

**Course Outline**  
**Economics 132/ Women's Studies 250**  
**Women in the Economy**  
**3 Credit Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

An examination of the changing roles of women and men in the division of labor, paid or unpaid, in the US and other economies; the forces which have hitherto determined such changes; and the impact of these changes on economic life, in general, and women's position in society, in particular. Prerequisites: Reading Skill 2; English Skill 2, and Math Skill 1 or consent of instructor.

**Overall Course Objectives** Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify, in broad outline, the historical evolution in the economic roles and status of women in the economy.
2. Recognize the value of a gendered perspective to the formation of classical political economy as well as modern economic thought.
3. Discuss the changing role of the household in the macro-economy as the locus of consumer decisions, the reproduction, socialization, and supply of paid and unpaid labor.
4. Assess the changes to the role of the household to the evolving status of women in the US and other societies.
5. Assess the impact of these changes in production on the evolving status of women in the U.S. and other societies.
6. Discuss the micro-economic determinants of the organization of the workplace with respect to a sexual division of labor and the technological, managerial, cultural, political, and other factors which influence its evolution.
7. Assess the impact of changes in micro-economic determinants of production on the evolving status of women in the U.S. and in other societies.
8. Assess the differential impact of poverty, anti-poverty programs, discrimination, anti-discrimination laws, and educational reform upon women of different races, ethnic groups, and socio-economic strata.
9. Assess the effect of race, ethnic and class relationships upon gender differences in economic life.
10. Discuss the role of the globalization of the economy on prospects for bridging or widening gaps between women and men in the U.S and world economy.
11. Identify statistical evidence and ideological disagreements on a wide range of issues which differentiate women from men in economic life.
12. Explain the interdependence of institutional, cultural, and technological factors in the economy.
13. Recognize, in broad outline, the basic features of economic analysis, economists' methodology and policy recommendations.

**Major Topics**

1. Women in the US economy: Statistical realities & political battles
2. The sexual division of labor
3. Patriarchy, emancipation and the social construction of gender
4. The Malthusian legacy: Subsistence, consumerism, and population control
5. The feminization of poverty and welfare reform.
6. Economics of the household: Micro and macro perspectives
7. Women in the workplace: The changing nature of female wage-labor

8. Economic policy options: Women's issues in post-industrial societies

**Course Requirements** (List only those requirements that will be common to all sections of the course)

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but will include the following:

1. The equivalent of 10 pages of writing in the form of reaction papers, term papers, and/or other papers on designated subjects.
2. At least one 15 minute oral report and oral presentation.
3. At least one exam (mid-term or final) with an essay component.
4. Collaborative work in and outside of class.
5. Class participation will constitute a significant percent of a student's grade.
6. At least one assignment will require students to use the Internet.