Course Description

This course focuses on inequalities embedded within labor markets and economies around the globe. Additionally, the intersections of race, class, gender, sexualities, citizenship, and geographic locations are emphasized as well as the interdependence of formal and informal economies on a global level. Historical change in global economies, labor movements and the changing nature of work and labor are discussed. Issues explored include poverty and inequality, working conditions and human rights, new types of labor markets such surrogacy, migratory labor, the impact of technologies and neo-liberal policies and practices.

Required Texts


Required Assignments

Attendance and Participation 10%

(2 absences allowed—see instructor policies)
Reflective/Analytical Essays (2) 20% each
   (1) Focus on Wombs in Labor (due 3.17)
   (2) Focus on The Chicken Trail (due 4.19)
(These essays, 5 pages in length, analyze issues in the text and use other course readings and/or other scholarly sources to support the discussion)

Reading Reflections-2 pages each (2) 5% each
   (1) Due (2.23)
   (2) Due (5.3)
(These brief, 2 page reflections discuss issues in at least 2 readings from the previous weeks)

Final Project Proposal (due 4.5) 10%
(The project proposal should be a 1 page discussion/outline of the final project-the type of project, the topic, subtopics and a list of potential sources)

Final Project (Literature review or Data Analysis) 30%
Due (5.11)
(The final project, due in lieu of a final exam, is a review of the literature on the topic you propose, organized as a synthesis of subtopics OR an analysis of data from sources such as the World Bank, UN, etc. If you are skilled in statistics, you also may conduct statistical analysis of a data set).

Course Goals

To....

Develop knowledge regarding the history of global economy

Develop an understanding of economy, labor and work within a global perspective

Utilize an intersectional framework to understand the disparate experiences of work and labor in the global economy (particularly regarding gender, class, race/ethnicity and sexuality)

Evaluate the impact of particular sociopolitical policies on organizations and institutions related to work and labor

Reflect upon the connection of the structures of work and labor and the impacts on the lives of individuals within a global context
Instructor policies

• Your consistent, on-time attendance and participation are required. Please do not attend to other activities during class (cellphones, knitting, etc.). Come prepared to actively discuss the readings assigned for that day. Please take part in discussion and be respectful to the positions of others.

• After two absences, additional absences will generally lower your final grade in the course. In case of illness or personal emergency, your absence will be excused. This policy is governed by the honor code; to report an excused absence, please contact me.

• Assignments are due IN CLASS the day they are due (unless otherwise noted). An extension will be automatically applied to all assignments until 4:00 the day they are due. After this grace period, 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. an A would be reduced to an A-) will be deducted for each day of lateness, unless you previously have made arrangements with the instructor because of illness or emergency. Assignments are to be handed in on paper (double sided is fine)-please retain a copy of this work for yourself. Please use the Times New Roman 12pt font or an equivalent, double spaced (unless specifically instructed to use another format) and NUMBERED pages. Staple your papers before turning them in.

• You must fulfill all course obligations and complete all assignments in order to potentially receive credit for the course.

• Office Hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. Upon special request, I will meet with students at times outside of my office hours. Please see me IN PERSON to set up such an appointment.

• I receive up to 30 or more e-mails per day. Please do not expect me to reply immediately to an e-mail question or request. If something is urgent, please CALL ME in my office or signify in the e-mail header that it is urgent.

• Honor Code: This course will follow the policies described in the Oberlin College Honor Code and Honor System. Please include the statement “I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment” in all written work. Please contact me if you have any questions about citation/referencing, or the relationship of the Honor Code to your work in this course. For more information on the Honor Code, see http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html.

• Students with Disabilities: If you need disability-related accommodations for your work in this course, please let me know. To receive accommodations you must do so through Student Academic Services—please contact Jane Boomer, Coordinator Office of Disability Services, (Room G27/28 Peters Hall, ext. 55588, http://www.oberlin.edu/disability) for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

• The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus during the semester, if needed.
Readings:

2.2 First day of class- Introduction

2.4 Gottfried:
Ch. 1 An Introduction to Gender, Work and Economy: Unpacking Global Economy
Ch. 2: Theory of Work and Economy

