**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH**

**ANTH/SOC 6480**

**WORK, GENDER & CHANGE/GLOBAL CONTEXT**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Sarah Rogers, PhD

**LOCATION:** TBD

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment (in-person or virtual)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Over the past few decades, the world of work, broadly understood, has undergone rapid and profound transformation. Few people around the world have been left untouched by these changes. This course will examine how work has been transformed within the broader context of globalization, economic restructuring, neo-liberalism, and fundamental shifts in public policy. We will focus on a range of theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches that have been used to explain and investigate work transformation as well as the impact of structural change on workers, workplaces, labour markets, and livelihoods. Topics to be discussed will include: changing patterns of employment in a comparative perspective; workplace reorganization, technology and the management of work; working time, precariousness and the destandardization of the employment relationship; labour migration; the privatization of work; unpaid and caring work; the public-private divide; unemployment; training and education; the demise of the welfare state and changing forms of citizenship; worker organization and labour movements. The course will pay attention to the processes through which class, gender, race, ethnicity, age, ability, and sexual identities shape divisions, relations, structures, and experiences of work.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The general aim of this course is to encourage students to develop analytical and critical thinking about work, gender, and change in the context of the global political economy. While the course will allow students to expand their knowledge of various issues, the seminar is designed to encourage students to hone their analytical and reflective skills by pursuing some topics in greater depth.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Through this course, students will:

* Develop an understanding of research on work, gender, and change that uses qualitative and quantitative methodologies, and assess the links between research questions, research methods, data sources, findings, and analysis;
* Develop their knowledge and understanding of different theoretical frameworks used by scholars to study work, gender, and change, and hone their ability to critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical approaches;
* Develop an understanding of, and an ability to analyze and critically reflect on, how different facets of work are transformed under current socio-economic conditions;
* Critically reflect on the ways in which class, gender, race, ethnicity, age, ability, and sexual identities have an impact on the organization, nature, conditions, and relations of work, and reflect on their own positionality vis-à-vis these intersecting dimensions. Students will thereby develop a deeper understanding of how social locations, identities and societal cleavages are reflected, reproduced, and transformed through work structures, relations, and processes;
* Hone skills in comparative thematic analysis;
* Hone skills in developing lines of argumentation, and in integrating, synthesizing and analyzing literature on work, gender, and change;
* Draw on academic literature to assess policies pertaining to work, and propose policies to address work-related problems;
* Hone skills in communicating information, in both written and oral forms.

**READINGS:** TBD (all readings will be available online through the library)

**EVALUATION:**

* Seminar Presentations (30%)
* Seminar Participation (30%)
* Final Paper (40%)