

Sex, Markets, and Power
Political Science 427
Monday/Wednesday 10:30-11:45

Frances Rosenbluth
304 Brewster Hall
432-5256

Course Description: This course considers how women's socio-economic status and political power has varied across time (in historical perspective) and place (in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas). We will employ three analytical lenses to help us interpret what we see: biology, markets, and power. These lenses will help us understand how issues specific to women relate to debates in mainstream political economy. How does the sex with which you were born matter, and why? How do different forms of economic production affect the distribution of resources between men and women? What generates and sustains power structures that are relatively patriarchal or matriarchal or mixed? We will examine a range of substantive issues that concern women in a wide range of societies to gauge which kinds of explanations are the most persuasive.

Course Requirements:

1. 3 short (3-5 page) papers, handed in at the beginning of any three weeks of the course, that grapple with the question posed in the syllabus.
2. A one-hour in-class midterm exam (30% of grade).
3. An 8-page take home exam.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Part I: Theoretical Lenses

Week 1. Introduction: Sex, Markets, and Power

Week 2. Why Sex Matters

Q: What is the strongest case for the argument that biology matters for human behavior? What is the strongest case you can make that it does not?

- Deborah Blum. 1997. *Sex on the Brain: The Biological Differences Between Men and Women*. New York: Penguin Books. Introduction, chapters 4, 6, 7, 9.
- Melvin Konner. 1999. "Darwin's Truth, Jefferson's Vision," *The American Prospect Online*.

Week 3. Markets

Q: What is good about economic division of labor? What are the costs, and who bears them? How should we evaluate the costs and benefits?

- Gary Becker. 1981. "Human Capital, Effort, and the Sexual Division of Labor," in *A Treatise on the Family*. Harvard University Press. pp. 54-79.
- Gary Becker. 1974. "A Theory of Marriage: Part II," *Journal of Political Economy*.
- Siv Gustafsson. 1997. "Feminist Neo-Classical Economics: Some Examples," in Geske Dijkstra and Janneke Plantenga, eds., *Gender and Economics: A European Perspective*. Routledge. pp. 36-53.
- Elissa Braunstein and Nancy Folbre. 2001. "To Honor and Obey: Efficiency, Inequality, and Patriarchal Property Rights," *Feminist Economics* 7/1: 25-44.
- Xinyan Jiang. 2000. "The Dilemma Faced by Chinese Feminists," in *Hypatia* 15,3:140-60.

Week 4. Power

Q: What does it mean to be politically powerful? How can women achieve political power?

- Evelyn Kessler, 1976. "Social and Political Organization," in *Women: An Anthropological View*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Pp. 52-69.
- Rick Geddes and Dean Lueck. 2001. "The Gains from Self-Ownership and the Expansion of Women's Rights," *American Economic Review*.
- Seth Koven and Sonya Michel. "Womanly Duties: Maternalist Politics and the Origins of Welfare States in France, Germany, Great Britain, and the United States, 18880-1920," 1076-1108.

Part II: Substantive Issues

Week 5. Hunter-Gatherers

Q. What can we learn about ourselves by knowing more about hunter-gatherers?

- Ann Zihlman. 1981. "Women as Shapers of Human Adaptation," in Frances Dahlberg, *Women the Gatherer*. Yale University Press. 75-119.
- Eleanor Leacock. 1978. "Women's Status in Egalitarian Society," *Current Anthropology*. 19,2: 225-59.
- Ellen Goodman. 1997. "Meno-Positive" *Lexis Nexis*.

Week 6. Sex and Society

Q: What accounts for the similarities across cultures in sexual stereotyping and gender roles? What accounts for the differences?

- "Evolution Revolution" 1999 in *Texas Magazine* carried by *Lexis-Nexis*.

- Aloysius Siow. 1998. "Differential Fecundity, Markets, and Gender Roles," *Journal of Political Economy* 196,2: 334-54.
- Radhika Balakrishnan. 1994. "The Social Context of Sex Selection and the Politics of Abortion in India." Harvard School of Public Health.
- Gerry Mackie. 1996. "Ending Footbinding and Infibulation: A Convention Account," *American Sociological Review*, 61:999-1018.

