

PAPERS AND PAPER PROPOSALS

PAPER 1 Assignment: Paper on women's roles in one or two nations.

(see also instructions that follow pertaining to both papers)

The purpose of this paper is to describe women's military roles in one or two countries (**other than the United States**) and to analyze variables that affect women's military roles in the nation(s) such as cultural definitions and structural patterns of gender roles and the nature of the military mission and organization in the nation.

The paper should describe, for each nation, trends in women's participation in the military, covering both historical and contemporary periods. The history and present situation in each nation with regard to combat roles and conscription for women must be described. Women's current military employment should be described in detail, including numbers and percentages of women, terms of service, and role restrictions. The description of women's military roles in the nation should include the following (to the extent that available information permits):

The history of women's participation in the military

National legislation and general policies or regulations prohibiting gender discrimination in the military

Women's potential and actual military roles (positions and occupational specialties open to women and where they actually serve)

Women in paramilitary and reserve units

Conscription of personnel or voluntary system

Gender similarities and differences in conditions of service (selection standards, duration of service, training, pay, disciplinary regulations, and progression in rank)

Regulations regarding pregnancy, parental leave, adoption, and child care

Recent changes in number and percentage of military women (including number of women in the armed forces and their percentage of force strength for both officers and enlisted personnel)

Recent changes in women's military roles

Recent tests and research on integrating military women into new areas

Current initiatives for expanding women's military roles

The paper should analyze how other variables are related to women's military roles in the nation(s). These should include relevant characteristics of the military institution (such as technological aspects, national security situation, civil-military relations, military personnel policies in general, and the demographic context for military personnel accessions). See Segal 1995 and Iskra et al. 2002 (on the syllabus) for definitions of some important variables.

The paper should also provide information and analyze the effects of women's roles in other social institutions in the nation. Some of the variables of interest here are structural trends in women's roles (e.g., labor force participation, occupational sex segregation, family patterns) and cultural values about gender roles.

PAPER 2 assignment : An in-depth analysis of the research literature in some area related to women's military roles.

We may decide to divide up the possible topics so that, as a group (as a Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces), we can address the issues with greater knowledge. How can we organize class members' information search and analysis so that our combined findings allow us to make recommendations for policy with a solid knowledge base?

Your goal in the paper is to summarize the literature on the topic (what the crucial issues are, what the research evidence tells us, what is known and what is not, etc.). The paper is to be analytic, not merely descriptive. While you may include descriptions of something, your major goal is to address issues.

Here are some possible topics. These include areas that help us address policy issues regarding women's military roles. They also include important variables that are related to women's military roles.

The issue of women in combat is a controversial one. There are areas of knowledge that can help to address the issue and that appear in arguments for or against allowing women in combat (and in particular types of combat). You can explore the literature bearing on one or two areas, analyzing both the arguments and the evidence in the area(s).

Another large policy issue is: Should women be conscripted (when men are)? Here too one can analyze arguments and evidence in an area that bears on the issue, such as historical and cross-cultural evidence on conditions under which women have been drafted.

A variable that may be related to women's military roles is: Labor force participation. Write a paper analyzing women's labor force participation rates and their relationship to women's military roles.

Another relevant variable is: Sex segregation in the occupational structure. Write a paper analyzing occupational sex segregation and its relationship to women's military roles.

Examples of other variables (each of which could serve as the topic of a paper) include:

Military technology and gender. Demographic patterns. Civil-military relations.
Problems of gender integration. Cultural values (and public opinion).

Compare and contrast race and gender with regard to military service.

Discuss the arguments and evidence bearing on the issue of whether homosexuals should be allowed in the military. Summarize the policies in different nations. Analyze the relationship between the military and other social institutions in how sexual orientation is treated.

Analyze the relationship between the proportion of a group that is female and the way women are treated by members of the group.

Analyze the role played by physical characteristics in policy issues regarding women's military roles. Analyze the social construction of physical performance criteria. Analyze the research on gender similarities and differences in physical characteristics.

Analyze attitudes and public opinion concerning women's military roles. Analyze how these attitudes have changed over time and how they differ among different groups in the population. Compare and contrast attitudes of civilians and service members.

Analyze the process of gender integration in a military setting (e.g., the service academies).

Analyze the relationship between group cohesion and performance and the effect of gender distribution on cohesion (in both military and civilian groups).

Analyze the extent and nature of sexual harassment in the armed forces. Analyze the conditions that affect the extent of sexual harassment. Describe the programs to prevent and respond to sexual harassment in the armed forces; evaluate the effectiveness of the programs.

Analyze the role played by military service in the definition of masculinity in our culture. This could be done at the individual level (e.g., rite of passage to manhood) or at the macro level (e.g., how cultural definitions of masculinity and femininity are affected by the militarization of the culture) or at the interpersonal level (e.g., how in interpersonal relationships in military settings are affected by definitions of masculinity and femininity).

Analyze cultural aspects of the military (e.g., chants, songs, rituals) for their gendered nature.

Analyze how the culture and structure of organizations (both civilian and military) are gendered.

Analyze participation and experiences of African American women in the military.

Describe and analyze the participation and experiences of women in the U.S. military in World War I (and/or World War II).

Analyze theoretical perspectives on women in the military. For example, compare and contrast various feminist perspectives. Apply sociological theories to military women.

Analyze family issues and policies in the military as they relate to gender.

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These instructions apply to both papers.

Each paper is to be a review of the research literature on some aspect of women in the military. Your goal is to summarize the literature on the topic (what the crucial issues are, what the research evidence tells us, what is known and what is not, etc.). In your paper you will SUMMARIZE, SYNTHESIZE, ANALYZE, and EVALUATE the available literature on your chosen topic. (Paper 1 has some specific goals.)

Focus your literature review on books by social scientists, scholarly journals, governmental research reports, and papers delivered at professional meetings. The emphasis should be on empirical research (and theoretical explanations). You may use some official military publications without empirical research results where appropriate, but they are not substitutes for research reports. Minimize use of newspapers and popular magazines; use them where necessary for up to date factual information not available in other sources.

Note that your papers must go beyond the required course material. The basic readings should be where you start on your literature search, not where you finish it.

If you need help in selecting a paper topic and/or in deciding how to approach a topic, I am happy to talk to you about your interests, give you relevant references, etc. Do not, however, use me as a substitute for your own literature search.

A major goal of this assignment is for you to develop social scientific literature search skills. The search will take time and effort and may require you to learn new techniques. (So don't get frustrated if it takes time and isn't immediately successful!)

You may also include analysis of empirical data in your paper, if relevant data are available to you and you can complete the analysis in time. (This is not required.)

There is no minimum or maximum length for each paper. Paper 1 is likely to be between 10 and 15 pages. Paper 2 is likely to be longer, in the range of 15 to 20 pages. Papers are not judged by their length. I will distribute in class forms to use in judging your own and others' papers. They will give you guidance about what is expected in each paper.

Each proposal and paper must be written in a scholarly way, not informally. Integrate the approaches and information from a various sources. A term paper should contain your own ideas and synthesis of others' ideas; it must not be merely a string of quotes.

Please pay very careful attention to the requirements for academic honesty; if you have any questions about what is permitted, ask! **Any direct quotes from a source must be enclosed in quotes. A paraphrase from a published source must also identify the source. Changing only a few words is not acceptable as a paraphrase; either use your own words, paraphrase substantially, or use a direct quote properly indicated (with quotation marks and a page number).** You must write this paper; using someone else's work without credit is plagiarism.