



**Western University
Women Studies 2212G:
Gender, Bodies, Work, Value**

Tuesdays 4:30pm – 7:30pm, AHB 1B06
Winter 2017

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Lin
Office Hours: By Appointment
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Course Description:

Gender is mobilized in both insidious and obvious ways to de/value bodies, appropriate power, profit and wealth from labour, and alienate people. By adopting a global and interdisciplinary approach, this course introduces students to a variety of topics built upon the gendered lived work experiences of cross-border migrant workers in different parts of the world. We will look at theories of international migration, globalization and development, feminization of poverty and labour migration, reproductive and productive labour, patriarchal capitalism and migrant health. A multi-level analysis will be used to analyze all the themes presented in this course. The main objective of this course is to help students to make sense of sociological, intersectional, decolonial, feminist, anti-capitalist and liberatory scholarship to obtain a full understanding of gender, bodies and work.



Prerequisite(s): Women's Studies 1020E or 1.0 course from Women's Studies 1021F/G, 1022F/G, 1023F/G, 1024F/G.

Antirequisite(s): The former Women's Studies 2261F/G.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will:

- Acquire broad-based knowledge on theories, trends and important social, cultural and political issues related to gender, bodies, work and value in the local and global context.

- Analyze sophisticated social, cultural and political issues associated with gender and work.
- Improve their research skills by applying their critical and creative and multi-dimensional thinking.
- Sharpening your writing and presentation skills.

Required Text(s):

All the assigned readings can be downloaded from the course webpage (OWL)

Reading and Participation:

This course is designed to enhance your critical thinking and writing skills. As a result, it is extremely important that students will come to class prepared to learn and discuss the assigned material. Although there are no participation or attendance grades, failure to attend classes regularly will put you at a disadvantage. Much of the course is cumulative, so missing one class can cause problems for comprehending the material in the following classes.

Method of Evaluation:

Midterm Test	15%
Current Event Assignment	20%
Major Research Paper Assignment	35%
Final Exam	30%

Evaluation Details

1. Midterm Exam (15%) – February 14

- This **2-hour** closed-book exam will cover all the materials from January 10 up to February 7. You should use **lecture slides and notes** as your primary preparation materials. You can use the reading as supplement to your exam preparation.
- Exam format will be multiple-choice questions and one essay question.

2. Current Event Assignment (20%) - Due on March 3

Students will submit hard copies of **1** article from reputable newspapers or magazines or posted special reports from major networks (e.g., Globe & Mail, McLean's, CBC; the Economist; Time; Newsweek; BBC; *not* "rags", *not* official policy documents, and *not* research journals) covering current events (as recent as possible and **no more than 3 years old**; either Canadian content or international content) that relate to the course themes on **gender, bodies, work and value**. These could be news stories, cover stories, editorials, or opinion pieces. The key is that they are intended for a lay audience and presented by mass media outlets.

Students will **briefly** summarize the article they chose and then apply relevant course materials to the content of the article. You should be explicit about how your article is relevant to the course materials and whether any concepts you learned in class help you to further understand the article content. A reference page with full citations (title, source, date, page number, internet site, date) must be included as part of your submission (see <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html> for APA or ASA guidelines).

This assignment should be **3 to 3.5 double-spaced typed pages (12-pitch font, approximately 800-900 words)** in length and it is due on **Friday, March 3 by Noon (Online Dropbox Submission Only)**. Please include your article (e.g., scanned document) with this assignment (**in WORD format**) and submit all together to me.

3. Major Research Paper Assignment - Paper (30%) / Oral Presentation (5%)

The major research paper provides an opportunity for students to write a **10 double-spaced typed, (12-pitch font, approximately 2500 words)** critical literature review on a topic of gender, bodies and work that interests you. You are expected to synthesize various information and come up with your way of understanding the chosen topic. You must go beyond the descriptive information and offer key explanations of what a particular topic has received attention in the area of gender and work. Please consult with the instructor if you have any concern about the selection of your research topic.

Before the paper submission by **Friday, April 7 (Online Dropbox Submission Only)**, students will present their selected case study topic for **5 minutes** in the last two classes (**March 28 & April 4**).

****Final Group Research Paper marking Criteria**

Literature Review (50 marks)

- Provides a cohesive and coherent assessment of available literature on the chosen research
- Go beyond descriptive summary and provides an historical or thematic guide to the research
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of each concept or perspective

Critical Analysis and argument (30 marks)

- Provides a clear thesis statement and explains how it contributes to our critical understanding of course themes
- Clearly and persuasively presents an argument or position to support the thesis statement
- Goes beyond stating opinions or facts to reflexively and explicitly acknowledge and engage disagreements
- Identify gaps in knowledge and makes informed suggestions for future research

Organization & presentation (20 marks)

- Communicates effectively using proper grammar and spelling
- Presents information coherently and consistently
- Develops a clear structure (i.e., introduction, body, conclusion) that presents the argument logically and persuasively
- Use creative headings and sub-headings to focus and engage the reader
- Uses sources and quotes effectively
- Include at least **6** relevant scholarly sources

4. Final Examination (30%)

- The final exam will cover all the materials in this course.
- You will be given **a set of essay questions** in which you will be asked to define all the concepts you use and critically address important themes or arguments asked from the questions.
- You are expected to use all the reading and lecture materials to demonstrate your answers.
- Other details of the final exam will be announced on the last day of the class.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

January 10: Introduction of the course / Theories of Migration

- Discussion of course assignments & expectations
- Castles, S., Haas, H.D., & Miller, M. (2014). *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World (Fifth Edition)*. Chapter 2: Theories of Migration (pp. 25-53). New York: The Guilford Press.

