

University of Pennsylvania
Spring 2002
Weds. 2-5pm
Bennett 319

Professor Dana Barron
411 Logan Hall/898-9607
dbarron@sas.upenn.edu

Women's Studies 259 Gender, Policy, and Community Service

Course Description

This seminar integrates community service with academic analysis and research on gender and public policy. Each student will intern with a Philadelphia organization that works on gender issues. Semester-long internships will be integrated with readings and assignments on topics related to gender and policy. Each student will also complete a research paper using data collected from the internship combined with academic research.

Course Assignments and Requirements

Internship: 8 or more hours per week with assigned organization
Attendance and active participation in class
Weekly reading responses by email (due each Weds at 10:00)
Brief history and overview of organization
Research paper (10-15 pp.)
Oral presentation to the class on research project

Readings

All required readings are in a bulkpack available for purchase at Campus Copy Center, 3907 Walnut Street. Please refer to the table of contents at the end of this syllabus.

Internship Organizations

Clara Bell Duvall Education Fund
Community Legal Services
Community Women's Education Project
Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Supportive Older Women's Network
Third Path Institute

Course Outline and Schedule

1. Jan. 9 Introduction and internship assignments
 2. Jan. 16 Contexts of Inequality
Readings: #1 (Sugrue) and #2 (Shaw & Lee)
 3. Jan. 23 Gender and Welfare: History and Background
Readings: #3 (Katz) and #4 (Gordon)
 4. Jan. 30 Welfare Reform at the End of the 20th Century
Readings: #5 (Katz) and #6 (Abramovitz)
 5. Feb. 6 Living, Working, Mothering in Poverty
Readings: #7 (Edin & Lein) and #8 (Ehrenreich)
 6. Feb. 13 Work and Family
Readings: #9 (Albelda) and #10 (Oliker)
 7. Feb. 20 Women, Childbearing, and Government Control
Readings: #11 (Lawson & Rhode)
 8. Feb. 27 Abortion Past and Present
Readings: #12 (Solinger) and #13 (Messer & May)
 9. Mar. 6 Women, Aging, & Health Care
Readings: #14 (Abraham)
- SPRING BREAK
10. Mar. 20 Agency Histories and Internship Experiences
 - Mar. 27 Passover: no class*
 11. Apr. 3 Class Presentations
 12. Apr. 10 Class Presentations
 13. Apr. 17 Class Presentations

Internship Descriptions

Clara Bell Duvall Education Fund

125 S. 9th Street, suite 304

Contact: Carol Petraitas, Executive Director

ph: 215-629-0111

www.aclupa.org/duvall/

Created in 1979, the Fund is dedicated to education and advocacy about the need for safe, legal, and accessible reproductive health programs.

Students will first be involved in a telephone survey testing pharmacists' working knowledge of emergency contraception ("the morning after pill") and its availability in Pennsylvania pharmacies. The telephone survey is part of a study being conducted by an MD/MPH student at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Understanding the current limitations of pharmacies is an important extension of our work on the availability of emergency contraception for rape victims in emergency rooms, as many emergency rooms furnish rape patients with prescriptions for EC rather than dispensing it on site. Students will also be furthering our advocacy efforts with emergency departments aimed at improving EC services for sexual assault victims. These efforts include a close collaboration with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and involve responding the letters and emails from emergency departments, updating the EC portion of our web site, educating sexual assault advocates about EC, exploring the potential of Pennsylvania legislation that would require emergency rooms to dispense EC on site to rape victims, and working with the distributors of "Plan B" (one of the EC products on the market) to organize a mailing to emergency departments.

Community Legal Services (CLS)

3638 N. Broad Street

Contact: Carrie Young, MSW

ph: 215-227-2400, ext. 2408

CLS helps low income residents obtain justice by providing them advice and representation in civil legal matters, advocating for their legal rights, and conducting community education about legal issues.

CLS is actively working to educate welfare recipients about upcoming deadlines and legal changes in the welfare system. In March, 2002, the first recipients will begin to reach the five-year lifetime limit on benefits that was established by federal legislation in 1996. Student interns will help with research and community education, specifically:

1. Updating community education flyers for distribution in CLS waiting rooms, at community fairs, and at trainings.

2. Helping to plan and conduct research for a Welfare Law Update at the Philadelphia Bar Association.
3. Working with CLS's Language Access Project (LAP) and the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) to ensure that DPW is providing information and materials in languages other than English, as they are required by law to do. Interns will visit each of the welfare offices in Philadelphia to get copies of the materials and prepare a report about the materials that were available.
4. Helping to coordinate the many requests for community education trainings that CLS receives. As the five year lifetime limit approaches, the number of requests is expected to increase. This work would involve planning trainings, ensuring that people were assigned to give the trainings, and preparing packets of material for trainings.

Community Women's Education Project (CWEP)

2801 Frankford Avenue

contact: Kristine Morrow, Family Literacy Coordinator

ph: 215-426-2200

www.cwep.org

CWEP helps women to improve their lives through education. It provides adult education, support services, and help obtaining work experience and jobs.

