**Chapter 9: Gender Stratification: She/He—Who Goes First?  
This American Life**

**Recommended Readings**

Susan Brownmiller, Against Our Will: Men, Women, and RapeThis classic piece uses case studies and statistics to provide a cultural history of rape and aggression against women.

John D'Emilio and Estelle B. Freedman, Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in AmericaThe authors explain a wide variety of issues surrounding sexuality in the United States including same sex relationships, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, and women's rights.

Susan Faludi, Backlash: The Undeclared War Against WomenFaludi examines the backlash to the feminist movement that women in the 1980's received. This included propaganda warning of a "husband shortage" for professional women and the rise of fashion models who appear to have been battered.

Susan Faludi, Stiffed: The Betrayal of the American ManFaludi uses a number of examples to explain how the cultural ideal of "masculinity" that men have been sold is getting harder and harder to achieve. She details the scapegoating that occurs as a result of men's frustration.

Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Hochschild, Global Women: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New EconomyThis collection of essays focuses on the "female underside of globalization," that often involves poor women leaving their own families to care for the families of wealthier individuals.

Jean Kilbourne and Mary Pipher, Can't Buy Me Love: How Advertising Changes the Way We Think and FeelKilbourne and Pipher explain the pervasiveness of advertising and the ways that advertising affects and objectifies individuals.

Pamela Paxton and Melanie Hughes, Women, Politics, and Power: A Global Perspective Paxton and Hughes explore women's political power worldwide and examine the historical trends that have led to varying degrees of women's global political representation.

Barbara J. Risman, Gender Vertigo: American Families in TransitionIn this book, Risman interviews couples who are attempting to create egalitarian relationships and details the difficulties they face in a world not designed for equal unions.

Christine L. Williams, Still A Man's World: Men Who Do Women's WorkWilliams interviews men in traditionally female dominated occupations and explains the glass escalator most experience. She finds that, contrary to their chosen careers, most have quite traditional ideas about masculinity.

Naomi Wolf, The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty are Used Against WomenWolf argues that the standard of beauty presented by the media is unattainable by most women and details the industries (cosmetic, plastic surgery, and diet) that have evolved to help women correct their “flaws.”

Naomi Wolf, *Misconceptions: Truth, Lies, and the Unexpected on the Journey to Motherhood*

In this book, Wolf argues that, due to our social conceptions about motherhood, mothers are often patronized and misunderstood. This, she suggests, divides heterosexual families by class, with mothers in the care-giving class and fathers in the working class highlighting the persistence of gender stratification despite the movement of women into the workplace.

C.J. Pascoe, *Dude, You’re a Fag: Masculinity and Sexuality in High School*

This book documents Pascoe’s ethnographic work where he spent a year and a half examining the meaning of masculinity and sexuality in a working-class high school. Pascoe discusses her findings on the “fag discourse” showing that sexualized rhetoric used among high school age boys is as much about gender as it is about sexuality.

Miliann Kang, *The Managed Hand: Race, Gender, and the Body in Service Work*

Kang interviews nail technicians, shop owners, and women seeking manicures to uncover intersectional dynamics of race, class, gender, and sexuality present in receiving and giving nail and beauty services.

Gail Dines, Jean M. Humez. *Gender, Race, and Class in Media: A Critical Reader*

From gender issues in Desperate Housewives, to race in Ugly Betty, gender biases in video games, and portrayals of the American family in Extreme Makeover, this book provides a critical analysis of media consumed for pleasure while providing a grounding in theory.

Waring, Marilyn. *If Women Counted: A New Feminist Economics*. Waring, a social scientist from New Zealand, considers how women’s labor is overlooked in the global economy.