

*Women and Work*  
SOCI 424 / WMGS 424  
Fall 2011

**Instructor:** Dr. Lynda Harling Stalker

**Office:** Annex 111B

**Phone:** 867-3877

**Email:** lharling@stfx.ca

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 9:30-11:30; Wednesdays 9:30-11:30; Tuesday 11-12, 1-2; or by appointment

**Course Description**

This seminar course sets out to explore the historical, social, cultural, economic and political conditions under which women have experienced work. Starting with the pre-contact, this explores the many ways in which women's work has been (in)visible and the role it has played in shaping society. In order to do this the course has been divided into four key sections: theory and history; division of labour; labour force; care and emotion work; and neo-liberalism and culture.

**Course Objectives**

The course objectives are as follows:

- Students engage with course material critically and reflexively.
- Students participate in discussions with informed opinions, ideas and comments.
- Students lead seminars that are enlightening, engaging and thought-provoking.
- Students write critical essays that articulate a well-formulated argument.
- Students respond to questions in a comprehensive and coherent manner.

**Course Format**

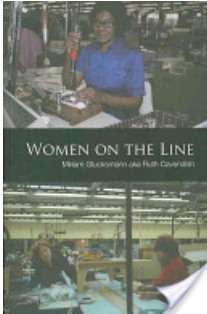
This course is a combination of lecture and seminar styles. As such, students are expected to come to class having completed that day's assigned reading(s) and ready to discuss them.

**Course texts**

There is a book of readings available at The Campus Store. You are also to choose ONE of the following:



*Baking as Biography* by Diane Tye



*Working on the Line* by Miriam Glucksmann



*Critical to Care* by Pat Armstrong et al.



*Age, Gender and Work* edited by Julie Ann McMullin

### **Course evaluation**

**Reading response quizzes** (3 x 5% = 15%): These will happen randomly throughout the term. You will be given a question at the start of class about that day's assigned reading.

**Participation** (10%): This is more than just attendance. It is a reflection of your preparedness for class and the contributions you make to class discussions.

**Seminar presentation** (20%): This is a group assignment based on one of four books (*Baking as Biography*, *Working on the Line*, *Critical to Care* and *Age, Gender and Work*). The goal is to prepare and present a seminar that your classmates should be able to answer an essay question about the book. You should cover all areas that would be expected in a critical book review. All groups will receive their marks after the last group has presented. You may use AV examples throughout the seminar but it should amount to no more than 15 minutes.

**Major essay** (30%): You are to use your book as a starting point to investigate a critical question that the book raises. You are expected to craft an approximate 12-15 page essay exploring what the literature has to say. You are expected to use a minimum of 5

academic sources (that you have read), not including course material. The style for this essay is to be ASA.

**Take-home test (25%):** You will be given 5 short essay questions – one for each section of the course. You will have 24 hours to complete the questions.

Late penalties: For each day a paper is late, **5%** will be deducted from the assignment's grade.

Extensions: Extensions will only be granted with proper documentation.

N.B.: Be sure to retain a hard copy of all papers handed in.

### **Plagiarism**

Copy of direct quotes or ideas without acknowledging the original author is considered plagiarism. Handing in a paper that you did not write, or a paper that you handed in for another class without permission of the instructor is also considered an infraction. These are serious academic offence. Any such offence will result in a ZERO in this course and referred onto university officials. For more information on plagiarism see the university calendar.

### **Special Needs**

If a student requires special accommodations, please see the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Electronic guidelines for this course**

Mobile communication devices are not permitted during class time. This includes cell phone and laptops. If you are noticed using one, you will be asked to leave the classroom. If you require a laptop for notetaking, please speak with the instructor. In such cases, you will be asked to sit in the first couple of rows of seats.

## Reading list

### *Theory and History*

**Sept. 14:**

Benoit, C. 2000. "Women's work and social rights in the pre-capitalist era."

**Sept. 19:**

Evans, M. 2003. "The meaning of work."

**Sept. 21**

Parker, R. 1984/2010. "The creation of femininity."

McRobbie, A. 2004. "Post-feminism and popular culture."

### *Division of Labour*

**Sept. 26**

Hamilton, R. "Challenging the sexual division of labour: Family, employment and community."

**Sept. 28**

Porter, M. 1985. "'She was skipper of the shore-crew: Notes on the history of the sexual division of labour in Newfoundland."

**Oct. 3**

Eichler, M. 2010. "What is housework?"

Kelly, R and S. Shortall. 2002. "'Farmers' wives': Women who are off-farm breadwinners and the implications for on-farm gender relations."

**Oct. 5**

**Group presentation on *Baking as Biography***

## *Labour Force*

### **Oct. 12**

Pierson, R. 1976. "Women's emancipation and the recruitment of women into the Canadian labour force in World War II."

### **Oct. 17**

Jackson, A. 2010. "Women in the workforce: Still a long way from equality."

### **Oct. 19**

Vosko, L.F. 2007. "Gendered labour market insecurities: Manifestation of precarious employment in different locations."

### **Oct. 24**

Boyer, K. and K. England. 2008. "Gender, work and technology in the information workplace: from typewriters to ATMs."

### **Oct. 26**

**Group presentation of *Working on the line***

## *Care and emotion work*

### **Oct. 31**

Wolkowitz, C. 2002. "The social relations of body work."

### **Nov. 2**

Bruckert, C. 2002. "The world of the professional stripper."

### **Nov. 7**

Das Gupta, T. 2002. "Racism in nursing."

Pratt, G. "From registered nurse to registered nanny: Discursive geographies of Filipina domestic workers in Vancouver, B.C."

### **Nov. 9**

**Group presentation of *Critical to care***

## *Neo-liberalism and organisational culture*

### **Nov. 14**

Fox, B. and P. Sugiman. 1999. "Flexible work, flexible workers: The restructuring of clerical work in a large telecommunications company."

### **Nov. 16**

McFarland, J. 2009. "Telling the story of globalisation, neoliberalism, and call centre industry in New Brunswick."

### **Nov. 21**

Willis, J. and S. Dex. 2003. "Mothers returning to television production work in a changing environment."

### **Nov. 23**

Maleta, Y. 2009. "Playing with fire: Gender at work and the Australian female cultural experience within rural fire fighting."

Van Wijk, C.H. and G. Finchilescu. 2008. "Symbols of organisational culture: describing and prescribing gender integration of navy ships."

### **Nov. 28**

**Group presentation on *Age, gender and work***

### **Nov. 30**

**Review**