Student interns will work closely with women pursuing adult education and family literacy courses. They will conduct interviews of CWEP students and record field notes about classroom experiences. They will help read with children during the afternoon reading sessions. As part of a course on the history of women and work, interns will help students and their families construct family histories. Interns will have an opportunity to develop close ties with women and their families. Their work will be integral to the educational and family support programs at CWEP.

Special criteria:

This project requires students to be available on Thursday afternoons from 12:30-4:45.

Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania

1144 Locust Street

Contact: Jennifer Schwerin, Community Outreach Coordinator

ph: 215-351-5500

www.ppsp.org

Planned Parenthood of Southeastern PA believes that every child should be a wanted child. Its mission is to protect and enhance reproductive freedom, to increase access to reproductive health care services and information, and to promote sexual health. This mission drives the comprehensive programs and services that PPSP provides, reaching over 43,000 women, men, and teens throughout the Philadelphia area.

Student interns will work with the Public Affairs Department on its ongoing projects, including:

1. Achieving equity in contraceptive coverage
2. Keeping uninsured women healthy
3. International family planning
4. Conducting outreach to colleges and universities, providing resources to student groups, and working to motivate youth
5. Voter registration drives among patients
6. Building coalitions and community partnerships

Special criteria:

PPSP asks that the interns who work with them understand and have a strong personal commitment to reproductive rights and the goals and philosophies of Planned Parenthood.

Supportive Older Women's Network (SOWN)

2805 N. 47th Street

Contact: Merle Drake, Executive Director

ph: 215.477.6000

www.sown.org

Since 1982, the Supportive Older Women's Network (SOWN), a non-profit agency based in Philadelphia, has been dedicated to helping women over the age of sixty cope with the complex issues associated with aging. As a leading provider of support group services for older women, we offer communities and social service providers extensive expertise in establishing and maintaining support groups.

Student interns will work to develop and implement a questionnaire for SOWN clients. They will contact women by phone and conduct interviews based on the questionnaire. The interviews will cover issues like depression, isolation, health, and satisfaction with the services provided by SOWN. Interns will also attend weekly staff meetings on Mondays at 12:30.

Special criteria

SOWN asks that its interns have deep respect and a heartfelt commitment to the well-being of elderly people. Interviews will involve in-depth conversations and will require patience and empathy.

Third Path Institute

4918 Cedar Avenue

Contact: Jessica DeGroot, President

ph: 215-747-8790

www.thirdpath.org

The ThirdPath Institute is a non-profit, national project that works to assist families and individuals in making more time for life. We encourage and assist both individuals and families in redesigning work to create more time for life. We promote viable policy and thinking about making work-life balance possible for all people, in all places, at all points in their lives.

Student interns will contribute to important research and interviews for our organization. Interns help **review relevant books**: these reviews are then used to educate our staff as well as educate different constituencies connected to our organization. We also actively **interview couples** who have designed new ways to integrate work and family, where they both redesign work to create time to care for their children, and where they both share in the work of earning income and caring for children. Interns are trained in conducting and then in writing up the interviews as stories to be used in our educational materials. Interns also help **review and monitor the media** and how it addresses the topic of work and family. Given time and interest there are additional outreach projects they may be involved with, as well.

Women's Studies 259: Gender, Policy, and Community Service, Spring 2002
Professor Dana Barron, 411 Logan Hall, 898-9607, dbarron@sas.upenn.edu

Bulkpack Contents

1. Thomas J. Sugrue, "Poor Families in an Era of Urban Transformation," in Stephanie Coontz, ed., American Families: A Multicultural Reader (Routledge, 1999), pp. 243-257.
2. Susan Shaw & Janet Lee, Women's Voices, Feminist Visions (Mayfield, 2001), pp. 304-333.
3. Michael B. Katz, The Price of Citizenship (Metropolitan Books, 2001), pp. 1-32.
4. Linda Gordon, Pitied But Not Entitled (Harvard, 1994), pp. 1-35.
5. Katz, The Price of Citizenship, pp. 317-40.
6. Mimi Abramovitz, Under Attack, Fighting Back (Monthly Review Press, 2000), pp. 9-50.
7. Kathryn Edin & Laura Lein, Making Ends Meet (Russell Sage Foundation, 1997), pp. 20-59, 88-119.
8. Barbara Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed (Metropolitan Books, 2001), pp. 1-10, 193-221.
9. Randy Albelda, "Welfare- To- Work, Farewell To Families? US Welfare Reform And Work/Family Debates," *Feminist Economics* 7(1), 2001, 119-135.
10. Stacey Oliker, "Examining Care at Welfare's End," in Madonna Harrington Meyer, ed., Care Work (Routledge, 2000), pp. 167-185.
11. Annette Lawson & Deborah Rhode, eds., The Politics of Pregnancy (Yale, 1993), pp. 284-335.
12. Rickie Solinger, ed., Abortion Wars (California, 1998), pp. xi-xvi, 1-9, 208-226.
13. Ellen Messer & Kathryn May, eds., Back Rooms (Prometheus, 1994), pp. xiv-xxi, 43-54, 63-68, 105-110.
14. Laurie Kaye Abraham, Mama Might be Better off Dead (Chicago, 1993), pp. 1-8, 44-92.