WS 308-4: Women in the Economy: Paid and Unpaid Work

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Course Description:
This course deals with three main issues: (i) what kind of work women do at home and in the labour market, (ii) what they produce locally and globally, and (iii) what constitutes women's work in relation to the production and reproduction processes. Using a critical perspective, the course evaluates the quality of work and jobs women do in Canada, women's access to training and on-the-job learning, the importance of jobs, and recent trends in the job market. In the process, the course looks at inequalities and differences along the lines of gender, race, ability, and age—all of which intersect with differences in wages and the quality of employment—and at the experiences of visible minorities, Aboriginal Canadians, and persons with disabilities, including how these groups, more specifically women, are vulnerable to discrimination in the labour market. Two other important focuses involve assessing the role of the union and its challenges in attempting to organize workers irrespective of gender, race, sexuality, age, and ability and evaluating the impacts of globalization and the Free Trade Agreement with the US.

Course Texts:
Required:


Women's Studies Custom Courseware 2008

Recommended:
A number of texts will be placed on reserve in the library.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Book report & presentation 25%
(250 words per page; 6-7 pages)
Interview a woman/written report & presentation 30%
(250 words per page; 9-10 pages)
Final exam (take home) 30%
(2 short essays out of 3)
Class attendance & participation 15%

Prerequisites:
Prerequisite: six credits in Women's Studies including WS 101 and/or 102. Students who have taken SA 335 and/or WS 310 or WS 308 under the title Women and Work may not take this course for further credit.