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# College to offer course on stay-at-home parenting based on feminist manifesto

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Using the work of a radical feminist theorist as its "point of departure," one university in New York City is offering a course this fall centered around the concept of "invisible labor," or unpaid work that stay-at-home parents often undertake to support their families.

"Love And Currency" will be a four-credit class offered to students at The New School during the upcoming fall semester. According to the course [description](#), students will explore several areas of "invisible labor," and how such types of labor contribute to "gender norms and systemic racism."

"Whether changing nappies and washing an endless build of up dishes, caring for elderly and infirm family members, working multiple jobs without legal protection, or bearing up under everyday sexual harassment, constricting gender norms and systemic racism, invisible labor is exhausting," the course description reads.

According to that description, the work of Silvia Federici will be used as the course's "point of departure." Federici is a feminist scholar at Hofstra University who founded several [Wages for Housework](#) campaigns around the U.S. in the 1970s, and who has since used her platform to rail against capitalism, arguing that it's a tool used to oppress women. In a recent [interview](#), Federici claimed it would be impossible for capitalism to exist without exploiting "women's unpaid domestic labor."

"Women's unpaid labor, which continues into the present, is the condition for the devaluation of labor-power," said Federici. "It has been the material basis for a labor hierarchy which divides women and men, which enable capital to control the exploitation of women's work more effectively through marriage and marital relation, including the ideology of romantic love, and to pacify men giving them a servant on whom to exercise their power."

While the notion that traditional gender roles involve a stay-at-home mom and a father with a paid job has historically been more prevalent, the idea that this trend hasn't changed at all is simply false. The [percentage](#) of stay at home dads has doubled since the 1970s, and more and more families are realizing the parent with a higher earning potential should be the one working, regardless of gender, in order to give the family a comfortable financial situation. Given the description available online, it seems unlikely the course will recognize that basic reality.

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