SOCIOLOGY 904
SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER

SEMINAR TOPIC: GENDER AND LOCAL LABOR MARKETS
FALL 2007

PROF. LEANN TIGGES

Department of Rural Sociology, 314 or 348 Agriculture Hall
Office Hours: Monday 9:00-11:00 and by appointment
Email: lmtigges@wisc.edu or tigges@ssc.wisc.edu
Phone/Voice Mail: 890-0347 (0–0347 from campus phone) or 262-9536

SUBJECT MATTER AND OBJECTIVES:

This seminar focuses on understanding the social and spatial dimensions of labor market processes. We will examine sociological theories of labor and the labor market, with special attention to the issues of social context (place and politics) and social relations of gender and also, class, ethnicity, and race. In particular, we will consider the following: (1) gender and labor market processes, such as sex segregation and discrimination, waged and unwaged work; (2) space and labor market processes --addressing questions of what difference place makes, how local economies develop and shape opportunity structures; (3) space and gender in labor market processes; and (4) emerging issues such as immigration, flexibility, contingent employment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Most of the readings outlined on this syllabus are required of all participants (though I've also added some "recommended" readings for those interested in more) and the class meetings will be structured around a discussion of the assigned reading. Students are required to write a brief reaction paper for each week's readings. For the reaction papers, I would like you to write 2 paragraphs (unless you feel compelled to write more). Please follow these guidelines: In one paragraph, you should write about what you think are the strongest parts of the arguments (what contribution is being made, what concepts, evidence, or theory formulation struck you ). In the other paragraph, what questions are raised by the readings, what you think are the weakest part(s), or what should be strengthened. Weekly reaction papers should be posted on LearnUW or sent to the classlist via email . You may skip turning in a paper on 2 occasions without penalty, but I will still expect in-class contributions to the discussion.
You are also required to take responsibility for leading the class discussion at least once during the semester. The job of the discussion leader is to provide thought-provoking questions. When it is your turn to lead the discussion, you should send discussion questions to the seminar members via email no later than Tuesday at noon and post it on LearnUW.

Two integrative papers are required, each will be worth one-third of the final grade. These papers will be longer reflective essays (8-10 pages) on a major idea or theme pertaining to gender and local labor markets. Each essay should integrate, synthesize, and critically evaluate “a good chunk” of the material in the class. The first will be due in late October and the second at the end of finals week.

You may request to substitute a research paper for the second essay. The topic of the paper must be approved by mid-term and the paper may not be one used in another class. If you do the research paper instead of the second paper, I will still expect you to complete the readings as scheduled and continue to participate actively in discussions throughout the semester.

The brief reaction papers, discussion leadership, and in-class contributions to the discussion will constitute a third of the course grade.

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN BOOKSTORE:

*Temporary Work* by Leah Vosko (University of Toronto Press) 2004

*Assembling Women:* by Teri Caraway (ILR Press) 2007

*Satanic Mills or Silicon Islands? The Politics of High-tech Production in the Philippines* by Steven McKay (ILR Press) 2006

ON RESERVE:

All other readings are on reserve in both hard copy and electronic forms on the Web through the Social Science Reference Library. The e-reserves can be accessed directly through your “My UW”.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

**Sept. 12  Labor markets: what they are, how they work**


*Recommended:


*Dunn, Dana et al. "Macro-Structural Perspectives on Gender Inequality" in *Theory on Gender, Feminism on Theory*


**Sept. 19  Ideal workers--NOT**

Folbre, Nancy, and Julie A. Nelson. 2000. "For love or money - or both?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14 (4): 123-140


**Either:**


**Or**


*Recommended:


**Sept. 26 Gendered organizations, occupations, and jobs**


*Recommended:


**Oct. 3 The problem of embeddedness**


**Either:**


**Or**


*Recommended:

**Oct. 10 “Grounded” analysis of women’s employment**

Jenkins, Sarah. 2004, “Gendering the labor market.” Chapter 2 in *Gender, Place and the Labor Market*. 


**Either:**


**Or**


*Recommended:


**Oct. 17 Low wages, low wage workers and the poverty of place**


*Recommended:

Oct. 24 **Integrating, Distilling, Discussing**

**First essay due – sharing and discussion of themes developed within your essays**

**Oct. 31 Nonstandard work and employment relations – part 1**


*Recommended:


**Nov. 7 Nonstandard work and employment relations – part 2**

Nov. 14 Finish Vosko

Nov. 21 Immigration, local labor markets and the global economy


*Recommended:


Nov. 28 Women in the Global Factory - Part 1

Satanic Mills or Silicon Islands? The Politics of High-tech Production in the Philippines, by Steven McKay

Dec. 5 Women in the Global Factory - Part 2

Assembling Women: The Feminization of Global Manufacturing, by Teri Caraway

Dec. 12 TBA

Dec. 22 Second essay or research paper due