

**Oxford College of Emory University**

**WS 300 Transnational Feminisms: Activism in Global Contexts**

Professor: Dr. Patricia Del Rey [pdelrey@emory.edu](mailto:pdelrey@emory.edu) 404 933 3053

Spring 2013 Tues- Thursdays 1:40-3:20 Classroom: East Village Alpha 157

Pre-requisite: WS 100 or WS 200

**The Sixth Annual Women's Studies Student Research Symposium Friday, April 5, 2013. You will all present at the symposium. It is from 12:30 to 6 pm.**

**Also, please save the Friday before April 5----which is March 29 - 11-3pm to practice the paper presentations in the TV Room.**

**Course Description:**

This course will require students to think across national borders and to explore the processes involved in the cultural construction of gender and how gender categories vary across culture. We will analyze power differentials in different cultural contexts and within international feminist discourse, specifically studying feminist activism in selected countries. This requires an understanding of how gender intersects with race, class, and sexuality; and how movements such as nationalism, colonialism, and transnational capitalism affect our study of gender. The main objective of the course is to understand how an appreciation of differences among women in the world impacts our understanding of gendered and other forms of inequality. In other words, why does thinking about feminism in an international or transnational way matter? This course will be organized for the students enrolled as a research seminar and will examine how women in selected countries of the world have gained political power through organizing and activism within their own country and across national borders. Each country will be investigated by a student as a case study culminating in a research paper that presents the methods and circumstances that explain how women gained political power within their country and how global pressures outside the country in question influenced women's acquisition of power. Students will present their papers at the sixth annual women's studies research symposium on April 5.

**Required Readings:**

Books:

Kristof, Nicholas and Sheryl WuDunn, *Half the Sky, Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, Vintage Books, 2010.

Smith, Bonnie G. Editor, *Global Feminisms Since 1945*, Routledge, 2001.

Articles or book chapters:

Grewal, Inderpal *Transnational America: Feminisms, Diasporas, Neoliberalisms*, Duke University Press, 2005. Chapter 2, Traveling Barbie: Indian Transnationalities and the Global Consumer, pp. 80-120.

bell hooks, *Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics*. South End Press, 2000, pp. 100-104, To Love Again: the Heart of Feminism, pp-100-104.

Leitinger, Abshagen, I., Editor, *The Costa Rican Women's Movement: A Reader*, The University of Pittsburg Press, 1997, pp. xi-28.

Williams-Forson, P. and Counihan, C. Editors, *Taking Food Public: Refining Foodways in a Changing World*, Routledge 2012, pp. 1-10 and 23-40.

Shaw, Carol *The Sexual Politics of Mea: A Feminist Vegetarian Critical Theory*, Continuum, 2010, pp. 1-37; 45-63; 216-239.

Articles optional:

Gurel, Perin Transnational Feminism: Islam, and the other Woman: How to Teach, *Radical Teacher*, Winter 2009, no. 86.

Chandra Talpade Mohanty,

1. Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses, *Feminist Review*, Autumn, 1988, no. 30.

2. Under Western Eyes: Revisited, *Signs, Journal of Women, Culture and Society*, 2002, vol. 28, no. 2.

Amal Amireh, Framing Nawal El Saadawi: Arab Feminism in a Transnational World, *Signs*, 2000, vol. 26, no. 1.

Bergeron, Suzanne, Political Economy Discourses of Globalization and Feminist Politics, *Signs*, 2001, vol. 26, no. 4.

Gayatri Spivak Can the Subaltern Speak? In L. Grossberg and C. Nelson, *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, Univ of Illinois Press, 1988, pp. 271-313

### **Requirements:**

Your grade is based on participation within the seminar (20%) which includes your attendance (5%), your 12 page research paper (60%) on the country you have selected to investigate, your power point presentation for the symposium (15%) and your assistance with the organization and implementation of the annual symposium in April. You must develop a bibliography of at least 10 references to begin your research and submit this to me within the first weeks of class. The final paper is due on March 21. The Sixth Annual Women's Studies Student Symposium will be held on April 5 at NOON until 6 pm and you will present your paper there and be involved the entire day of April 5. In addition we will practice the full symposium the Friday before on March 29 from 10 am - 2pm.

**Course Structure:**

This course will be structured as a research seminar with the goal of understanding feminism and feminist activism in a global context. One day a week we will read from the required readings and one day a week you will present your research. Your goal is to thoroughly research your country of choice to determine the level of political power women have acquired and analyze how this acquisition occurred. You will all present at the symposium a 10-15 minute power point presentation as a member of a panel and be prepared for questions from the audience. You will also be responsible for leading the class discussion on the readings to facilitate comprehension of the readings. You are also required to be present on Mar 29 to practice the papers in the symposium format and the same location.

**Class requirements:**

**1. Class participation-20 points** You will be evaluated daily by the level of participation in which you are engaged during class discussions. In addition, each student will serve as a discussion leader for about three classes and, in that role, be responsible for leading the discussion of the readings with the class. It will be incumbent on the facilitators to develop a list of discussion questions that they will use to lead the discussion. A list of discussion leaders for each class will be identified in the first classes.

