

SOCY 652: Women in the Military. Final Examination Study Questions. Fall 2004.

For all questions, you are expected to provide references to document sources of information.

1. You are a member of a U.S. Presidential Commission charged with making recommendations on women's roles in the armed forces.

A. Describe current laws and policies regarding women's assignments in each of the U.S. armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard).

B. Describe women's current representation in the U.S. armed forces (numbers, percentages, occupations, etc.)

C. Summarize the arguments for reducing women's participation and evaluate the arguments on the basis of evidence.

D. Summarize the arguments for opening further military roles to women and increasing women's participation in the military. Evaluate the arguments on the basis of evidence.

E. Make a recommendation to the President about the best policy to adopt regarding women's military roles.

2. You are a member of a U.S. Congressional Commission on Initial Entry Training in the Armed Forces. One of the issues on which you have to make recommendations is whether basic training, boot camp, and the officer training academies should be gender-integrated or gender-segregated.

A. Describe the current laws, policies, and practices regarding gender integration in basic training and boot camp (and One Station Unit Training in the Army), as well as in the follow on training for particular job specialties.

B. Describe the current laws, policies, and practices regarding gender integration in the U.S. service academies and other colleges with commissioning programs (especially The Citadel and V.M.I.).

C. Summarize the arguments for gender-integrated and gender-segregated training. Evaluate the evidence bearing on these arguments. On the basis of what is currently known, what would you recommend to the Congress?

D. Design an ideal research study to test the efficacy of each mode of training beyond what we already know. Be sure to indicate how the research would lead to conclusions and policy recommendations. Include specification of the criterion to judge each mode of training.

3. You have been appointed as a consultant to the Secretary of Defense's Task Force on Sexual Harassment.

- a. Design and describe a research project to study sexual harassment in the military on the basis of what is already known, giving the theoretical and empirical basis for your choice of what and how to study;
- b. Write a sociological analysis of the causes and consequences of sexual harassment in the military (drawing on what we know in general about sexual harassment, gender construction, and interpersonal relations);
- c. Design a program to reduce the incidence of sexual harassment in the military, giving a rationale on why this is likely to work based on theoretical and empirical knowledge.

You may, as a consultant, decide either that you have time to do only one or two of the above well and thoroughly or to try to do all three with less depth. You will also need to decide whether gender harassment and sexual assault should be included in your analysis.

4. The cross-national study of the history of women's military roles during wartime and during post-war periods reveals certain recurring commonalities.

- a. Describe these commonalities and give specific examples of the nations and time periods that conform to these generalizations. Be sure to provide documentation of sources for this information.
- b. Analyze the reasons for these patterns. Include a discussion of the general theoretical perspectives that can be applied to explain such trends in women's military participation.

5. Analyze how women's military roles are affected by each of the following:

- a. Technological changes
- b. Demographic trends
- c. Systems of military personnel accession
- d. Family patterns
- e. Definitions of citizenship
- f. Cultural values and norms regarding women's roles
- g. Women's roles in civilian occupational structures

6. Analyze the relationship between women's military roles and their civilian roles in society. Be specific, using both theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence.

7. Summarize the major tenets of 2 major sociological theories and apply them to analyze some aspect(s) of women's military roles.

8. Write your own question and check it with me before answering.