

Women's Studies 385
Women's Work
San Diego State University

Fall 2011
Tuesday, 4:00-6:40
Storm Hall258
Schedule #: 23208
TA: Claire Scriptor

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Office Hours: Office hours: Tues. 6:40 – 7:40
Wed. 11:30-12:30
Thurs.: 11:00 – 12:00, 2-3:00
or by appointment

Welcome to Women's Work, a course that explores the processes and ideas that shape women's paid and unpaid work in the U.S. and around the world. Too often women's work is invisible and undervalued, creating bias in our knowledge of history, geography, economics, politics, and social change. The information and concepts you learn in this course will help you to have a more balanced view of women's work. In addition, the course is designed to help students understand the impact of gender on work as you build careers, families, and communities.

Learning Objectives for *Women's Work*

- Explore economic issues and processes from the perspective of women, Understand of the relationship between work and the social construction of gender and sexuality
- Understanding of the ways that the lives of women past and present are shaped by economic processes
- Understand of the intersectionality of different dimensions of social organization, especially gender and class, as concepts and as lived experience
- Understand the links between women's paid employment and their unpaid caring work in the home
- Analyze the effects of globalization on women workers in the US and around the world
- Identify mechanisms of oppression and resistance in the area of work

Thinking about a Major or Minor in Women's Studies? The program offers exciting courses, is committed to women's issues and social justice, and is adaptable to your interests and concerns. Women's Studies is **not** impacted! For more information contact: **Dr. Doreen Mattingly, 594-8033, MATTINGL@mail.sdsu.edu**

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

I expect you to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. In fact, you will find it very difficult to pass the class without regular attendance. I do not, however, take roll or give participation points. Class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, guest speakers, films, and anything else I can think of. **All activities during class time, including guest speakers, films, and discussions of the day's news, are part of the class and may be part of your exams or assignments.**

You are also expected to do all of the assigned reading for the week before class. The SDSU catalog states that students "Should expect to spend a total of three hours per week, in class and study time, for each unit of college work attempted" (2001, 421). For a three-unit class during the regular term, this translates 9 hours per week (including 3 hours of class).

Office hours, appointments, and messages: You are welcome to visit or call my office during scheduled office hours; no appointment is necessary. If you want to meet with me at another time, please make an appointment (594-8033). If you need to leave some written work, put it in the envelope on my office door (AL 342). You may also contact me via e-mail (MATTINGL@mail.sdsu.edu), but DO NOT turn in assignments via email unless you have asked for and received permission from me.

Make-up exams: Students can take make-up exams only if they have received Dr. Mattingly's permission BEFORE the class period when the test is given.

Late assignments: Late assignments will be dropped one letter grade for each day they are late. Assignments are always due at the beginning of class. Assignments received 30 minutes or more after the class period begins will be considered one day late.

Classroom behavior: I come to class on time, awake, and prepared, and I expect you to do the same. It makes me crazy when people sleep in class, so if you're too tired stay home. You are welcome to bring coffee or other beverages to class.

Laptops: I prefer that laptops only be used by students sitting in the front two rows. If I believe you are using your laptop for activities that aren't class related, I'll ask you to turn it off and not bring it back. I cannot begin to explain how distracting it is to me, and probably to other students, when you are playing solitaire, checking email, etc.

Using Blackboard: Most handouts given in class, as well as grades and announcements, will be posted on Blackboard. If this is your first time using Blackboard, go to the Blackboard login page at <http://blackboard.sdsu.edu> and enter your username and password. Your username and password are the same ones you use for GradeLine and WebLine. If you have questions, visit the SDSU e-Services page at <http://www.sdsu.edu/e-services>.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES

Barker, Drucilla K and Susan F. Feiner. 2004. *Liberating Economics: Feminist Perspectives on Families, Work, and Globalization*. University of Michigan Press.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Midterm: There will be an in-class midterm on Thursday, October 27. It will be a series of short essays about the readings. You will receive a long list of questions to study in advance; a portion of them will be selected for the midterm.

