Women and Work
Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies 4524
Instructor: Haley Swenson
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University Hall 037
Spring office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30pm

Accommodation of students with disabilities:
Students who have verification from Disability Services are responsible for contacting the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. The Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall; 614-292-3307) verifies the need for accommodations and assists in the development of accommodation strategies.

Course overview
From domestic labor to sex work, the areas of work known as “women’s work,” have produced major debates both inside and outside of feminist circles. In this course, we will explore the various roles that women’s labor, both as an idea and a category of labor, plays in the global political economy, especially in the production and reproduction of inequality and difference. We will also explore how various categories of difference, including sexuality, race, ethnicity, nationality, and class shape social representations of women’s labor, and the consequences of these representations for women’s lives throughout the world.

This course fulfills the General Education Curriculum (GEC) requirements for 1. Diversity: International Issues, and 2. Social Science, Section A: Individuals and Groups.

1. Diversity: International Issues
Goals/ Rationale: Diversity: International Issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.

This class will focus on the global dimensions of women’s labor and its role in the global economy. Students will understand the distinct experiences of women around the globe in the labor market, and be able to explain the roles that international politics and trade play in shaping these experiences.

2. Social Science, Section A: Individuals and Groups
Goals/Rationale: Courses in social science help students understand human behavior and cognition, and the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions.

This class will focus on the social dimensions of women’s experiences of work, recognizing that an interplay of individual and collective decisions and processes create the global economy and working conditions.
Readings:
You must purchase two books for this course, available exclusively at SBX:
- Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild, eds. *Global women: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the new economy.*

Most other readings will be available through the library. We will go over how to access these readings in class on the first day. Some readings may be listed online elsewhere or on Carmen. I will make a special note of these readings.

Class requirements
% of final grade
1. Exam 1 25%
2. Exam 2 25%
3. Participation 15%
4. Annotated Bibliography 10%
5. Research paper 25%

Attendance Policy:
Each student is allowed two unexcused absences over the duration of the semester. For each absence beyond that, except in extenuating circumstances, the student’s final grade will be dropped by three points. In the event of a severe outbreak of the flu on the OSU campus, I will rework this policy. If you are absent from a class, you are responsible for speaking to classmates about what you missed. I will only respond to emails about what was missed in class under extenuating circumstances.

Academic Misconduct:
All students are responsible for doing their own work and plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. As defined by University Rule 3335-31-02, plagiarism is “the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person’s work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person’s ideas.” Plagiarism is one of the most serious offenses that can be committed in an academic community; as such, it is the obligation of this department and its instructors to report all cases of suspected plagiarism to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. After the report is filed, a hearing takes place and if the student is found guilty, the possible punishment ranges from failing the class to suspension or expulsion from the university. Although the existence of the Internet makes it relatively easy to plagiarize, it also makes it even easier for instructors to find evidence of plagiarism. It is obvious to most teachers when a student turns in work that is not his or her own and plagiarism search engines make documenting the offense very simple.

Make sure to:
* Always cite your sources (I can help with this) and ask questions before you turn in an assignment if you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism

To preserve the integrity of OSU as an institution of higher learning, to maintain your own integrity, and to avoid jeopardizing your future, do not plagiarize!
Resources:

Your instructor: Please feel free to contact me at any time over the course of the quarter if you are struggling with papers, course work, etc. I am willing to work with you. Email is the best way to contact me. I will respond to your email within 24-hours on weekdays, and by Sunday evening at the latest on weekends (beginning Friday evening). Also, I encourage you to use my office hours.

The OSU Writing Center: OSU Writing Center consultants are an excellent resource for writers at any level or stage in the writing process. Take advantage of the free individual tutoring that you can receive there. The Writing Center is located in 485 Mendenhall Laboratory, on the south side of the oval.
Phone: 614.688.4291 Website: http://ctsw.osu.edu/

Course schedule and outline
Tuesday, Jan. 8: Welcome!
Lecture: What is work?

Unit I: What is Women’s Work and Why Does it Matter?
Thursday, Jan. 10: Gimenez, “The Oppression of Women: A Structuralist Marxist View” (Carmen)
Tuesday, Jan. 15: Hartmann,”The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism”; Barrett, “Capitalism and Women’s Oppression” (Carmen)
Thursday, Jan. 17: Global Women: “Introduction” (Ehrenreich and Hochschild)


Unit II: Global Capital and the Sweatshop
Tuesday, Jan. 29: Global Women: “Global Cities and Survival Circuits” (Sassen), p. 254-274;
In class video: Maquilapolis: City of Factories

In class video: China Blue

Unit III: Global Capital and Women Domestics


Tuesday, Feb. 19: Global Women: Filipina workers in Hong Kong homes: household rules and regulations” (Constable), p. 115-141.

Thursday, Feb. 21: EXAM I

Unit IV: Sex Work

Thursday, Feb. 28: Global Women: “Because she looks like a child” (Bales), p. 207-229

Annotated Bibliographies due in class


Unit V: Welfare and Poverty in the U.S.


Thursday, Mar. 28: *Moral Underground*, 27-56

Tuesday, Apr. 2: *Moral Underground*, 57-92

Research Papers Due

Thursday, Apr. 4: *Moral Underground*, 93-132

Tuesday, Apr. 9: *Moral Underground*, 169-190

Thursday, Apr. 11: *In class video: Take it from me*

Tuesday, Apr. 16: Mohanty, “Women Workers and the Politics of Solidarity” (Carmen)

Thursday, Apr. 18: Review and Wrap-Up

Final Exam

Monday Apr. 29, 8 a.m.

Room TBA