

Sex, Law, and Public Policy 21:790:356:01
Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:50 p.m.
Assistant Instructor: Connie Murray
Office Phone: 973-353-5753

Spring 2019
Room: Hill Hall 102
Office: Hill Hall 724
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-2:30 pm
Wednesday 3:00-4:00pm

The Price of Motherhood
by Ann Crittenden, New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2002

Abortion: The Supreme Court Decisions
edited by Ian Shapiro, Indianapolis, Hackett Publishing Company, 2007

Should Parents Be Licensed? Debating the Issues
edited by Peg Tittle, Amherst, New York: Prometheus Books, 2004

The Porning of America
by Carmine Sarracino and Kevin M. Scott
Boston: Beacon Press, 2008

Sex, Law, and Public Policy examines the historical and current public policy issues affecting women, including property rights, voting rights, equal pay, sexual harassment, parenting, violence against women and pornography. The course aims at raising students' consciousness about the interrelationship among gender, power and public policy and challenging the public/private dichotomy that informs American political thought. The perspectives on different public policies are presented in order to inspire thought and debate about solving old and new problems of discrimination and abuse.

The course will be conducted interactively; therefore, students should read the materials required for the session before coming to class in order to participate in the class discussions. Class participation, which includes punctuality, attendance, sharing of current articles about women's issues, and contributions to class discussions, will be a determining factor in the student's grade. Grades will be based on class participation 20% (sharing of current news relevant to the course material), midterm 40%, and final 40%.

The midterm will include a section with identifications or definitions from which there will be a choice plus an essay section. Definitions should include examples to demonstrate that the student understands the term. Essays should be comprehensive, explaining and elaborating on points made, and not just an outline. The final exam will be multiple choice. The midterm will be **March 14 during class and the final is Tuesday, May 14 3:00-6:00pm. No electronic equipment will be permitted in the classroom during exams. Please arrive on time for the final at the beginning of the scheduled time period.**

Students should read the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Christian Science Monitor, Time, Newsweek, or U.S. News and World Report for articles about women's public policy issues. The News Hour on PBS Monday-Friday 7:00-8:00 p.m. may also be a source as well as National Public Radio. Students may record television segments on women's public policy issues and bring to class to show or pull up segments on the internet for the class to view with the professor's approval.

A strict attendance policy will be applied. Roll will be taken at each class session. More than two inexcusable absences will result in a reduction of the student's grade by one letter grade for each absence after the second. Excusable absences include a personal illness, a death in the immediate family, the illness of a student's child, or the illness of a student's parent. Students may also be excused for university sanctioned religious holidays. Please notify the professor of a religious holiday. All other excuses will be recorded as inexcusable. Having to work is not a reason to be excused. The university is designed to be your first priority. Excused absences should be reported to the professor so that they might be recorded. Please do not ask to reschedule a midterm or final exam because of travel plans. Plan your travel so that your school responsibilities take priority. Talking on a cell phone or texting is not permitted during class.

Students should carefully adhere to Rutgers' policies on academic integrity. Anyone discovered cheating on an exam will be failed and reported to the proper university authority. Students should be respectful of other students and the professor. A lack of civility will not be tolerated.

Order of Readings

No dates are provided so that the class may proceed at its own rate.

First Class

Distribution of syllabi

Discussion of course requirements

Introduction of class members

Read: "The Patriarchy Isn't Going Anywhere," by Susan Faludi in The New York Times, December 28, 2017, Sunday Review, pages 1 and 3.

Theories about Public Policy Formation lecture

Property rights and voting rights

Video: One Woman, One Vote

Discussion of the theories and events of the Suffrage Movement

Reader: Married Women's Property Acts (New York State) in Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings, edited by Miriam Schneir, New York: Vintage Books, 1994, pp. 72-74, 122-124.

Begin reading The Price of Motherhood during the showing of One Woman, One Vote. The documentary will take several class periods so you should spend this time reading the book for the next segment on women and work.

Women and Work: Problems and Solutions lecture

Read: The Price Of Motherhood

Video: Sex, Power and the Workplace

Look up on line and read: "Why Women Still Can't Have It All" by Anne-Marie Slaughter in Atlantic Magazine, July/August 2012

Susan Ehrlich Martin "Sexual Harassment: The Link Joining Gender Stratification, Sexuality, and Women's Economic Status" from Women: A Feminist Perspective edited by Jo Freeman, Mountain View, California: Mayfield Publishing Company, 1995, pp. 22-46.
"As PepsiCo's C.E.O. Plans Exit, Women's Corporate Clout Fades," The New York Times, August 7, 2018, pages A1, A16

Abortion:

Read: Abortion: The Supreme Court Decisions 1965-2007 (read Griswold, Roe, Webster, Hodgson, Ohio, Planned Parenthood, Stenberg and Gonzalez)

"Fetal Animation" by Cynthia Daniels in At a Woman's Expense, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press, 1993, pages 9-29

"Women the Abortion Law Leaves Out," by Michelle Oberman in The New York Times, Sunday Review, January 14, 2018, page 3

Videos: Abortion: Desperate Choices by HBO

Abortion for Survival, Fund for the Feminist Majority
Silent Scream, the anti-choice perspective

Procreation: A Right or a Privilege?

Read: Should Parents Be Licensed?

Violence Against Women

Video: "Battered Woman's Syndrome" 48 Hours February 16, 1991

Reader:

"How Women Experience Battering: The Process of Victimization" by Kathleen J. Ferraro and John M. Johnson in Deviant Behavior edited by Delos H. Kelly, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993. pp. 256-72

"Sexual Terrorism" by Carole Sheffield in Women: A Feminist Perspective edited by Jo Freeman, Mountain View, California Mayfield Publishing Company, 1995, pp. 1-21.

"License to Rape" and "The Myth and Reality of Marital Rape" in License to Rape: Sexual Abuse of Wives by David Finhdelhor and Kersti Yllo, New York: The Free Press, 1985, pp.1-36

Pornography

Read: The Porning of America

Reader: Gloria Steinham, "Erotica vs. Pornography," in Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions, pages 238-251, New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1995.

Susan Brownmiller, "Excerpt on Pornography from Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape" in Take Back the Night edited by Laura Lederer, pages 30-34

Ellen Willis, "Feminism, Moralism, and Pornography" in Powers of Desire edited by Ann Snitow, pages 460-467