Course overview
“Women’s work.” The phrase harkens images of mop buckets, dirty diapers, and cooking. On the other hand, it also relates to the ‘caring’ occupations like nursing, secretarial support staff, domestic laborers, teachers and day care workers. This course, Women and Work, will ask how these various representations of feminine labor impact the ways that real women participate in formal and informal work. We will cover topics like reproductive labor, the pink glass ceiling, the racialization of skill, immigration and ethnicity, the gendered workplace, sex work, welfare to workfare, and many other topics. We will also labor to connect contextualized women’s work to the global economic scale by examining how globalization and neoliberalization have affected women’s opportunities for work and their work-based identities in different locales. This focus will allow us to explore women’s migration; their work in sweatshops and other low pay, high turnover sectors; the managerial styles that govern women’s bodies at work; and the gendered global, regional, and national forces that also contribute to many women’s continuing poverty.

Readings: You should purchase the three books listed below from the bookstore or from your web store of choice (where you can probably find cheaper, used versions of these books). If you want to order them online to save money, please do so immediately. The other readings listed on the syllabus are available as PDFs on our course web site via Carmen (http://telr.osu.edu/carmen/).

ISBN (paperback): 0-8050-7509-7 (list price, $15.00)

ISBN (paperback): 0-8223-2439-3 (list $22.95)


Plagiarism statement: DON’T DO IT. Plagiarism is the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own. You must acknowledge others’ work when you quote them or paraphrase their ideas and words. All cases of suspected plagiarism, in accordance with university rules, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If you have questions about this or other rules of conduct for students, see the student affairs webpage concerning code of conduct at http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.
Disabilities: The Office for Disability Services, located in 150 Pomerene Hall offers services for students with documented disabilities. Call ODS at 2-3307.

Class requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Exam 1</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Exam 2</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Research paper</td>
<td>30</td>
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Please note:
- You must attend class regularly. Failure to do so will result in a reduced grade or possible disenrollment from the course if you have repeated absences.
- **There will be no make-up exams given** for exam 1, unless you have a medical emergency. Such emergencies require a written letter from your physician, which will be validated by the professor. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Please arrive promptly, complete readings before class, participate actively in class discussions, and provide thoughtful engagement with lectures, readings, films, and other class materials in your exams.
- The course will be divided into two sections for exams. Exams are not cumulative.
- Instructions for the research paper will be distributed in class and posted separately from the syllabus on Carmen. Undergraduates will have to write a 8-10 page paper, and Masters students will have to write 12-15 pages.

Course schedule and outline

**Week One**

Tuesday, January 3: Introduction to the course.


Thursday, January 5: Caring labors and feminized work.


**Week Two**

Tuesday, January 10: Reproductive labor.


Guest lecture: Laura Behrendt, former Hot Wheels (Mattel) marketing exec, now stay-at-home mom in Columbus.

Thursday, January 12: Informal labor market participation: the case of sex work


*In class video: Remote Sensing* (53 minutes).

Week Three
Tuesday, January 17: Gendered sweatshop laborers: the case of *maquilas*.

Thursday, January 19: Localizing the global work of women in the Caribbean.
   Graduate students also read Introduction, Chapter 1.

Week Four
Tuesday, January 24: Docile laborers?
   *High Heels and High Tech* (Freeman): Chapter 4, p. 102-139.


Thursday, January 26: Worker agency.
   *High Heels and High Tech* (Freeman): Chapter 5, p. 140-212.

Week Five
Tuesday, January 31: Feminized labor over space and across scale.
   *High Heels and High Tech* (Freeman): Chapters 6-7, p. 213-261.

*In class video: Life and Debt* (86 minutes).

Thursday, February 2: **Exam one in class.**

Week Six
Tuesday, February 7: Scaling circuits of women’s labor.


Thursday, February 9: Global trade in domestic labor.

**Week Seven**


**Week Eight**
Tuesday, February 21: Work identities over space and scale. Working Feminism (Pratt): Chapters 3.


**Week Nine**
Tuesday, February 28: Poor women in the US: welfare to workfare


Thursday, March 2: Neoliberalism’s attack on women.
Readings TBD…

**Week Ten**
Tuesday, March 7: Workfare: the struggle of women.
In class video: Take it from me (79 minutes)

**Exam two given out (take home); papers due.**
Exams due to me by Friday, March 10.

Thursday, March 9: No class! (I have a conference.)
Work on your exams and upload them to the Carmen Exam Two Dropbox by Friday, March 10, 5PM. Carmen will not accept your exams after 5pm!