – Race, class and intersectionality


October 22 – Economics and feminism

Paper topic due

- Blau, Ferber and Winkler, Chapters 3 & 4 (pp. 35-50; 58-75).
October 29 – Housework studies


November 5 – The gender pay gap

Paper outline due

- Blau, Ferber and Winkler, Chapter 10 (pp. 221-251).

November 12 – Care work


November 19 – Gender, family and women’s empowerment in Asia

November 26 – Masculinity and fathering


December 3 – Generational change in work-family perspectives

- Gerson: *The Unfinished Revolution: Coming of Age in a New Era of Gender, Work, and Family.*

December 10 – State policy


Final paper due