This course is organized around the theme of work. Is work part of the “daily grind” or does it “make life sweet”? Is it a source of freedom or oppression? What counts as work and as nonwork and how should those practices be valued? What role does work play in the allocation of power in society? What part does work play in the perpetuation of gender difference and inequality? How and to what effect do we “do gender” at work? What are the relationships between the systems of waged labor and unwaged domestic labor, work and family, capitalism and patriarchy? In the first part of the course we will consider a variety of theoretical orientations towards work, from early liberal feminist prescriptions of waged work for women to a variety of Marxist feminist and other critiques of both waged and unwaged work under capitalism. What, we will ask, are the possibilities and limitations of these very different perspectives on work and its value? In the second part of the course we will turn our attention to developments in the organization of work and in the gender division of labor. Examining a variety of different forms of work, we will focus on the lived experience of these practices, consider how they are best theorized, and discuss their implications for the construction and maintenance of gender identities and hierarchies.

**Texts:** The following texts are required and available for purchase in the bookstore. They should also be on reserve in Perkins Library (but I suggest you double check this). Additional articles listed in the schedule will be made available on Sakai, listed under either “E-reserves” or “Resources.”

- Fuentes & Ehrenreich, *Women in the Global Factory*
- Salzinger, *Genders in Production: Making Workers in Mexico’s Global Factories*

**Requirements:**

* Careful reading of the assigned texts. Most of our work this semester will consist of reading; students will be expected to keep up with the reading and come to class prepared to review and reflect on all the assigned material for that day.

* Participation (10%). Attendance is required of every student and participation in class discussions is highly recommended. Please let me know if you have to miss a class. More than two unexcused absences will reduce your participation grade by one plus or minus per absence.

* Five short (2 or 3 pages, double-spaced) writing assignments (30%). Topics will be announced and posted on Sakai at least one class before they are due (and there will be at least nine opportunities). Assignments are due in class and, since these are designed to focus class discussion, late assignments will not be accepted.

* Two take-home essay exams. Each exam requires roughly 9-10 pages of writing in total on one or more topics (30% for each exam). Exams will be distributed at least 7 days in advance of the due dates. Please note that exams turned in late without prior permission of the instructor will be penalized one grade per day. In order to pass the course students must complete both exams.
**Academic Integrity:**

Students are responsible for learning and adhering to the conventions of proper citation. When you quote, paraphrase, or refer to the work of another, you must cite your source. Please consult the Duke Community Standard, the Duke University Libraries documentation guidelines, and the Office of Judicial Affairs for further information. If you have any questions be sure they are answered before the assignment is due.

**Tentative Schedule** (any changes will be announced in class and posted on Sakai)

Aug. 26  **Introduction**

**PART 1: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS AND HISTORICAL POSITIONS**

**A) The Promise of the Work Society**

**Feminist Theories of Work and Individual Freedom**

Aug. 28  Reading: Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (selections from chap. 1 & chap. 14)

Sept. 2  Reading: NOW “Statement of Purpose”
Sandberg, *Why we have too Few women Leaders* (Ted Talk)
hooks, *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* (selection, “Re-Thinking the Nature of Work”) (*Note that hooks is a critic of this position.*)

**B) Critiques of Contemporary Capitalist Work Societies**

**Feminist Theories of Alienated Labor**

Sept. 4  Reading: Marx, “Estranged Labour”

Sept. 9  Reading: Mainardi, “The Politics of Housework”
Schleuning, *Idle Hands and Empty Hearts* (selection)
Rowbotham, “A Woman’s Work is Never Done”
(recall the readings by Friedan and hooks for this discussion as well)

**Feminist Theories of Exploitation**

Sept. 11 Reading: Hartmann, “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a More Progressive Union” (selection)
Young, “Beyond the Unhappy Marriage: A Critique of the Dual Systems Theory”

Sept. 16 Reading: Glenn, “Gender, Race, and the Organization of Reproductive labor”
Briggs, “Foreign and Domestic: Adoption, Immigration, and Privatization”
Emotional Labor and the Service Economy

Sept. 18  Reading: Hochschild, *The Managed Heart* (selection)
           Bryant, “Consuming Lattes and Labor, or Working at Starbucks”

C) Critiques of the Work Society: Post-Work Critiques and Visions

Sept. 23  Reading: Black, “The Abolition of Work”
           Aronowitz et al., “The Post-Work Manifesto” (selection)

PART 2: CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF WORK: WORKING GENDER

Unwaged Domestic Work

Sept. 25 & Sept. 30  Reading: Hochschild, *The Second Shift* (read all, but note that chapters 6, 7, 11, 14, and pages 269-278 are optional)

Waged Domestic Work

Oct. 2    Reading: Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Doméstica* (read preface, chapters 1-3, and 5; you can skip pages 63-80).
Oct. 7    Reading: Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Doméstica* (chapters 6 & 7)
           Meagher, “Is it Wrong to Pay for Housework?”
           Ehrenreich, “Maid to Order” (selection)

Welfare and Domestic Work

          Limoncelli, “Some of us are Excellent at Babies’: Paid Work, Mothering, and the Construction of `Need’ in a Welfare-to-Work Program”

Oct. 14   Fall Break, No Class

Oct 16:  **TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DUE IN CLASS***
          In Class Film:  *The Full Monty*

Manufacturing Work

Oct. 21   Reading: Boydston, “The Pastoralization of Housework”
          Nixon, “I Can’t Put a Smiley Face On’: Working-Class Masculinity, Emotional Labour and Service Work in the `New Economy’” (selection)

Oct. 23   Reading: Fuentes & Ehrenreich, *Women in the Global Factory*

Oct. 28   Reading: Salzinger, *Genders in Production* (chapters 1-3)
Oct. 30 Reading: Salzinger, *Genders in Production* (chapters 4 and 6)

Nov. 4 Reading: Salzinger, *Genders in Production* (chapters 7 and 8)

**Precariousness and Employability**

Nov. 6 Reading: Hatton, *The Temp Economy* (selection)
Perlin, *Intern Nation* (selection)

Nov. 11 Reading: Peters, “The Brand Called You”
The Invisible Committee, *The Coming Insurrection* (selection)

**Surrogate Labor**

Nov. 13 Reading: Goslinga-Roy, “Body Boundaries, Fiction of the Female Self”
Pande, “Commercial Surrogacy in India: Manufacturing the Perfect ‘Mother Worker’” (read at minimum pages 969-973, 975-980, and 989-990)

**“Mail-Order Brides”**

Nov. 18 Reading: Constable, “A Tale of Two Marriages: International Matchmaking and Gendered Mobility”
Look at two international matchmaking/mail-order bride websites.
(For satirical interventions see: http://www.bigbadchinesemama.com/
http://mailorderhusbands.net/love/order/)

**Sex Work**

Nov. 20 Reading: Chapkis, *Live Sex Acts* (selection, pages 11-32)
Barry, *The Prostitution of Sexuality* (selection from chapter 1)

Nov. 25 Reading: Jenness, *Making it Work* (selection)
Barry, *The Prostitution of Sexuality* (selection from chapter 2)
Chapkis, *Live Sex Acts* (selection, pages 70-82)

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Break, No Class

Dec. 2 Reading: O’Connell Davidson, “The Rights and Wrongs of Prostitution”

Dec. 4 Reading: Bernstein, “Buying and Selling the ‘Girlfriend Experience’”

**FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM due by Saturday, December 13 at 7 PM**