This handout is to remind you about the timing of the final paper and to suggest some ways to structure the paper. It should be about 20 pages long (not including lengthy appendices or exhibits), double-spaced, with one-inch margins, and counts for 25 percent of your course grade.

A 1-2 page paper proposal is due as an email attachment (jjacobsen@wesleyan.edu) on or before 6:00 pm on Friday Nov. 14 and counts for 5 percent of your course grade. It should describe the topic of your paper, contain a short outline showing what the major sections of the paper will be, and can include a tentative bibliography of works that you have consulted or plan to consult in the course of your research.

The final paper is due on Tuesday Dec. 16 by 6:00 pm. Please send the paper as an email attachment, preferably as a.doc file, a .rtf file, or a .pdf file. If you have non-computer-readable attachments (e.g., graphs, drawings, photocopies from sources) please provide hard copy for them, but you need not provide hard copy of the paper itself. Papers will be graded on writing quality and structural neatness and consistency as well as on content.

Some possible structures/topics for the paper
Do not feel constrained by these suggestions. I offer them only to get your brains started
        thinking about the paper.

—Analyze the current economic situations of women and men in a particular country
        other than the U.S. Try to explain what factors lead to gender differences in this
        country. Analyze unique features about the country's situation, or, alternatively,
        emphasize how the country's situation is representative of gender differences
        across a broader set of countries/societies.

—Analyze a particular policy, former, current, or proposed, for the U.S. or another
        country, in terms of its effects on economic gender differences (either a specific
        difference or set of differences, or the general relative economic status of women
        and men). Policies include welfare reform, comparable worth, child care
        subsidies, child allowances, affirmative action, antidiscrimination laws, tax law
        revisions, etc.

—Analyze some statistical data on male-female differences and write up the results of
        your study. The data could come from published sources or you could conduct a
        small survey. Examples: data on test scores, data
        on college major patterns by sex, time-series data on female labor force
        participation and demographic changes.

—Delve more deeply into a theoretical issue discussed in the text. Examples: carefully
        explicating one or more discrimination theories, reading the original articles and
        subsequent commentary and comparing and contrasting them; carefully
        explicating one or more models of how bargaining might be conducted between
        members of a household; considering the mechanisms leading to and
        sustaining sex segregation.

—Consider economic gender differences more deeply for a particular racial or ethnic group, in this or another country. Compare and contrast outcomes for this group to other groups, where the other groups may be similar or different along some important social or economic dimension.

—Consider economic gender differences more deeply for a particular social class, or for a particular social or cultural group within a country. Compare and contrast outcomes for this group to other groups in the country, particularly to the majority group, if there is one.

—Pick a historical period and discuss economic gender differences in that period and factors leading to those differences, for the U.S. or another country.

—Pick a controversial topic from the book or another source, look at the original references for that topic as well as searching for any more recent writings on the topics, and read and critique them, coming to your own conclusions on the topic. Examples: Do women really pick occupations with lower rates of human capital depreciation? Do women really pick occupations with pleasanter working conditions, and how much does this really explain the gender wage difference? Did the passage of no-fault divorce laws hurt or help women and/or men?