With the re-emergence of the women's movement in the sixties, the issue of women and work has been addressed by the feminists using different perspectives and theoretical frameworks. In recent years, there has been a proliferation of feminist studies on women and work, both in the North and the South to deal with the questions, such as, what kind of work women do at home and in the labor market, what they produce locally and globally and what constitutes their relation to the production and reproduction processes. Hence, the purpose of this course is to deal with the following themes:

a. the nature of women's work, women's labor force participation and to examine the usefulness of various perspectives in explaining women's work;
b. how women's work has been shaped by gender division of labour, cultural perceptions and economic conditions;
c. the work of women in agriculture, informal sectors and the global economy;
d. how ethnicity and class facilitate the participation of certain women workers while excluding others; and
e. how women's groups and labor unions can empower women in order to achieve their rights and bring about social change.

Required Readings:


In addition, a set of readings will be placed on reserve in the library.

Recommended Text:


Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Short Assignment (2 pages) 10%
Research Essay (5-8 pages) 25%
Mid-term Test (Take Home, two 4-5 page essays) 20%
Discussion Paper/Journal (10-12 pages) 25%
Seminar Participation and Presentation 20%

Prerequisite: WS 101 or 102 (may be taken concurrently)

Designated Credit: This course may be applied to the certificate in Liberal Arts.