ES 418 WOMEN AND WORK (cross listed as SOC 418 and WS 418)

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI’I AT MANOA

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CLASS TIME: Tuesdays 1:30PM to 4:00PM
ROOM: KUY 306

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will examine the social organization of a gendered division of labour and its effects on women. We will begin with an historical investigation of processes that created capitalist labour markets and an ideological distinction between “productive” and “reproductive” labour as well as between separated “public” and “private” spheres of activity. We will examine how women’s work was devalued and ideologically relegated to “the home” within such processes. As practices of racism, colonialism, slavery and the nationalizing of space fundamentally shaped these processes, we will examine the creation of “difference” amongst groups of women. How rights and entitlements were differentially allocated as a result and the consequences of this on various groups of women’s access to wages, healthcare, citizenship and social entitlements, such as pensions and unemployment insurance, will be addressed. Finally, we will examine efforts at undermining the global divisions of labor and creating meaningful workers’ solidarities across lines of “race,” gender and “nation.”

CLASS FORMAT

This course will be run as a seminar. Students are therefore responsible for coming fully prepared for each class and ready to lead class discussions. Students are responsible for the material covered in the lectures, readings and films, and for any announcements made in class.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

Students will develop their critical learning skills by: examining the historical origins of key ideas, concepts and categories shaping human experience today; examining the relations or ruling that organize dominant ideas, concepts and categories and; examining how people have variously contested these ideas, concepts and categories. Students will also develop their reading, writing and oral presentation skills in order to become clear thinkers and articulate communicators.

ETHICS (E) FOCUS

“This course has a Contemporary Ethical Issues (E) Focus designation. Through the use of lectures, discussions and assignments, students will develop basic competency in recognizing and analyzing ethical issues; how to responsibly deliberate on ethical issues; and making ethically determined judgments. Contemporary ethical issues are fully integrated into the main course material and will constitute most of the course content, including readings, in-class discussion and take-home assignments.”
CLASS EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation 10%
Journal Assignments (5) 10%
Small Group Reading Assignments 25%
Research Essay Outline 20%
Final Research Essay (12-15 pages) 35%

REQUIRED READINGS

