Gender and Patriarchy Assignment
**WORTH 200 POINTS** *ALWAYS ONE SPACE BETWEEN EACH QUESTION AND EACH ANSWER*

1.  (18 pts) Watch the video, "Do Women Earn Less than Men?"  Quote and explain the four points that Prof. Horwitz makes.

Point 1 (educational choices):

Point 2 (career, education, and non-career choices):

Point 3 (job hours choices):

Point 4 (job tenure choices):

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| **What Horwitz means by “free choice” and “free market.”**  Horwitz argues that gender inequality in the US is the result of women making free choices in a free market -- that women’s lower earnings is not a result of male dominance or discrimination. The “free market” part of his argument means that people freely choose part-time work and low-tech careers and knowingly get paid less due to market competition. For Horwitz, women freely made choices to bear children and make educational choices resulting in lower-paying careers, and therefore, there is no patriarchal issue to fix and government intervention in the free market is unnecessary.Sociologists, in contrast, are deeply skeptical of the “free choice” view of human behavior.  Research suggests that women’s decisions and conditions are indeed shaped by male dominance (patriarchy).  At the most basic level, people do not choose their gender at birth. That females are the gender that bears children is not a choice. Further, women learn indirectly from their families and communities that they should stay at home and raise children (or not), should pursue a certain type of career (or any career).  It’s not the case that “choices” are made outside of culture, politics, and social circumstances. Girls in wealthy families may get tutoring that opens greater opportunities for their careers than poor girls. Neither simply made a “choice” to pursue or not pursue certain careers.  More obviously, if women are harassed at an engineering company, and quit, then their decisions to give up an engineering career are not “free” either. They are socially conditioned. It works both ways.  Women’s options may be positively shaped to counter patriarchal social conditions that are shaping so-called free markets. If all girls are *encouraged* to take physics courses rather than social science courses, or if men are encouraged and allowed to receive paternal leave to help raise kids, and so on, then people’s decisions are also not “free” but shaped by social and political circumstances.  This means that markets are not really “free” or “neutral” and working all by themselves. A “free” market in the context of patriarchy or slavery, etc. is not really free, but shaped by social conditions. Government policies establish private property markets and shape how they work.  Well-regulated markets, or little-regulated markets, are shaped by the policies that governments and people enact. Scientists observe that when governments reject patriarchy and the hands-off “free market” approach, and enact policies that regulate markets in ways that reduce gender inequality (patriarchy), as they do in Nordic countries, they can significantly reduce gender equality. |

2. (16 pts)  Read the article on gender equality in the Nordic countries, “What Makes the Nordic Countries Gender Equality Winners?” **Quote and then explain a fact** from the article on how government intervention in the market has affected gender inequality.

Fact:

Explanation:

3. (20 pts) Compare the views of people in Nordic countries to Horwitz regarding…

...whether or not gender inequality in the United States is the result of “free market choices” that men and women make.  *Explain why* people in Nordic countries disagree with Horwitz, and why Horwitz disagrees with them.

...whether or not government intervention is needed to address the gender inequality. *Explain why* people in Nordic countries disagree with Horwitz, and why Horwitz disagrees with them.

…explain **why** people in Nordic countries would argue there is patriarchy in the United States in workplaces and government, contrary to Horwitz’s views:

4. (24 pts) **Quote a fact** from from the article (Why Aren't More Girls Attracted To Physics?) and then explain how it contradicts Prof. Horwitz's claims that women "choose" different educational paths.

Explain how girls from wealthier families gain advantages over girls from poorer families:

Explain why, with regard to both wealthy and poorer families, social conditions strongly affect women’s career paths:

5.  (20 pts) Read “Many Women Leave Engineering, Blame The Work Culture”

Quote the percentages of women who chose the career, and those who practice or stay in it, and explain why those statistics are relevant to the debate.

Quote a fact from the article and explain how this research contradicts Prof. Horwitz's that workplace discrimination doesn’t account for career differences.

Quote a fact from the article and explain how the research supports the idea that people’s behavior is the result of social conditions and not simply “free choice.”