

Course Syllabus

Working Women In American Society, 37:575:309:97, Spring 2026

Course Description

This course is designed to provide an overview of the dynamics of gender at work, with a focus on women's experiences through an intersectional lens. We will combine a historical overview of working women with a sociological focus on contemporary issues in the workplace. Topics will include women's work in slavery, factory labor in the Industrial Revolution, women and work during wartime, intersections of race and gender at work, queer and trans experiences, wage gap, sexual harassment, sex work, and more.

Note: if you are new to Canvas, complete the Canvas tutorials under [Course Tools Tutorials](#).

Instructor Information

Instructor: **Laura Martin**

E-mail: **lm1331@smlr.rutgers.edu**

Virtual Office Hours: Thursdays, 12 PM to 1 PM Eastern Standard Time, through Zoom

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

Learning Objectives – Rutgers CORE

CCD-2. Analyze contemporary social justice issues and unbalanced social power systems.

SCL-1 Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.

SCL-2 Employ tools of social scientific reasoning to study particular questions or situations, using appropriate assumptions, methods, evidence, and arguments.

Learning Objectives – SMLR

1. Demonstrate an understanding of relevant theories and apply them given the background context of a particular work situation.
2. Evaluate the context of workplace issues, public policies, and management decisions.

Learning Objectives – LSER Department

1. Demonstrate an understanding of perspectives, theories, and concepts in our field.

2. Apply those concepts, along with substantive institutional knowledge, to contemporary developments.
3. Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person's experience of work

Canvas Tutorials & Technical Support

If you are new to Canvas or need a refresher tutorial, visit:

- [Getting Started In Canvas for Students](#)
- [Canvas \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Canvas is Web Accessibility Guidelines compliant. More on [Canvas accessibility StandardsLinks to an external site.](#)

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Canvas:

- Contact [Rutgers IT Help Desk \(Links to an external site.\)](#). 833-648-4357, email help@oit.rutgers.edu, accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Refer to the [Canvas Student TutorialLinks to an external site.](#)
- Canvas [Student Guide PDF VersionLinks to an external site.](#)[Open this document with ReadSpeaker docReader Links to an external site.](#)
- Access Rutgers Canvas via the [MyRutgers PortalLinks to an external site.](#), rutgers.instructure.com, mobile app and [https://canvas.rutgers.eduLinks to an external site.](https://canvas.rutgers.edu)
- For Canvas assistance, Passwords, or any other computer-related technical support contact the [Rutgers Canvas Help DeskLinks to an external site.](#)
- - help@canvas.rutgers.edu

Course Delivery Format

This course is delivered **entirely** online through the Learning Management System, Canvas. There will be no Face-to-Face, in-person classroom sessions, except for an optional virtual "meet your professor and classmates" live Zoom session.

The course is delivered in **asynchronous** mode. This means the learning activities and communication takes place outside of real-time. You do not have to log in at any specific scheduled time; you log in at your convenience. However, there may be times, if you're

working in groups on an assignment, you would need to set up a live session via the **Canvas Conferences, WebEx, or ZOOM.**

Note: Even though you don't need to log in at any specific time, **you are required to adhere to all course work due dates.**

Virtual Office Hour

- The Virtual Office Hour will be conducted through Zoom on Wednesdays from 12-1. Or upon request.

How to Access Zoom

Virtual office hours are conducted through scheduled ZOOM meeting. If you have not activated your Rutgers ZOOM account, you will need to do so prior to class starts. Follow the steps below:

1. Follow instructions on [Creating Rutgers ZOOM Account \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#). Note: be sure to read what to do if you have an existing personal ZOOM account that uses your Rutgers email.
2. Once you have activated your Rutgers ZOOM account you will then need to make sure your Canvas default email is in the format **netid@rutgers.edu**. Follow instructions on [How to check and set your Canvas Default Email](#) if needed. Then you can access the scheduled ZOOM class sessions.
3. To access and join the scheduled class sessions, select the ZOOM tab from the left navigation menu, then select Join to join the scheduled session. If you are new to ZOOM, review the tutorials under [Course Tools Tutorials](#) or at [Rutgers ZOOM Homepage](#)[Links to an external site.](#).