Final: The final, which will be the same format as the midterm, will be on Tuesday of finals week.

Reading Questions: In these short (3-4 page) papers you will answer the questions posted on Blackboard about selected readings. You can write about any 5 reading selections marked with a RQ. Reading Questions are always due on the Thursday of the week the reading is assigned.

Movies and Events: Throughout the semester there will be a number of events on and off campus relevant to the course. I will also suggest several movies to watch. You will attend a total of FOUR and write 2-3 pages (double spaced) in addressing the points below. All Movie/Event write-ups are due on or before December 8th. I encourage you to get them done at the start of the semester. Information about approved Movies and Events can be found on Blackboard.

Points to address in your Movie/Event write ups:

- Briefly (no more than 1/3 of your write-up) describe the movie or event
- Explain how the event or movie relates to class material. Are there certain ideas that it illustrates? Any arguments it supports or contradicts?
- Given what you have learned in the class, critique (positively and/or negatively) the movie/event. I am looking here for an *informed* opinion.

Grade Breakdown --- Undergraduates

Two short papers (15% each)	30%
Reading questions (5 @ 2 points each)	10%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	25%
Movies and Events (2@ 2 points each)	4%
In-class writing	6%

SCHEDULE

	Topics	Readings	Assignments
1	Introduction	Paul, Work Life Imbalance Acute for Hourly Workers” <i>Blackboard</i> Something on Budget cuts	
2	Gender and Economics	<i>Liberating Economics</i> , Ch. 1 <i>The Price of Motherhood</i> , Intro, Ch. 4 Video, <i>Who’s Counting</i>	
3	Domestic Work	<i>Liberating Economics</i> , Ch. 2, 3 <i>The Price of Motherhood</i> , Intro, Ch. 6 “The Widening Gap” <i>Blackboard</i>	
4	Women’s Employment and the Pay Gap	<i>Liberating Economics</i> , Ch. 4 <i>The Price of Motherhood</i> , Ch. 5, Ch. 11 “The Gender Wage Gap by Occupation,” <i>Blackboard</i>	
5	Women and Poverty	<i>Liberating Economics</i> , Ch. 5 Henrici, et al., “Women in Poverty in the Great Recession” <i>Blackboard</i>	Homework 1 – Women and Budget Cuts Posters Due
6 TEACH IN	Social Spending and Women’s Work 1	<i>The Price of Motherhood</i> , Ch. 10, 13 and conclusion	
7	Unions and Labor Activism	Cranford, “Constructing Union Motherhood,” <i>Blackboard</i> Wilson et al. “Nurses respond to healthcare restructuring,” <i>Blackboard</i> <i>Movie: Live Nude Girls Unite</i>	
8	Exam		
9	History 1: Pre WWII	<i>The Price of Motherhood</i> , Ch. 3 Littlefield, “Black Women, Mothering, and Protest,” <i>Blackboard</i>	
10	History 2: War and Depression	Kessler-Harris, “Some Benefits of Labor Segregation”	

		Yesil, “Who said this is a man’s war?” <i>Blackboard</i>	
11	History 3: 1970 to present	Thistle, “The Breakdown of Women’s Domestic Economy,” Barger, “Backlash” <i>Blackboard</i>	
12	Taking a global view	<i>Brick Lane</i> <i>Liberating Economics</i> , Ch.6	
13	Immigration	<i>Brick Lane</i> <i>Liberating Economics</i> , Ch.7	
14	Manufacturing	<i>Brick Lane</i>	
15	Informal sector, social business	<i>Brick Lane</i> SOCIAL BUSINESS	
Final			

Week 15 May 1,3	International Feminism	<i>Liberating Economics</i> , Ch. 8 Brenner, "Transnational Feminism," <i>Blackboard</i> Nitschke, "Women Demand Role," <i>WEN</i>	
Week 16 May 8			Final exam, Tuesday May 8