**Your responsibilities when leading the class discussion:**

As individual discussion leader your goal is to get the class to **COMPREHEND** the author's ideas. Thus, your goal is to focus on comprehension, not opinion or agreement or disagreement. You will accomplish this by developing questions that will promote class discussion.

To develop the questions for class discussion:

1. Identify the topics and concepts that you believe are essential
2. Develop questions intended to elicit responses from the class; the goal of these questions is to facilitate understanding (comprehension) of the concepts and ideas in the readings as presented by the author(s)
3. Do not ask opinion questions – whether your colleagues agree or disagree
4. Do not ask whether they liked it or not

Your goal is getting the class to **UNDERSTAND** the authors' meaning. You may compare and contrast ideas in your readings with other readings. Comparison and contrasting is a kind of analysis that contributes to critical thinking skills

**2. Attendance- 5 points**

Attendance is essential for this class. Since your individual voice is considered significant to all of our learning, you should attend every class and actively participate in class discussion. Those of you who are never absent will receive the full 5 points toward your final grade. If you are absent once you will receive 4 points; if you are absent 2 times you will receive 3 points; and if you are absent 3 times you will receive 2 points. If you are absent 4 or more times you will lose the full 5 points toward your final grade.

**3. Research Paper and Presentation at Symposium- 75 points**

Final paper (15- 18 pages) to be presented at the symposium .in addition to completing the research paper. You will have 15 minutes to present a feminist analysis and

evaluation of your topic (using power point or prezi) showing that you have learned the tools of analysis used in the field of women's studies. All final projects must be approved by me and will be evaluated as follows: 20 points for deep and extensive feminist analysis of your topic; 20 points for effort; 20 points for a thorough understanding of the topic; and 15 points for the quality of your presentation.

For the paper—By the first class we will have decided on a country to investigate or a global topic of significance. Each day you will report on the progress you have made on your topic and for full class sessions you will present sections of your paper. You will identify a position you are going to support through your research identifying how women achieved political power in the country of your choice. You will become familiar with the quota project on the web link section of Blackboard and may even use this to select your country. The steps for development of your paper are:

First you will submit to me for approval a title and thesis statement.

Second, you must submit the approved thesis statement and title, WITH an outline of your intended project, including 10 sources from books and articles. You must limit internet sources. Do not use internet sources unless they are also printed. Go to the reference librarian, Ellen Neufeld, and ask how to find books and articles on your topic. Use style guidelines of MLA or APA for appropriate citations. A structure for the paper will be given out in class. You will resubmit each section to me several times and revise the full paper at least 5 times throughout the semester.

#### Course Schedule:

Jan 15 Introduction to course; assignment of student responsibilities

[http://current.com/community/91974649\\_monsantos-killing-fields-of-latin-america.htm](http://current.com/community/91974649_monsantos-killing-fields-of-latin-america.htm)

The relationship of the global north to the global south

Jan 17 What is transnational feminism?

Introduction to transnational feminisms Smith pp. 1-10

Half the Sky Introduction – The Girl Effect xi-xxii

bell hooks To Love Again: The Heart of Feminism

Jan 22 Half the sky chap 1 and 2

Jan 24 Chap 3, 4 and 5

Jan 29 Present your title and overview with sources

Jan 31 Chap 6,7 Half the Sky

Feb 5 Case Study: Liberia –Women in Peace Movement

Film: Pray the Devil Back to Hell

Feb 7 Half the Sky Chap 8-9

Feb 12 Present your Review of Literature

Feb 14 Chap 10, 11, 12 Half the Sky

Feb 19 Present your revision of your review of lit

Feb 21 Chap 13-14 Half the Sky

Feb 26 Smith chap 4 Female Consciousness or Feminist Consciousness? Brazil  
pp. 81-100

Feb 28 Introduction to Costa Rican Feminism - Reading Leitingner pp. xi-28.

Mar 5 Smith Chap 7 The personal is political pp. 141-163

Mar 7 Smith Chap 12 Human Rights are Women's Rights pp. 265-289

Mar 19 Smith Chap 14 UN 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Women pp. 305-314

Mar 21 Paper due today

Go to: [crunkfeministcollective.com.wordpress](http://crunkfeministcollective.com.wordpress) and click on bookings and then listen to the NWSA panel

Mar 26 Presentation to class of paper with power point presentation

Mar 28 Presentations continued

Mar 29 Practice for symposium

April 2 Practice continued

April 4 Practice continued

April 5 Symposium noon-6 pm

April 9 Evaluation of Symposium

April 11 and April 16 no class

April 18 Transnational Capitalism---Traveling Barbie - Reading: Grewal pp. 80-120.

April 23 Feminist Food Studies: Williams-Forsen and Counihan The gendered politics of food pp. 1-10 and 23-40

Carol Shaw, The Sexual Politics of Meat, 1-37; 45-63; 216-239

April 25 Evaluation of course