ZOOM etiquettes:

- For audio clarity, mute your microphone when not speaking, unmute only when you are speaking.
- Allow for the brief delay that happens when a conversation from one speaker transitions to another. Be patient and allow the person to speak.
- You have the option to turn on/off your webcam.
- You can use the Chat box to ask questions, share your thoughts.

Accommodations

Everyone will need some type of accommodation at some point throughout the semester. My goal is to normalize the need for accommodation requests to the extent the university policy allows me to. There are various types of accommodation requests. I can help with some accommodation requests, but there are also accommodation requests that you will need to go through the university's ODS. I can help with the following (**without you going to the ODS**):

- Extended time for exam and/or assignment submissions (already built in for all but let me know if you require something different).
- Make up exams, assignments, due to work travel, illness, family responsibilities. No need to ask, just tell me. I just need a heads up so I know you're ok and that you don't fall behind on your course work.

Rutgers' Official Accommodation Statement

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 ([See Documentation Guidelines](#)[Links to an external site.](#)). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you and your instructor with a Letter of Accommodations. Please discuss the accommodations with your instructors as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the [registration form](#)[Links to an external site.](#) I am happy to facilitate the process if you need me to. Just let me know.

Office of Disability Services contact and address

Lucy Stone Hall, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Suite A145, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8045.

- E-mail Address: dsoffice@rci.rutgers.edu
- Phone: (848) 445-6800 • Fax: (732) 445-3388
- <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers Diversity Statement

The Division of Student Affairs works to create an environment of **inclusion** which respects and affirms the inherent dignity, value, and uniqueness of all individuals, communities and perspectives. Our practices reflect awareness and understanding of the complexity of identity and the increasing interconnectedness of our world. It is our **responsibility** to

promote and maintain a community of compassion, embracing the rich dimensions of **diversity**, and facilitating opportunities for understanding and the expression of both individual and shared truths.

Course Materials

- All course materials: lecture videos, multimedia, and readings are provided in each week's module. You do not need to purchase any textbook.

Computer and other Technology Requirements

- Access to the internet
- Reliable computer
- Headphones/Headsets
- Webcam - optional
- Microsoft Word
- [Basic Computer Specifications for Canvas \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

For convenience, you can also download/install the Canvas Student App for Android or iOS devices. Follow the instruction on the respective app centers:

- [Canvas Student App for Android \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Canvas Student App for iOS](#)

Course Structure & Schedules

This course is structured in a weekly module format. A Module is a chunk of the course content broken out by usually topic. Each Module equates to a Week. Each week starts on a Monday and ends on a Sunday. Exceptions are the 1st the last week of the semester.

The weekly/module activities are noted in the Modules section under the corresponding **Week # To Do** pages. Each To Do page includes:

- Topic introduction of the week
- Learning Materials
 - Readings
 - Multimedia (Audio, and/or Videos, Lecture recordings)
- Learning Activities - what activities you will be doing to help you learn

- Discussion
- Project work
- Assignments
- Assessment - the activities that will be assessed (graded)

The course is divided into 15 Weeks as follows (link to the weekly modules):

- Week 1 : Introduction and Course Overview (1/20)
- Week 2 : The History of Women's Work: African, Native American, and European Women's Experiences from 1500-1865 (1/26)
- Week 3 : European Women, the Industrial Revolution, and Factory Labor (2/2)
- Week 4 : Women and Work During Wartime (2/9)
- Week 5 : The Cold War Backlash, "The Housewife," and Unpaid Labor (2/16)
- Week 6 : Second Wave Feminism and Work in the 1970s (2/23)
- Week 7 : Midterm (3/2)
 - Exam due Sunday 3/8
- Week 8: Intersections of Race and Gender At Work (3/9)
- SPRING BREAK 3/14-21
- Week 9 : Women and Wages (3/23)
- Week 10 : Sexual Harassment At Work (3/30)
- Week 11 : Immigration, Globalization, and Domestic Work (4/6)
- Week 12 : Collective Action/ Sex Work (4/13)
- Week 13 : Collective Action Continued/ Queer at Work (4/20)
- Week 14 : Course Wrap Up/ Autoethnography (4/27)
 - Autoethnography Due 5/3
- Week 15 : Final Exam Prep (5/4)
- Final Exam: Online, week of 5/11

