

**SP.401 – Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies
Homework Assignment #2**

Date Due: Tuesday, March 15

Length: 1-2 pages, or approximately 300-600 words

In a short essay, explain what socialization is and how it relates to the nature-nurture debate about gender. Use examples from at least one article (or film) we have discussed (e.g. the *Time* article on “The Math Myth,” Thorne, Thornton Dill, Kimmel, Paley, Risman, Lorber, Kessler, Fausto-Sterling, *Toilet Training*, or the Dateline video on the “Bruce/Brenda” case). A good strategy to follow in this short assignment is to **define terms** and focus your argument on a close reading of a single source. What is at stake in this debate for feminists? You might consider, for example, why Lawrence Summers’ comments were found to be so contentious, particularly by feminist scholars. Don’t forget to include a coherent **thesis statement** and to support your argument with concrete examples from the text(s) you choose.