Week 7. Marriage and Family Structure

Q: Generations of feminists, inspired by the work of Friedrich Engels, have viewed marriage as a woman's ball and chain. Evaluate this claim.

- Nancy Levine and Joan Silk. 1997. "Why Polyandry Fails: Sources of Instability in Polyandrous Marriages," *Current Anthropology*. 38,3: 375-98.
- William Safire. 1996. "A Case for Polyandry"
- Shelly Lundberg and Robert Pollak. 1996. "Bargaining and Distribution in Marriage," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 10,4: 139-58.
- Tom Sylvester. 2002. "The Marriage Trap: Why Feminists Won't Talk About Dad," in *National Review Online*.
- Janet Gornick and James Q. Wilson. 2002. "Is the Marriage Debate Over?" *The American Prospect online*.

Week 8. Motherhood *Note: Midterm exam this week.*

Q: How and to what extent does sex affect parenting style? Does it matter?

- Muriel Jolivet. 1997. *Japan: The Childless Society?* New York: Routledge. Pp.5-37.
- Sarah Blaffer Hrdy. 1999. *Mother Nature*. New York: Pantheon. Pp. 205-317, 383-417.

Week 9. Woman and Development

Q: Is economic development good or bad for women? What is the case on both sides?

- World Bank. 2001. *Gendering Development*. Pp. 1-69, 181-228.
- Amartya Sen. 1990. "Gender and Cooperative Conflicts," in Irene Tinker, eds., *Persistent Inequalities: Women and World Development* (Oxford), pp. 123-149.

Week 10. Woman and the Labor Market

Q: Where does gender wage inequality come from? What can be done about it? Evaluate the consequences of different solutions.

- Mary Brinton. 2001. "Married Women's Labor in East Asian Economies," in Brinton, ed., *Women's Working Lives in East Asia* (Stanford), pp. 1-37.
- Francine Blau and Lawrence Kahn. 1996. *Wage Inequality* (AEI), pp. 1-26.
- Geske Kijkstra. 1997. "Women in Central and Eastern Europe: A Labour Market in Transition," in Kijkstra and Plantenga, eds., *Gender and Economics: A European Perspective*. Routledge. Pp. 118-35.

- Laurie Occhipinti. 1996. "Two Steps Back? Anti Feminism in Eastern Europe," *Anthropology Today* 12/6: 13-18.
- Margarita Estevez-Abe. 2002. "Gendering Varieties of Capitalism"

Week 11. Women and Politics

Q: Why are women underrepresented in formal political institutions? What difference does it make?

- Bang-Soon Yoon. 2001. "Democratization and Gender Politics in South Korea," in Kelly, Bayes, Hawkesworth, and Young, eds., *Gender, Globalization, and Democratization* (Rowan and Littleman), chapter 10.
- Maria Carrilho. 2000. "Men and Women in Political Leadership," in Mino Vianello and Gwen Moore, *Gendering Elites: Economic and Political Leadership in 27 Industrialised Societies* (Macmillan), chapter 6.
- Tiana Norgren (1998), "Abortion Before Birth Control: The Interest Group Politics Behind Postwar Japanese Reproduction Policy," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 24,1: 59-94

Week 12. Women in the Global Economy

Q: How does global economic integration affect women and men differently?

- Yassine Fall. 2001. "Gender and Social Implications of Globalization: An African Perspective," in Kelly, Bayes, Hawkesworth, and Young, eds., chapter 4.
- Mario Osava. 1999. "Labour: Women Trade Unionists Put Globalization in the Dock," *World News*.
- Frances Rosenbluth, Matthew Light, and Claudia Schrag. 2002. "The Politics of Low Fertility." Yale ms.

Week 13. Policy Prescriptions and Wrap up

Q: What are the trade-offs among different policy options? Devise a set of government policies and evaluate their distributional consequences.