

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Discipline: Women's Studies

Fall 2008

SWAG 372Z: Working Women in the Global Economy

Upper Division

Faculty Name: Patti Duncan

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course addresses the effects of globalization on women around the world, and will provide students with the opportunity to explore transnational women's and feminist responses to the economic and political changes associated with globalization. In a discussion-oriented interdisciplinary context, students will learn how women and families are affected by production for global markets. We will explore concepts including: the international gendered division of labor; women's reproductive labor; the feminization of poverty; the impact of structural adjustment programs on women's access to public services and resources; women as migrant workers; women workers in informal economies; women in the global sex industry; health and safety risks for women working in export processing zones; and increased violence and human rights violations against women workers. We will also discuss women's resistance to multiple forms of oppression in the global economy, including union organizing, strikes, movements for environmental justice, and transnational feminist solidarity. Many of our course topics will focus on women workers in the countries we are visiting, and when possible, may be linked to site visits within these countries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To consider the ways in which women's experiences of "work" have been configured in distinct ways, shaped by specific cultural contexts and international relations.
- To become familiar with general concepts and themes in the study of transnational women's work, including the gendered division of labor, women's reproductive labor, and the feminization of poverty.
- To understand and analyze the gendered processes and effects of globalization.
- To recognize the interconnectedness of effects of globalization on women and communities in developing nations and within the U.S.
- To recognize the ways in which women challenge and resist multiple forms of oppression associated with globalization.
- 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
- Class #1 Introduction and Course Overview
- Class #2 Nancy Naples, "Changing the Terms: Community Activism, Globalization, and the Dilemmas of Transnational Feminist Praxis" (*Women's Activism and Globalization*, 3-14); Manisha Desai, "Transnational Solidarity: Women's Agency, Structural Adjustment, and Globalization" (*Women's Activism and Globalization*, 15-33); Valentine Moghadam, "Globalizing Women: An Introduction and Overview" (*Globalizing Women*, 1-20)
- Class #3 Delia Aguilar, "Introduction" (*Women and Globalization*, 11-23); Grace Chang, "Introduction" and "Breeding Ignorance, Breeding Hatred," (*Disposable Domesticity*, 1-54); Michael Schwalbe, "The Cost of American Privilege" (*Beyond Borders*, 603-606, RESERVE)
- 7-11 September Salvador, Brazil
- Class #4 Valentine Moghadam, "Globalization and Its Discontents: Capitalist Development, Political Movements, and Gender" (*Globalizing Women*, 21-49); Evelyn Hu-Dehart, "Globalization and Its Discontents: Exposing the Underside" (*Frontiers*, 24.2-3, 2003: 244-260, Intranet Folder)
- Evening film screening: *Life and Debt* (Dir. Stephanie Black, 2001)
- Class #5 Maria Mies, "The Myth of Catching-Up Development" (*Beyond Borders*; 150-157, RESERVE); Susanna Wing, "Women Activists in Mali: The Global Discourse on Human Rights" (*Women's Activism and Globalization*, 172-185);
- Class #6 Salih Booker and William Minter, "Global Apartheid: AIDS and Murder by Patent" (*Beyond Borders*, 517-522, RESERVE); Kevin A. Hassett and Robert Shapiro, "How Europe Sows Misery in Africa" (*Beyond Borders*, 547-550, RESERVE)
- 19-23 September Walvizi Bay, Namibia
- Class #7 Thelma Ravell-Pinto, "South African Women: Narratives of Struggle and Exile" (*Women and Globalization*, 278-312); Mandisi Majavu, "Debt, Reforms, and Social Services in Africa" (*Beyond Borders*, 507-509, RESERVE); Meredith Troop, "The Impact of Water Privatization on South African Women" (*Beyond Borders*, 509-514, RESERVE)
- 16 September - 2 October Cape Town, South Africa
- Class #8 Grace Chang, "Undocumented Latinas: The New Employable Mother" and "The Nanny Visa: The Bracero Program Revisited" (*Disposable Domesticity*, 55-122); Alexandra Hrycak, "From Mothers' Rights to Equal Rights" (*Women's Activism and Globalization*, 64-82)
- Class #9 Valentine Moghadam, "Female Labor, Regional Crises, and Feminist Responses" (*Globalizing Women*, 50-77); Grace Chang, "Global Exchange: The World Bank, 'Welfare Reform,' and the Trade in Migrant Women," and "Immigrants and Workfare Workers: Employable But 'Not Employed'" (*Disposable Domesticity*, 123-190)
- Class #10 Film: *Modern Heroes, Modern Slaves* (Dir. Marie Botie, 1999, 45 min.)

