GSWS 308-4: Women in the Economy: Paid and Unpaid Labour

Habiba Zaman
Email: hzaman@sfu.ca
Lecture: Thursdays 13:30 – 17:20 Burnaby Campus
Office hours: TBA
Office: TBA

Course Description:
This course deals with (i) conceptual, methodological, and theoretical framework for studying labour market insecurity in Canada; (ii) the phenomena of precarious employment and its manifestations at multi-levels; and (iii) workers’ experiences in both public and private sectors. Using an interdisciplinary framework and critical literature, this course also examines the interdependence of women’s labour—both paid and unpaid—and family life. The course evaluates the quality of work and jobs women do in Canada, and looks at inequalities and differences which intersect with differences in wages and the quality of employment. The course assesses the role and significance of the labour union and its challenges in attempting to organize workers irrespective of gender, class, sexuality, age, dis/ability, race, and citizenship.

Learning Outcomes:
The goal of this course is to learn what constitutes women’s work—paid, unpaid, and volunteer—in relation to the production and reproduction processes and how to achieve family and all forms of care-work integration.

Course Texts and Courseware:
Required:
ISBN 0-7735-2962-4 (paperback)


Recommended:
A number of texts will be placed on 24-hour reserve in the library.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
One short paper and presentation (1500 words; 5-6 pages) 25%
Interview a woman/written report/presentation (300 words per page; 8 pages) 30%
Take-home final exam 30%
(2 short essays out of 3)
Class attendance & participation 15%

Prerequisite: 6 units in Women’s Studies or Gender Studies.
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.