

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Discipline: Women's Studies

Fall 2008

SWAG 270Z: Global Feminisms

Lower Division

Faculty Name: Patti Duncan

Suggested Pre-requisites: None, but a previous women's studies course is recommended.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What constitutes global feminism(s)? How do women in various parts of the world understand and articulate their relationships to feminism and feminist organizing? How do women in specific cultural contexts resist multiple forms of oppression and transform understandings of gender and nation? In this discussion-oriented interdisciplinary course, students will be introduced to various themes and theoretical principles of global feminisms, with special emphasis placed on Third World feminist movements. Examining the ways in which third world women and feminist movements have been imagined, constructed, regulated, and represented in various discourses, students will be asked to contextualize such bodies and movements and to locate connections between and among various politics and global projects. We will explore themes of colonialism, globalization, nationalism and nation-building, representation, global economies, war and militarism, human rights, and politics of gender, race, class, sexuality, and nation. As we do so, we will attempt to develop a framework for analyzing experience through location. Many of our course topics will focus on feminist movements in the countries we are visiting, and will be linked to site visits within those countries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To develop an understanding of women's and feminist movements in transnational contexts.
- To understand and analyze the politics of terminology regarding transnational women's and feminist movements.
- To become familiar with general concepts and themes in global Women's Studies scholarship.
- To recognize the interconnectedness of U.S.-based feminist movements and movements for social justice in other parts of the world.
- To develop a better understanding of the gendered dynamics of colonialism, globalization, and militarism.
- To consider the ways in which women's movements around the world have been configured in distinct ways, shaped by specific cultural contexts and international relations.
- To develop greater sensitivity and critical awareness about women's experiences in various parts of the world.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

29 August

Depart Nassau, Bahamas

Developing a Transnational Feminist Analysis

Class #1 Introduction and Course Overview

Evening film screening: *Voices of Change* (Dir. Lyn Wright and Barbara Doran, 1996)

Class #2 Bonnie Smith, "Introduction" (*Global Feminisms*, 1-10); Introductory Essays to *Because I am a Girl* (8-22)

Class #3 Chandra Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses" (*Feminism Without Borders*, 17-42); Yvonne Corcoran-Nantes, "Female Consciousness or Feminist Consciousness? Women's Consciousness Raising in Community-Based Struggles in Brazil" (*Global Feminisms*, 81-100)

7-11 September

Salvador, Brazil

When Does the Personal Become Political?

Class #4 Nancy Naples, "Changing the Terms: Community Activism, Globalization, and the Dilemmas of Transnational Feminist Praxis" (*Women's Activism and Globalization*, 3-14, RESERVE); Carmen Barroso and Cristina Bruschini, "Building Politics from Personal Lives: Discussions on Sexuality among Poor Women in Brazil" (*Third World Women and the Politics of Feminisms*, 153-172, Intranet Folder)

Optional evening film screening: *Life and Debt* (Dir. Stephanie Black, 2001)

Class #5 Chandra Mohanty, "Cartographies of Struggle: Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism" (*Feminism Without Borders*, 43-84); Plan International, "Survival: 100 Girls Are Missing" (*Because I am a Girl*, 23-32); Michael Schwalbe, "The Costs of American Privilege" (*Beyond Borders*, 603-605, RESERVE)

Intersections of Gender, Culture, Nation

Class #6 Lila Abu-Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" (*American Anthropologist*, 104.3, 2002: 783-790, Intranet Folder); Patricia McFadden, "Becoming Postcolonial: African Women Changing the Meaning of Citizenship" (*Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*, 6.1, 2005: 1-22, Intranet Folder)

19-23 September

Walviz Bay, Namibia

Class #7 Zengie Mangaliso, "Gender and Nation-building in South Africa" (*Global Feminisms*, 65-77); Susanna Wing, "Women Activists in Mali: The Global Discourse on Human Rights" (*Women's Activism and Globalization*, 172-185, RESERVE)

26 September - 2 October

Cape Town, South Africa

Gendered Experiences of Family, Education, Health, and Work

Class #8 Plan International, "Family Life: Girls Spend Much More Time on Domestic, Non-Economic Work Than Boys," "Education: 62 Million Girls are Not in School," and "Health: HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa" (*Because I am a Girl*, 33-84)

Evening film screening: *Maquilopolis* (Vicki Funari & Sergio De La Torre, 2006, 60 min.)