2.9 Gottfried:
Ch. 3: An Integrative Framework for Studying Gender, Work and Economy
Ch. 4: The Puzzle of Gender Segregation: From Historical Roots to Contemporary Divisions

2.11 On Blackboard
In -Global Perspectives on Gender and Work:-
Ch. 25: Gamburd-Breadwinners No More: Masculinity in Flux


2.16 On Blackboard
In Cooke-Gender-Class Equality in Political Economies: Ch. 1: Gender-Class Inequality Over time

In Runyon and Peterson- Global Gender Issues in the New Millennium: Ch. 5: Gender and Global Political Economy

2.18 On Blackboard


2.23 Gottfried:
Ch. 5: Serving People: Gender and Services in the New Economy
Ch. 6: Caring for People: Gender and Social Reproduction in Service Economies

(Reflection 1 Due)
2.25 **On Blackboard**

In Treas and Drobnič-*Dividing the Domestic*:
Ch. 5: Dex-Can State Policies Produce Equality in Housework?
Ch. 11: Geist- Men’s and Women’s Reports about Housework

In Emiko and Kaoru-*Asian Women and Intimate Work*:
Ch. 6: “To be good at public and domestic work, I need three heads and six hands”; The Dilemma of Vietnamese “Modern” Women

3.1 **On Blackboard**

In Goodman-*Global Perspectives on Gender and Work*:

Ch. 18: Abib and Gurrier-The Interlocking of Gender with Nationality, Race, Ethnicity and Class: The Narratives of Women in Hotel Work

Ch. 22: Hondagneu-Sotelo- New World Domestic Order

3.3 **Pande:** *Wombs In Labor* Ch. 1-4

3.8 **Pande:** *Wombs In Labor* Ch. 5-7

3.10 **Pande:** *Wombs in Labor* Ch. 8-Epilogue

3.15 **Gottfried:**
Ch. 7: State and Economy
Ch. 9: Thinking Globally, Globally Thinking

3.17 **Gottfried:**
Ch. 10: Gender, Global Markets, Commodity Chains, and Mobilities
*(Essay 1 Due)*

**Spring Break**

3.29 **On Blackboard**

In Goodman-*Global Perspectives on Gender and Work*:
Ch. 21: Freeman-Myths of Docile Girls and Matriarchs: Local Profiles of Global Workers

Ch. 23: Salzinger-Trobe Chasing: Making a Local Labor Market

3.31  Schwartzman: *The Chicken Trail: Following Workers, Migrants, and Corporations across the Americas*
Preface; Ch. 1-3

4.5  Schwartzman: *The Chicken Trail: Following Workers, Migrants, and Corporations across the Americas*
Ch. 4-6
(Final Project Proposal Due)

4.7  Schwartzman: *The Chicken Trail: Following Workers, Migrants, and Corporations across the Americas*
Ch. 7-9

4.12  On Blackboard

In Faogen- *How Blacks Built America: Labor, Culture, Freedom and Democracy*
Ch. 2: Black Labor: Building the Economy


4.14  On Blackboard

In Kara-*Bonded Labor*
Ch. 1: Bonded Labor: An Overview
Ch. 6: Carpets and Other Sectors

4.19  On Blackboard


(Essay 2 Due)

4.21  On Blackboard

From Brennan- *Life Interrupted*
Ch. 1: Dangerous Labor: Migrant Workers and Sex Workers

In Emiko and Kaoru-*Asian Women and Intimate Work:*
Ch. 10: Kaoru-Moving from Modernization to Globalization: Migrant Sex Workers in Japan
4.26 **On Blackboard**

In Islam and Hossain- *Social Justice in the Globalization of Production*
Ch. 5: Third World Industrialization: Women Workers between Exploitation and Survival

4.28 **Gottfried:**

Ch. 8: Terrains of Struggle, Gender, Work, and Labor Organizing

**On Blackboard**

In Choudry and Hlatshwayo- *Just Work? Migrant Workers’ Struggles Today*
Ch. 2: Xenophobia, Resilience, and Resistance of Immigrant Workers in South Africa: Collective and Individual Responses

5.3 **Gottfried:**

Ch. 12: New Political Landscapes: Gender Equality Projects in Global Arenas and Nation States

*(Reflection 2 Due)*

5.5 **On Blackboard**


5.11 **FINAL PAPER DUE**