This course is writing intensive.

The texts and a reader should be purchased from New Jersey Books:

- **The Price of Motherhood**

- **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

- **Pornography: Private Right or Public Menace?**

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 10% (contributions to class discussions, punctuality, and attendance), midterm 30%, final 30%, and three writing assignments each worth 10%.

Each exam 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 midterm will be **March 7 during the class period** and the final is **May 7, 3:00-6:00 pm during final exams week**.

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 with Jim Lehrer on PBS Monday-Friday 7:00-8:00 p.m. may also be a source as well as National Public Radio.
Students may videotape television segments on women's public policy issues and bring the tape to be reviewed by the professor for showing in class.

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. All other excuses will be recorded as inexcusable. Having to work is not a reason to be excused. College 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 for spring break or at the end of the semester. Plan your travel so that your school responsibilities take priority.

Students should carefully adhere to Rutgers' policies on academic integrity. Anyone discovered cheating on an exam or plagiarizing papers 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.

Writing Assignments

Assignment 1: Write a two page, double spaced, and typewritten essay on what result gaining the vote has had on women's political, economic and social rights in America. Would women have progressed without the vote? Or did gaining the vote make no difference in women's rights in America? You may do research to tap the opinions of scholars on the subject in order to substantiate your assertions (if so, carefully cite your sources) or you may take a stand on your own about the subject without additional research. **Due February 22**

Assignment 2: Write a two page (you may need more pages to accomplish this), double spaced, and typewritten essay describing the pro-choice and the anti-choice positions on abortion. Use research in order to correctly describe the components of scholarly or religious positions on the policy. Carefully cite your sources. Then state your own position and the reasons that you take such a position in detail. You might use the U.S. Constitution and the rights enumerated therein to support either position. **Due March 28**.

Assignment 3: Write a two page, double spaced and typewritten essay on pornography. Include first in your essay a summary of the different perspectives on pornography from lectures and text. Then take a position on pornography about whether it is acceptable, should be censored, or should be subject to regulation. You may embrace one of the arguments in the text, the reader, or create one of your own. You may choose to do further research to inquire about other perspectives, if desired. **Due April 25**.
Order of Readings

First Class
Distribution of syllabi
Discussion of course requirements
Review of Rules for Class Discussion
Introduction of class members

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

Women and Work: Problems and Solutions lecture
Read: The Price Of Motherhood
Video: Sex, Power and the Workplace


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
Videos: Abortion for Survival, Fund for the Feminist Majority
Silent Scream, the anti-choice perspective
Abortion: Desperate Choices, HBO

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:

Pornography
Read: Pornography: Private Right or Public Menace?
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