RURAL SOCIOLOGY/SOCIOLOGY 945

SEMINAR ON GENDER AND LOCAL LABOR MARKETS

SPRING 2002

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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 ethnicity/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:

The readings outlined on this syllabus are required of all participants and the class meetings will be structured around a discussion of them. Students are required to write a brief reaction paper on 10 of the 13 weeks’ 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 does the reading raise, what do you see as the weakest part(s), or what do you think should be strengthened. I encourage you to share your reaction papers with the class via email.

One person per week will serve as the discussion leader. The job of the discussion leader is 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 Thursday at noon. The E-mail address for the class is: sem-945@lists.students.wisc.edu. The 10 reaction papers, discussion leadership, and in-class contributions to the discussion will constitute a third of the course grade.

Two integrative papers are required, each will be worth one-third of the final grade. These papers will be longer reflective essays (length will be specified) 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 the week before spring break and the second at the end of finals week.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available from University Bookstore and Underground Textbook Exchange)～


**COURSE OUTLINE:**

**Week 1/Jan. 25 Introduction**

**Week 2/Feb. 1 Labor Markets: Structures and Processes**


Peck book, Chapters 1–4

**Week 3/Feb. 8 Markets and Marriages**


Week 4/Feb. 15 Gender at Work


Week 5/Feb. 22 Gendered Organizations


Week 6/March 1 Social Capital


Week 7/March 8 Social Networks and Gender


Week 8/ March 15 Gender, Work, and Space

*Hanson and Pratt book

Week 9/March 22  Closer Looks at Local Labor Markets

First integrative essay due.


Spring Break Week/March 25

Week 10/April 5  Welfare Reform


Week 11/ April 12  
**Workshop on “Paying for Care Work: Comparative Perspectives on Practices And Possibilities”**

The leadoff panel, featuring Prof. Gerhard, Paula England (Northwestern), Barbara Hobson (Stockholm University, visiting Madison as a Marshall-Monnet Fellow); Ann Orloff (Northwestern) and Sylvia Walby (Leeds), will range broadly over ideas and perspectives to stimulate our imagination about possible policies and their implications (positive and negative). The panel presentations will be from 10:00-12:00. After lunch, we will have responses from some colleagues in Madison (1:00-2:15) and then a second panel of responders offering more activist perspectives (2:30-3:45). (Email from Myra Marx Ferree)

Week 12/ April 19  
**Emerging Issues in the Social Regulation of Labor**

*Peck book, Chapters 5-Epilogue.


*The New Economic Order and New Inequalities:*

**Week 13/ April 26**
Osterman Book

**Week 14/ May 3**
McCall book

**Week 15/ May 10**
Smith book

**Finals week/May 17**
Second integrative essay due by Friday, noon.