

University of Guelph  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences

**Women, Work and Public Policy**  
**Winter 2019**

**Course Number:** SOC 4410

**Instructor:** Dr. Vivian Shalla

**Class Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

**Class Location:** TBA

**Office Hours:** TBA

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

One of the most significant social and sociological events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the mass movement of women into paid employment. Despite this shift, women continue to bear responsibility for much of the work in the household two decades into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This course examines the transformation of private and public life that has accompanied women's increased participation in the labour force. A wide range of topics pertaining to women's work are explored, such as: the changing nature and conditions of work; globalization and work restructuring; segmented labour markets; working time; homework and telework; technological change; skills and deskilling; standard and precarious employment relationships; the valuing of paid and unpaid work; work-life balance; parenting; domestic labour; training and education; child care; unions and the labour movement; and the welfare state and citizenship. The course focuses on theories that have attempted to explain the transformation of women's work.

Considerations of methodological issues to scholarly research and enquiry on women's work are also central to the course. The course pays attention to the processes through which class, gender, race, ethnicity, age, and sexual identities shape divisions of work. The general aim of this course is to encourage students to develop critical thinking about women's work in contemporary society. While the course provides students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge of various issues pertaining to women's work, it is also designed to encourage students to hone their analytical and reflective skills by pursuing some topics in greater depth.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

Required readings will be available online through the Library system.

**EVALUATION**

Seminar Presentations

Reflections on Assigned Readings

Seminar Participation

Final Paper

The evaluation scheme is subject to change prior to the release of the official course syllabus in January 2019.