

**Work and Globalization
Sociology 446**

Professor Eileen M. Otis
12:00-1:20
242 GER

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This course explores the profound transformations that have occurred in the workplace over recent decades. We begin our examination of these changes by considering Fordist systems of mass production. Then we will look at the “post-Fordist” era, focusing on the rise and spread of lean production techniques from Japan, global sweatshops, the information economy, and the tremendous expansion of the service sector. Through a number of case studies the course analyzes workplaces in both advanced and peripheral economies. The course situates the study of work within global processes of economic restructuring, shifts in national policies, as well as transnational forms of unionizing and protest.

Course Assessment and Grade

Your grade will be based on class participation, a paper proposal, a midterm and a final paper.

Class Participation 25%

Students are required to complete assigned readings before coming to class. Each session 2-3 students will lead a discussion of the readings. This will require that you briefly summarize the readings, outlining the main point of each. You will also then raise 3-4 questions about the readings to be discussed by the students.

For each class, ALL students should also come prepared with 2-3 questions, typed and printed out. Questions should raise issues about the central arguments and themes of the readings. They should reflect a careful and thoughtful reading of the material. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments? How might the arguments be better developed and supported? What evidence and arguments has the author overlooked? Are there logical inconsistencies in the work? How might one build on the research? What questions for future research are raised by the works? If there are multiple pieces, how do they fit together? Do they complement each other? If not, identify the tensions and suggest how they might be resolved. Students are encouraged to ask questions that compare readings. Each student should come to class prepared with a print out of their questions. I will collect them periodically throughout the quarter. I will not announce beforehand when they will be collected.

Midterm 25%

The in-class midterm will consist of essays and short-answer questions.

Final Paper Proposal 20%

Final Paper 30%

There will be separate handout for the final paper and proposal.

Graduate students will not take the midterm exam and are required to submit a 20 page research paper at the end of class.

Note on Classroom Conduct: The use of cell phones, pagers and laptops is prohibited during the class time. Students who leave the class (or begin to make preparations to leave class before the professor has indicated the class is over) will be asked to withdraw from the class. No talking beyond class discussion is allowed. Questions about scheduling, tests, assignments, etc. may be asked at the beginning of lecture.

I expect that everyone will participate in discussions respectfully and be considerate of one another. This class should be a space in which everyone feels comfortable expressing their views, and I see it as my responsibility to help make this possible. If you have any concerns about the course, or how lectures, discussions or class in general are being conducted, please come and talk to me.

Schedule:

All readings can be found on Blackboard. The schedule is an approximation. Adjustments may be made to the reading and topic schedule and additional reading materials may be assigned. Such changes will be announced in class. This information is your responsibility.

Week 1 Introduction

Philip McMichael. *Development and Social Change*, pp. 3-40

Reich, Robert B. *The Work of Nations*, pp. 43-68

Week 2 Fordism

Braverman, Harry. 1998. *Labor and Monopoly Capital: The Degradation of Work in the Twentieth Century*, pp. 59-95

Taylor, Frederick, "The Principles of Scientific Management," pp. 9-29

Burawoy, Michael. "Thirty Years of Making Out." (from *Manufacturing Consent*)

Burawoy, Michael. *The Radiant Past*, selections

Week 3 Deindustrialization

Dudley, Kathryn, M. *The End of the Line*. pp. xv-xxv, 116-182

Milkman, Ruth. *Farewell to the Factory*, pp. 1-50

Burawoy, Michael et al. "Involution and Destitution in Capitalist Russia."

Week 4 Lean Production

Womack, James, Daniel Jones and Daniel Roos. *The Machine that Changed the World*, selections

Milkman, Ruth. *Farewell to the Factory*, pp. 137-180

Graham, Laurie. *On the Line at Subaru-Isuzu*, selections.

Week 5 Global Manufacturing

Final paper proposal due

Pun Ngai. *Made in China*. Selections

Week 6 Retail and Walmart

Lichtenstein, Nelson. *The Retail Revolution*, Selections

Week 7 The Nanny Chain

Midterm

Parrenes, Rhacel. *Servants of Globalization*.

Hochschild, Arlie. *Love and Gold*.

Sassen, Saskia. "Service Employment and the New Inequality."

Week 8 The Rise of Service

Poster, Winifred. *India's Global Call Centers and National Identity*.

Wilson, Ara. *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok*. The Avon Lady, the Amway Plan, and the Making of Thai Entrepreneurs, pp. 163-188

Xiang, Bao. *Global "Body Shopping"*, Selections

Week 9 Degrees of (Un)freedom: Slavery, the Sex Industry, and Trafficking

Bales, Kevin. *Disposable People: New Slavery and the Global Economy*, pp. 1-79, 121-148.

Wonders, N. and R. Michalowski. "Bodies, Borders, and Sex Tourism in a Globalized World: A Tale of Two Cities – Amsterdam and Havana."

Karim, Lamia. "Demystifying Microcredit."

Pande. "It may be her eggs, but its my blood": Surrogacy and Everyday Forms of Kinship in India.

Week 10 Responses to Globalization

Silver, Beverly. *Forces of Labor*, Introduction