Class #9 Chandra Mohanty, "Women Workers and the Politics of Solidarity" (*Feminism Without Borders*, 139-168); Plan International, "Making a Living" (*Because I am a Girl*, 85-102)

Class #10 Mid-Term Exam

Women's Movements and (De)Colonization

- Class #11 Mangala Subramaniam, "The Indian Women's Movement" (*Contemporary Sociology*, 33.6, 2004: 635-639, Intranet Folder); Aradhana Sharma, "Crossbreeding Institutions, Breeding Struggle: Women's Empowerment, Neoliberal Governmentality, and State (Re)Formation in India" (*Cultural Anthropology*, 21.1, 2006: 60-95, Intranet Folder)
- Class #12 Clifford Bob, "'Dalit Rights are Human Rights': Caste Discrimination, International Activism, and the Construction of a New Human Rights Issue" (*Human Rights Quarterly*, 29, 2007: 167-193, Intranet Folder); VIDEO: *Mann ke Manjeere and Babul* (Breakthrough, 10 min.)
14-18 October Chennai, India
- Analyzing the Role of "Culture" in Women's Lives**
- Class #13 Uma Narayan, "Cross-Cultural Connections, Border-Crossings, 'Death by Culture': Thinking About Dowry-Murders in India and Domestic-Violence Murders in the U.S." (*Dislocating Cultures*, 81-117, RESERVE); Kamala Visweswaran, "Gendered States: Rethinking Culture as a Site of South Asian Human Rights Work" (*Human Rights Quarterly*, 26, 2004: 483-511, Intranet Folder)
Evening film screening: *Regret to Inform* (Dir. Barbara Sonneborn, 1998, 72 min.)
- Class #14 Discussion of film
22-26 October Penang, Malaysia
- Class #15 Mary Ann Tetreault, "Women and Revolution in Vietnam" (*Global Feminisms*, 45-64); Mimi Nguyen, "Viet Nam: Journal/Journey" (*An Introduction to Women's Studies*, 435-439, Intranet Folder)
30 October – 4 November Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Optional evening film screening: *China Blue* (Dir. Micha Peled, 2006)
- Class #16 Xinjan Jiang, "The Dilemmas Faced by Chinese Feminists" (*Hypatia*, 15.3, 2000: 140-160, RESERVE); Shu-Mei Shih, "Towards an Ethics of Transnational Encounter, or 'When' Does a 'Chinese' Woman Become a 'Feminist'?" (*Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, 13.2, 2002: 90-126, Intranet Folder); Tani Barlow, "Globalization, China, and International Feminism" (*Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 26.4, 2001: 1286-1291, Intranet Folder)
6-7 November Hong Kong
10-11 November Shanghai, China
- Feminist Responses to Militarism and Violence**
- Class #17 Gwyn Kirk and Margo Okazawa-Rey, "Making Connections: Building an East Asia-U.S. Women's Network Against U.S. Militarism" (*The Women and War Reader*, Intranet Folder); Yoko Fukumura and Martha Matsuoka, "Redefining Security: Okinawa Women's Resistance to U.S. Militarism" (*Women's Activism and Globalization*, RESERVE)
14-15 November Kobe, Japan
17-18 November Yokohama, Japan
- Class #18 Pyong Gap Min, "Korean 'Comfort Women': The Intersections of Colonial Power, Gender, and Class" (*Gender and Society*, 17.6, 2003: 938-957, Intranet Folder); scenes from *Silence Broken: Korean Comfort Women* (Dir. Dai-Sil Kim Gibson)
- Class #19 Miriam Ching Yoon Louie, "Minjung Feminism: Korean Women's Movement for Gender and Class Liberation" (*Global Feminisms*, 119-138);
Evening film screening: *Senorita Extraviada* (Dir. Lourdes Portillo, 2001: 74 min.)

- Class #20 Jessica Livingston, "Murder in Juarez: Gender, Sexual Violence, and the Global Assembly Line" (*Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*, 25.1, 2004: 59-76, Intranet Folder).
- Class #21 Haunani-Kay Trask, "From a Native Daughter," "What Do You Mean 'We,' White Man?" and "'Lovely Hula Hands': Corporate Tourism and the Prostitution of Hawaiian Culture" (*From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawaii*, RESERVE)
- 27 November Honolulu, Hawaii
- Conclusion: Working Toward Global Feminist Solidarity**
- Class #22 Mallika Dutt, "Some Reflections on U.S. Women of Color and the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women and NGO Forum in Beijing, China" (*Global Feminisms*, 305-313); Chandra Mohanty, "'Under Western Eyes' Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles" (*Feminism Without Borders*, 221-252)
- Class #23 Final Exam
- 7-9 December Puntarenas, Costa Rica