- Class #11 Bandana Purkayastha, "Contesting Multiple Margins: Asian Indian Community Activism in the Early and Late Twentieth Century" (*Women's Activism and Globalization*, 99-117); Arundhati Roy, "Shall We Leave It to the Experts?" (*Beyond Borders*, 461-467, RESERVE); L. Rajiva, "The Globalized Village" (*Beyond Borders*, 542-544, RESERVE)
- Class #12 Mid-Term Exam
14-18 October Chennai, India
- Class #13 Kamala Kempadoo, "Women of Color and the Global Sex Trade" (*Meridians*, 1.2, 2001: 28-51, Intranet Folder); Ann Lacsamana, "Sex Worker or Prostituted Woman? An Examination of the Sex Work Debates in Western Feminist Theory" (*Women and Globalization*, 387-403)
- Class #14 Rohana Ariffin, "Globalization and its Impact on Women Workers in Malaysia" (*Women and Globalization*, 25-51); Valentine Moghadam, "From Structural Adjustment to the Global Trade Agenda" (*Globalizing Women*, 105-141)
22-26 October Penang, Malaysia
- Class #15 Hsiao-Chuan Hsia, "Internationalization of Capital and the Trade in Asian Women: the Case of 'Foreign Brides' in Taiwan," (*Women and Globalization*, 181-229);
30 October – 4 November Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Evening film screening: *China Blue* (Dir. Micha Peled, 2006)
- Class #16 Sarah Swider, "Working Women of the World Unite? Labor Organizing and Transnational Gender Solidarity Among Domestic Workers in Hong Kong" (*Global Feminism*, ed. Ferree and Tripp, 110-140, Intranet Folder)
6-7 November Hong Kong
10-11 November Shanghai, China
- Class #17 Anna Agathangelou, "Gender, Race, Militarization, and Economic Restructuring in the Former Yugoslavia and at the U.S.-Mexico Border" (*Women and Globalization*, 347-386); Yoko Fukumura and Martha Matsuoka, "Redefining Security: Okinawa Women's Resistance to U.S. Militarism" (*Women's Activism and Globalization*, 239-263)
14-15 November Kobe, Japan
17-18 November Yokohama, Japan
- Class #18 Border Committee of Women Workers, "Six Years of NAFTA: A View from Inside the Maquiladoras" (*Women and Globalization*, 90-119); Nancy Churchill, "Maquiladoras, Migration, and Daily Life: Women and Work in the Contemporary Mexican Political Economy" (*Women and Globalization*, 120-153)
Evening film screening: *Maquilopolis* (Vicki Funari & Sergio De La Torre, 2006, 60 min.)
- Class #19 Sharon Ann Navarro, "Las Mujeres Invisibles/The Invisible Women" (*Women's Activism and Globalization*, 83-98)
Optional evening film screening: *Senorita Extraviada* (Dir. Lourdes Portillo, 2001)
- Class #20 Jennifer Bickham Mendez, "Creating Alternatives from a Gender Perspective: Transnational Organizing for Maquila Workers' Rights in Central America" (*Women's Activism and Globalization*, 121-141)
- Class #21 Valentine Moghadam, "The Travails of Transnational Feminist Organizing" and "The Specter that Haunts the Global Economy?" (*Globalizing Women*, 173-201)
27 November Honolulu, Hawaii

- Class #22 Nancy Naples, “The Challenges and Possibilities of Transnational Feminist Praxis” (*Women’s Activism and Globalization*, 267-281); Grace Chang, “Gatekeeping and Housekeeping” (*Disposable Domestic*, 191-219); Delia Aguilar, “Questionable Claims: Colonialism Redux, Feminist Style” (*Women and Globalization*, 404-422)
- 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. Ask if there are specific issues for women workers. Ask if they address women’s labor migration.
- Visit a multinational corporation or export processing zone.
- Meet with local artisans about their industry.
- Ask local women about their experiences of work and family (for example, during a homestay).
- Learn about women’s roles in local union organizing.
- Visit a public hospital or medical center and inquire about local women’s health issues. Are there specific types of women’s work that affect women’s health?
- 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 sexual harassment or sexual violence in the workplace?
- 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 and workers' rights. What specific laws affect women? How are women's rights represented within the legal system?

- Analyze representations of women's work 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?
- Visit a local childcare center, to ask women how they balance work and families.
- Meet with professional women working in non-traditional spheres.
- Research the issue of labor migration in the local context. Is labor migration gendered? Is it racialized? Who migrates for work, and what kind of work are they doing?
- Learn about the rights of domestic workers in the local context. Who does domestic work here, and how are they treated? What rights to they have? Is there a local domestic workers' union?

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 middle of the semester. 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: Delia Aguilar and Anne Lacsamana, editors

TITLE: *Women and Globalization*

PUBLISHER: Humanity Books (New York)

ISBN #: 1-59102-162-6

DATE/EDITION: 2004/first edition

COST: \$21.28

AUTHOR: Grace Chang

TITLE: *Disposable Domestic: Immigrant Women Workers in the Global Economy*

PUBLISHER: South End Press (Cambridge)

ISBN #: 0-89608-617-8

DATE/EDITION: 2000/first edition

COST: \$14.04

AUTHOR: Valentine Moghadam
TITLE: *Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks*
PUBLISHER: The Johns Hopkins University Press
ISBN #: 0-8018-8024-6
DATE/EDITION: 2005/first edition
COST: \$18.95

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

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

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: Evelyn Hu-Dehart
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Globalization and Its Discontents: Exposing the Underside"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Frontiers*
VOLUME: vol. 24, nos. 2-3
DATE: 2003
PAGES: 244-260

AUTHOR: Kamala Kempadoo
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Women of Color and the Global Sex Trade: Transnational Feminist Perspectives"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*
VOLUME: vol. 1, no. 2
DATE: 2001
PAGES: 28-51

AUTHOR: Sarah Swider

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Working Women of the World Unite? Labor Organizing and Transnational Gender Solidarity Among Domestic Workers in Hong Kong”

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Global Feminism: Transnational Women’s Activism, Organizing, and Human Rights*, ed. Myra Marx Ferree and Aili Mari Tripp

VOLUME: first edition

DATE: 2006

PAGES: 110-140