January 17: Gender, Development and Global Migration

- Portes, A. (2009). Migration and development: Reconciling opposite views. *Ethnic & Racial Studies*, 32(1): 5-22.
- Boyd, M., & Grieco, E. (2003). Women and Migration: Incorporating Gender into International Migration Theory. Migration Policy Institute: Migration Information Source. Washington, D.C. March. Web address:
www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/print.cfm?ID=106.

January 24: Migrant Domestic Care Workers in East Asia

- Lan, P-C (2006). A Bounded Global Market in *Global Cinderellas: Migrant Domesticities and Newly Rich Employers in Taiwan* (pp.1-58). Duke University Press.
- Lin, S., & Bélanger, D. (2012). Negotiating the Social Families: Migrant Live-in Elder Care-workers in Taiwan. *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 40, 295-320.

January 31: Gender, Work/Marriage Migration in East Asia

- Bélanger, D (2010). Marriages with foreign women in East Asia: bride trafficking or voluntary migration? *Population and Societies*, July-August, 2010, no 469.
- Lan, P-C. (2008). New Global Politics of Reproductive Labor: Gendered Labor and Marriage Migration. *Sociology Compass*, 2(6), 1801-1815.

February 7: Gender & Agricultural Migrant Workers in Canada

- Basok, T. (2002). Captive Labour, *Tortillas and Tomatoes: Transmigrant Mexican Harvesters in Canada* (pp.106-128). McGill-Queens University Press.

[Film: "El Contrato": https://www.nfb.ca/film/el_contrato/]

February 14: Midterm Examination

- 2-hour Midterm Exam (Cover all the material from January 10 up to February 7)

February 20: No Class (Reading Week)

February 28: Female Migrant Factory Workers in Southeast Asia

- Pearson, R., & Kusakabe, K. (2012). *Burmese Migrant Women Factory Workers: Thailand's Hidden Workforce*. Zed Books Ltd, London. (Chapter 1 & 2 pp. 1-45).

[Short documentary: "Blue Elephants - migrant workers in the Malaysian electronic industry": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWv2_kz5Ha0]

- Current Event Assignment Due on **Friday March 3 by Noon**

March 7: The Maquiladoras: Factory Workers at the Mexico-US Border

- Bachour, M-K. (2015). Disrupting the Myth of Maquila Disposability: Sites of Reproduction and Resistance in Juárez. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 48, 174-184.

[Film: "Maquilapolis": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUQgFzkE3i0>]

March 14: The Impact of Migration on Gendered Power Relations in Africa

- Hondagneu-Sotelo, P. (2000). Feminism and Migration. *The ANNALS of the Academy of Political and Social Science*, 571, 107-120.
- Musanga, T. (2016). Zimbabwean Transnational Migration, (In)Visible Masculinities, and the Reconfiguration of Gender in Shimmer Chinodya's *Chairman of Fools*. *Journal of Black Studies*, 47(4), 365-378.

March 21: Cross-border Sex Workers and Health Risks in Europe

- Spanger, M. (2013). Gender Performances as Spatial Acts: (Fe)male Thai Migrant Sex Workers in Denmark. *Gender, Place and Culture*, 20(1) 37-52.
- Weine, S., Bahromov, M., Kalandarov, T., Jonbekov, J., & Loue, A. (2013). Female Migrant Sex Workers in Moscow: Gender and Power Factors and HIV Risk. *Women & Health*, 53:56-73.

March 28: Empowerment of Female Migrant Workers

- Piper, N. (2007). Political Participation and Empowerment of Foreign Workers- Gendered Advocacy and Migrant Labour Organizing in Southeast and East Asia in N. Piper (ed.), *New Perspectives on Gender and Migration: Livelihoods, Rights and Entitlement*. London: Routledge, pp. 247-273.
- Individual Oral Presentation

April 4: Presentation Week

- Individual Oral Presentation (No Reading)

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

If you miss the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must notify me in person or by email. In most circumstances, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to hand in your assignment at a later date.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing (e.g., footnotes or citations.) Plagiarism is a scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

Students may be required to submit their assignments to turnitin.com on the class WebCT website after they are completed. Papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

(<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>). Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: (http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

(http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to the policy, specifically, the definition of Scholastic Offence, according to

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Student Support

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.