“The emancipation of woman will only be possible when woman can take part in production on a large, social scale, and domestic work no longer claims anything but an insignificant amount of her time.”

--Frederick Engels
*Origins of the Family, Private Property, and the State*

“Sexuality is to feminism what work is to Marxism.”

--Catharine A. MacKinnon
*Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*

Thus, there are those for whom labor is the lynchpin of gender, and those for whom it is sexuality. In this seminar, we will discuss these competing theoretical orientations and others, as well as cover some empirical patterns and trends. The emphasis will be on theory and research findings, with discussion of research methods as needed. Beyond theory, we will focus on work, family and labor market issues, and gender intersections. Most material will be about the United States, with a case study of China and some comparative readings.

In addition to weekly seminar participation, students will submit a short weekly comment paper – no more than a page or two – and present occasional critiques of the readings to the group. At the end of the semester students will submit a final paper, which may be a piece of research in progress, a research proposal, or an extended essay on the course readings. We will discuss paper topics as we go.

We will read all of most of the following books:


Schedule

Almost all of these are available on-line through the UNC library. Please complete the reading by the seminar day listed, and bring your comment paper with you.

1/11: Introduction


1/18: Feminist theory

Lorber, Paradoxes of Gender.

1/25: Gender and modernity

Jackson, Destined for Equality.

2/1: Marxist approaches and China

Engels, The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State, Chapter 8 (http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1884/origin-family/).


Jacka, Women’s Work in Rural China Chapters 1-4 (pp. 10-72).


Optional readings:


2/8: Radical feminism I


2/15: Marriage


2/22: Home and market


3/1: Housework and Time Use


**3/29: Intersections**


**4/5: Radical Feminism II**


Optional readings:


4/12: Immigration and globalization


Optional reading:


4/19: Biology and social construction


4/26: Comparative research