FIELD COMPONENT

During the semester, students will have the opportunity to visit multiple sites in port countries. For this course, you are required to visit at least three approved sites, and to write about your experiences in your field journal. Site visits may include Faculty Directed or Independent practica. If you decide to do an independent practica, then you should meet with the Professor prior to arriving in the port country to discuss your approach and objectives. Journal entries about site visits should include critical observations, detailed discussion of the connections between site visits and the content of our course, analysis of the ways in which women articulate and engage feminist practices or ideas in various contexts, and reflection about the connections between feminist and other movements for social justice. Following each site visit, we will have an opportunity for in-class discussion about students' observations and analyses.

SUGGESTED PRACTICA:

BRAZIL:	Family Planning (FDP)
SOUTH AFRICA:	Triangle Project (FDP)
INDIA:	Working Women's Forum (FDP)
VIET NAM:	Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation (FDP)
HONG KONG:	Women and Human Rights (FDP)
CHINA:	Family Planning Neighborhood Committee (FDP)

Suggestions for Independent Practica for this course:

- Attend a meeting of a local women's and/or feminist organization. Are there specific issues that have been identified by local organizations as central to women's rights?
- Visit a human rights organization to learn about women's experiences in the local context.
- Visit an organization working for reproductive justice in the local context.
- Visit a public hospital or medical center and inquire about local women's health issues.
- Visit a women's center to learn about the strategies of community members working to end violence against women. Are there specific services and resources for women facing domestic or sexual violence?

- Visit a public school to learn about girls' access to education in the local context. Are schools gender segregated? Do girls have as much access to education as boys? Are they treated differently, and if so, how?
- Research the constitution in a specific country to learn about laws related to gender discrimination, violence against women, marriage, etc. What specific laws affect women? How are women's rights represented within the legal system?
- Analyze representations of women in local media, including film and television, newspapers, magazines, billboards, and advertising.
- Visit a public marketplace and observe the roles women play. Is there a gendered division of labor? Do women occupy public space in equal numbers to men? If children are present, who is responsible for childcare?

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Class Attendance and Participation	20%
Field Journal	15%
Collaborative Presentation	15%
Mid-Term Exam (Short Essays)	25%
Final Exam (Essay Format)	25%

Attendance and Participation (20%)

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings, and you are expected to be in class on time. Excessive lateness (more than two or three times) will lower your attendance grade. Students are also expected to actively participate in all class discussions. Reading assignments are listed next to the day during which they will be discussed, and all readings should be read and analyzed by that day. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss reading assignments with carefully thought out (and relevant) critical observations, comments, and/or questions. From time to time, you will also be asked to complete additional homework assignments or in-class assignments (including quizzes) about assigned readings.

Field Journal (15%)

Students are expected to write regularly in field journals, engaging themes in our readings, films, and discussions, and especially site visits. Journal entries should be more than simply descriptive. They should include critical observations and detailed discussion of the connections between site visits and the content of our course.

Presentation (15%)

Each student is required to participate in a group presentation. During the first week of our course, you will be asked to sign up for a particular presentation day. For your presentations, you are to engage reading assignments and prepare a response in which you discuss the authors' key points and the ways in which the themes of the articles relate to our course content. You may also include observations and analyses of site visits. Presentations should be approximately 20-30 minutes in length, and may include critical comments, comparison/contrast, facilitated discussions, and/or in-class exercises.

Mid-Term Exam (25%)

The mid-term exam will consist of short essays about the themes of the course up to the time of the exam. More details about the mid-term exam will be provided in class.

Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will consist of short essays about the themes of the entire course, focusing on readings, films, and site visits discussed in class. More details about this exam will be provided in class.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted at the discretion of the professor, and grades for late assignments will be lowered.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Chandra Talpade Mohanty

TITLE: *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*

PUBLISHER: Duke University Press

ISBN #: 0822330210

DATE/EDITION: 2003/first edition

COST: \$16.29

AUTHOR: Bonnie Smith, editor

TITLE: *Global Feminisms Since 1945*

PUBLISHER: Routledge

ISBN #: 0415184916

DATE/EDITION: 2000/first edition

COST: \$38.90

AUTHOR: Plan International

TITLE: *Because I Am A Girl: The State of the World's Girls*

PUBLISHER: Plan International

DATE/EDITION: 2007

COST: Free

available online at www.plan-international.org/news/becauseIamagirl/

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: Nancy Naples and Manisha Desai, editors