Assessments

Discussion Forums - 15 points each

Brief Reading Responses - 10 points each

Autoethnographic Paper - 40 points

Quizzes - 10 points each

Midterm Exam- 35 points

Final Exam - 40 points

Grading Scale

Points Range	Grade	Performance
90 - 100	A	Outstanding
88 - 89.99	B+	Good
80 - 87.99	B	Good
78 - 79.99	C+	Satisfactory
70 - 77.99	C	Satisfactory
69.99 and below	F	Poor

Rutgers Support Resources for Your Well-Being

Rutgers Student Health Services:

- Rutgers Student Affairs is dedicated to health for the whole student body, mind and spirit. It accomplishes this through a staff of qualified clinicians and support staff. [Health, Counseling, and Wellness services](#) [Links to an external site.](#) are available at several locations throughout Rutgers University.

Crisis Intervention - Student Health

- [Crisis Situations](#) [Links to an external site.](#)
- [In the Wake of Trauma](#) [Links to an external site.](#) [Open this document with ReadSpeaker docReader](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

Academic Services:

- For academic support including tutoring, visit the [Rutgers - New Brunswick Learning Centers](#)[Links to an external site.](#).
- For coaching help with writing skills and assignments visit the [Rutgers - New Brunswick Writing Tutors in the Learning Center](#)[Links to an external site.](#).
- Many library resources are available online. Assistance is available through phone, email, and chat. For information, check the [Rutgers Libraries website](#)[Links to an external site.](#).

Veteran Services:

- - Rutgers is proud to support veterans. If you are a veteran of the armed forces, please visit the [Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services website](#)[Links to an external site.](#) for more information.

Student Code of Conduct

You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional, responsible, courteous, and respectful manner at all times during the course. Offensive language, harassment, posting videos or other media that is not related to the course, and/or any other inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Your responses to discussion posts, or any other communication with your classmates and/or your instructor must be of the highest professional and respectable standard. Refer to [Discussion Post Guidelines](#) when communicating in your Canvas class.

Academic Integrity

Be sure to review and abide by the [Rutgers Academic Integrity](#)

TurnItIn Statement

Students (You) agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to **Turnitin.com** (via Canvas Assignments Portal) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the [Usage Policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#) posted on the Turnitin.com site.

If you do not agree please contact me immediately.

Staying on Track

Online learning requires a high level of discipline, dedication, and time management skills. While online learning offers you flexibility and convenience to learn from anyplace, anytime, *you are still expected to **adhere to the all due dates***.

To help you stay on track:

- Have access to a reliable computer, and access to the Internet
- Log in to Canvas for your course **on a daily basis**
- Check for any announcements, update to the syllabus, assignments, and/or discussions and respond accordingly
- Actively participate in the Discussion Forum
- Complete the assigned readings and/or media
- Complete the assigned exercises and projects
- Adhere to all due dates

In case of computer failure

Make sure you have an alternative plan of access to your Canvas course in case your computer crashes (it happens). Additionally, be sure to backup your important documents and assignments on a flash drive or other external device.

Where to Next?

After reviewing the content of this Course Syllabus, proceed to Modules, and review the [Learning Support Resources](#) section. Then continue on to Week 1: To Do.

Any Broken Links/URLs

At SMLR, we strive to continuously improve our course design. If you come across any broken links/URLs, or pages that don't exist, please email SMLR Instructional Technology Specialist, Marta Pulley, marta.pulley@rutgers.edu. Any suggestions you have for improving the course design is greatly appreciated.