Course Description and Learning Goals:
What do “globalization” and the practices of multinational corporations like Starbucks, Apple, and Wal-Mart have to do with the migration of women workers? With global labor exploitation? Why are more and more women from developing nations engaging in domestic labor for families in developed nations, sometimes leaving their own children behind to care for the children of others? Do national immigration policies aid or constrain women workers’ socioeconomic mobility? What are the dynamics behind human trafficking and the global sex trade? What is being done and how are women themselves organizing to try to stop global labor exploitation and human trafficking, and to what effects? This class will attempt to answer these difficult questions by focusing on why more and more women are leaving their homes for employment in distant locales, even crossing borders to find work—sometimes using smugglers to help them reach their destination—and by considering the gains and losses they experience. Through these analyses of the globalized female worker, we will learn how traditional female duties such as caring for the home and family have been commodified into paid work. We will examine why these, and other jobs are increasingly the province of new female immigrants in the twenty-first century, as well as the economic, social, and psychological processes that underpin them. Furthermore, we will learn how patterns of migration, immigration, and diaspora emerge from economic and social changes and how such patterns are expressed in the labor markets and service sector.

Required Readings Course Pack available at Clark Graphics, 2915 N. Oakland Avenue, Milwaukee
Additional Readings posted to Canvas
Highly Recommended Diana Hacker, A Writer’s Reference 5th edition or newer (Bedford/St. Martin’s)