TITLE: *Women's Activism and Globalization: Linking Local Struggles and Transnational Politics*

PUBLISHER: Routledge (New York)

ISBN #: 0-415-93145-2

DATE/EDITION: 2002/first edition

COST: \$23.06

AUTHOR: Uma Narayan

TITLE: *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third World Feminism*

PUBLISHER: Routledge

ISBN #: 0-415-91419-1

DATE/EDITION: 1997/first edition

COST: \$35.95

AUTHOR: Haunani-Kay Trask
TITLE: *From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawaii*
PUBLISHER: University of Hawaii Press
ISBN #: 0824820592
DATE/EDITION: 1999/revised edition
COST: \$23.00

AUTHOR: Paula S. Rothenberg, ed.
TITLE: *Beyond Borders: Thinking Critically About Global Issues*
PUBLISHER: Worth Publishers
ISBN #: 0-7167-7389-9
DATE/EDITION: 2006/first edition
COST: \$47.95

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Carmen Barroso and Cristina Bruschini
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Building Politics from Personal Lives: Discussions on Sexuality Among Poor Women in Brazil"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*, ed. Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Ann Russo, and Lourdes Torres
VOLUME: first edition
DATE: 1991
PAGES: 153-172

AUTHOR: Lila Abu-Lughod
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *American Anthropologist*
VOLUME: Vol. 104, No. 3
DATE: 2002
PAGES: 783-790

AUTHOR: Patricia McFadden
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Becoming Postcolonial: African Women Changing the Meaning of Citizenship"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*
VOLUME: vol. 6, no. 1
DATE: 2005
PAGES: 1-22

AUTHOR: Mangala Subramaniam
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "The Indian Women's Movement"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Contemporary Sociology*
VOLUME: Vol. 33, No. 6
DATE: 2004
PAGES: 635-639

AUTHOR: Aradhana Sharma

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Crossbreeding Institutions, Breeding Struggle: Women’s Empowerment, Neoliberal Governmentality, and State (Re)Formation in India”

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Cultural Anthropology*

VOLUME: vol. 21, no. 1

DATE: 2006

PAGES: 60-95

AUTHOR: Kamala Visweswaran

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Gendered States: Rethinking Culture as a Site of South Asian Human Rights Work”

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Human Rights Quarterly*

VOLUME: 26

DATE: 2004

PAGES: 483-511

AUTHOR: Clifford Bob

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “‘Dalit Right Are Human Rights’: Caste Discrimination, International Activism, and the Construction of a New Human Rights Issue”

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Human Rights Quarterly*

VOLUME: 29

DATE: 2007

PAGES: 167-193

AUTHOR: Mimi Nguyen

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Viet Nam: Journal/Journey”

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *An Introduction to Women’s Studies: Gender in a Transnational World*, ed., Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan

VOLUME: 2nd ed.

DATE: 2006

PAGES: 435-439

AUTHOR: Xinjan Jiang

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “The Dilemmas Faced by Chinese Feminists”

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Hypatia*

VOLUME: vol. 15, no. 3

DATE: 2000

PAGES: 140-160

AUTHOR: Shu-Mei Shih

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Towards an Ethics of Transnational Encounter, or ‘When’ Does a ‘Chinese’ Woman Become a ‘Feminist?’”

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*

VOLUME: vol. 13, no. 2

DATE: 2002

PAGES: 90-126

AUTHOR: Tani Barlow

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Globalization, China, and International Feminism"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*

VOLUME: vol. 26, no. 4

DATE: 2001

PAGES: 1286-1291

AUTHOR: Gwyn Kirk and Margo Okazawa-Rey

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Making Connections: Building an East Asia-U.S. Women's Network Against U.S. Militarism"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *The Women and War Reader*, ed. Lois Ann Lorentzen and Jennifer Turpin

VOLUME: first ed.

DATE: 1998

PAGES: 308-322

AUTHOR: Pyong Gap Min

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Korean 'Comfort Women': The Intersections of Colonial Power, Gender, and Class"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Gender and Society*

VOLUME: vol. 17, no. 6

DATE: 2003

PAGES: 938-957

AUTHOR: Jessica Livingston

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Murder in Juarez: Gender, Sexual Violence, and the Global Assembly Line"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*

VOLUME: vol. 25, no. 1

DATE: 2004

PAGES: 59-76