

## **Disability Services**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

## **Women and Work Syllabus Women's Studies 524 Winter Quarter 2008 Bolz Hall 311 TR 11:30am-1:18pm**

Professor M. Thomas  
1124 Derby Hall  
614-247-8222  
thomas.1672@osu.edu  
Winter office hours: Tuesdays 2pm-3:30pm and by appointment

### **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 and sexualized 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.

### **Academic Misconduct**

**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.** It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish

procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). 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](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

### **Readings**

You should purchase two texts for this course: *Global Women* and *Disposable Women*, both listed below and available from the SBX bookstore (or from your web store of choice where you might find **cheaper, used versions**). The other readings listed on the syllabus are available as PDFs or as web files on our course web site via Carmen (<http://telr.osu.edu/carmen/>).

- Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild, eds. *Global women: nannies, maids, and sex workers in the new economy*. Metropolitan books, Henry Holt and Co, 2002. ISBN (paperback): 0-8050-7509-7 (list price, \$15.00)
- Melissa Wright. *Disposable women and other myths of global capitalism*. Routledge, 2006. ISBN (paperback): 0-415-95145-3 (list price, \$31.95)

### **Class requirements**

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>% of final grade</u>
1. Exam 1	25
2. Exam 2 (take home)	25
3. Participation	20
4. Book review	10
5. Research paper	20

### **Please note:**

- This is an upper division course, and it will require upper division levels of work. You will have up to 100 pages of reading a week, and you must not fall behind. We will have regular discussion of the readings in class, and I will know – as will your classmates – whether you do the reading or not.
- You must attend class regularly. Remember, your participation grade is worth 20% of your final grade, and includes being prepared, having completed readings, participating in discussion, and attending class. If you miss more than two classes, it will be impossible for you to get an “A” level participation grade regardless of discussion and preparation for the days you attend. If you miss more than 3 classes, you will receive below at “C” participation grade. However, just attending class will not ensure a good participation grade! You must engage the course material and be an active presence in class.
- **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 – do not ask for one.

- 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 book review (of the Wright book, *Disposable women*) and for the research paper will be distributed in class and posted separately from the syllabus on Carmen. Both papers are due at the beginning of class on March 6, and should be around 8 pages long for undergrads, and 12 pages for MA students. Early papers are accepted.

### **Course schedule and outline**

#### Week One

**Thursday, January 3:** Introduction to the course.

Economic Policy Institute (2006) *State of Working America, Facts and Figures 2006*: ten reports. [www.epinet.org](http://www.epinet.org), 2 pages each.

#### Week Two

**Tuesday, January 8:** Understanding work and workers

*Global Women*: "Introduction" (**Ehrenreich and Hochschild**), p. 1-13; "Love and gold" (**Hochschild**), p. 15-30;

**Thursday, January 10:** Feminized work.

Wright, M. Chapter 1.

Badgett, M.V.L. and N. Folbre (1999). Assigning care: gender norms and economic outcomes. *International Labour Review* 138(3): 311-326.

#### Week Three

**Tuesday, January 15:** Reproductive and caring labor

*Global Women*: "Maid to order" (**Ehrenreich**), p. 85-103.

Kennelly, I. (2006) Secretarial work, nurturing, and the ethic of service. *NWSA Journal* 18: 170-192.

Story, L. Many Women at Elite Colleges Set Career Path to Motherhood. *New York Times*, September 20, 2005.

**Thursday, January 17:** Women in sport professions in the US

Cahn, Susan K. "You've Come a Long Way, Maybe: A 'Revolution' in Women's Sport?" in *Coming on Strong: Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century Women's Sport* (Harvard University Press: Cambridge, 1994)

Guest lecturer: Melissa Wiser, MA student in Women's Studies

#### Week Four

**Tuesday, January 22:** Femininity, reproductive labor and their impacts on the formal structures of work

*Global Women*: “Global Cities and Survival Circuits” (**Sassen**), p. 254-274.

Wright, M. Chapter 6.

**Thursday, January 24:** Gendered sweatshop laborers.

Wright, M. Chapters 2-3.

#### Week Five

**Tuesday, January 29:** Gendered sweatshop laborers II.

Wright, M. Chapter 4.

*In class video: China Blue*

**Thursday, January 31:** [Exam one](#).

#### Week Six

**Tuesday, February 5:** Scaling circuits of women’s labor.

Pratt, G. (2004) Chapter 3: From registered nurse to registered nanny, in *Working feminism* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press).

**Thursday, February 7:** Global trade in domestic labor.

*Global Women*: “Among women: migrant domestics and their Taiwanese employers across generations” (**Lan**), p. 169-189; “Just another job? The commodification of domestic labor (**Anderson**), p. 104-114); “America’s dirty work: Migrant maids and modern-day slavery” (**Zarembka**), p. 142-153.

*In class video excerpt: Maid in America*.

#### Week Seven

**Tuesday, February 12:** Importing reproductive care to the home: domestics and nannies.

*Global Women*: “The care crisis in the Philippines” (**Parrenas**), p. 39-54; Filipina workers in Hong Kong homes: household rules and regulations” (**Constable**), p. 115-141.

**Thursday, February 14:** Informal labor market participation: the case of sex work

Kempadoo, K (1998) The migrant tightrope: experiences from the Caribbean. In Kempadoo, K. and J. Doezema, eds. *Global sex workers: rights, resistance, and redefinition*. New York and London: Routledge, p. 124-138.

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

## Week Eight

### **Tuesday, February 19:** Sex work II.

Gregory, S (2003). Men in paradise: sex tourism and the political economy of masculinity. In *Race, nature and the politics of difference*, eds. Moore, Kosek, and Pandian. Duke University Press, p. 323-353.

*Global Women: "Selling Sex for Visas" (Brennan)*, p. 154-168.

*In class video: Live Nude Girls Unite!*

### **Thursday, February 21:** Sex, violence, and women's work at the border

Wright, M. Chapter 7, pages 151-170.

Wright, M. (2001). A Manifesto Against Femicide. *Antipode* 33: 550-566

## Week Nine (no office hours this week!)

### **Tuesday, February 26:** Poor women in the US: welfare to workfare

Economic Policy Institute (2003): "Welfare: facts at a glance." and "Welfare: frequently asked questions." [www.epi.org](http://www.epi.org)

*In class video: Take it from me* (79 minutes)

### **Thursday, February 28:** No class. Please work on your term papers!

## Week Ten

### **Tuesday, March 4:** Welfare to workfare con't.

McCrate, E. and J. Smith (1998) When work doesn't work: the failure of current welfare reform. *Gender and Society* 12(1): 61-80.

### **Thursday, March 6:** Neoliberalism's attack on women: the case of Wal-Mart.

Goldman, A. and N. Cleeland. An empire built on bargains remakes the working world. (a three part story). *Los Angeles Times*, November 2003.

Greenhouse, S. and M. Barbaro. Wal-Mart memo suggests ways to cut employee benefit costs. *New York Times* October 26, 2005.

**[Essays and term papers due today!](#)**

**[Take home exam handed out: due Tuesday, March 11, by 5pm](#)**