

Women and Work
Women's Studies 524
Winter Quarter 2006
TTh 3:30-5:18pm, Bolz 314

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

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/>).

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)

Carla Freeman. *High tech and high heels in the global economy: women, work, and pink-collar identities in the Caribbean*. Duke University Press, 2000.
ISBN (paperback): 0-8223-2439-3 (list \$22.95)

Geraldine Pratt. *Working feminism*. Temple University Press, 2004.
ISBN: 1-59213-264-2 (list price \$21.95)

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

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>% of final grade</u>
1. Exam 1	30
2. Exam 2	30
3. Participation	10
4. Research paper	30

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.

England, K. and V. Lawson (2005) Feminist analyses of work: rethinking the boundaries, gendering, and spatiality of work. In *A Companion of Feminist Geography*, Nelson and Seager, eds. Blackwell Publishing, pp. 77-92.

Economic Policy Institute (2005) *State of Working America, Facts and Figures 2004/05*: reports on CEO Pay, Income, Inequality, International, Jobs, Minorities, Poverty, Wages, Wealth, Women, Work hours. www.epinet.org, 2 pages each.

Thursday, January 5: Caring labors and feminized work.

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

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

Week Two

Tuesday, January 10: Reproductive labor.

McDowell, L, et al. (2005) Women's paid work and moral economies of care. *Social and Cultural Geography* 6: 219-234.

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

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
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.

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.

In class video: Remote Sensing (53 minutes).

Week Three

Tuesday, January 17: Gendered sweatshop laborers: the case of *maquilas*.
Wright, M. 2001. A Manifesto Against Femicide. *Antipode* 33: 550-566

Thursday, January 19: Localizing the global work of women in the Caribbean.
High Heels and High Tech (Freeman): Chapters 2-3, p. 21-101.
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.

Wright, M. (2003). Factory daughters and Chinese modernity: a case from Dongguan.
Geoforum 34(3): 291-301.

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.
Global Women: "Global Cities and Survival Circuits" (Sassen), p. 254-274; "Selling Sex for Visas" (Brennan), p. 154-168.

Tyner, J. (1999) The global context of gendered labor migration from the Philippines to the United States. *American Behavioral Scientist* 42: 671-689.

Thursday, February 9: Global trade in domestic labor.

Global Women: "Among women: migrant domestics and their Taiwanese employers across generations" (Lan), p. 169-189.

Week Seven

Tuesday, February 14: Importing reproductive care to the home: domestics and nannies.
Global Women: "The care crisis in the Philippines" (Parrenas), p. 39-54; "Just Another Job?" (Anderson), p. 104-114.

Thursday, February 16: The case of domestics in Vancouver: challenging the liberal economy.
Working Feminism (Pratt): Chapters 1-2.

Week Eight

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

Thursday, February 23: Understanding work and workers: towards a methodology of work
Working Feminism (Pratt): Chapters 7-8.

Week Nine

Tuesday, February 28: Poor women in the US: welfare to workfare
Asen, R. (2003) Women, work, welfare: a rhetorical history of images of poor women in welfare policy debates. *Rhetoric and Public Affairs* 6: 285-312.

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.

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!