

Oxford College of Emory University

WS 300 Transnational Feminisms: Activism in Global Contexts

Professor: Dr. Patricia Del Rey pdelrey@emory.edu 404 933 3053

Spring 2014 Tues- Thursdays 1:40-3:20 Classroom: Seney 215

Pre-requisite: WS 100 or WS 200

This is a writing intensive course

The Seventh Annual Women's Studies Student Research Symposium Friday, April 4, 2014. You will all present at the symposium. It is from 12:45 to 6 pm.

Also, please save the Friday before April 4----which is March 28 - 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? And how does the study of women globally expand our understanding and broaden our perspective of gender inequality as a worldview. 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 seventh annual women's studies research symposium on April 4, 2014.

Required Readings:

Books:

Lee, Janet and Susan Shaw, *Women Worldwide: Transnational Feminist Perspectives on Women*, McGraw Hill 2011, ISBN: 978-0-07-351229-7

Articles or book chapters:

Latin America :

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/15/world/americas/on-election-day-latin-america-willingly-trades-machismo-for-femaleclout.html?ref=americas&_r=0&pagewanted=print

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.

Reference Articles:

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

1) discussion and participation within the seminar and your leading the discussion of the readings several times (20%)

2) your attendance (5%)

3) your 12 page research paper (50%) on the country or transnational topic you have selected to investigate

4) your power point or prezi presentation for the symposium (20%) and

5) your assistance with the organization and implementation of the annual symposium (5%) in April. The final paper is due on March 18. The Seventh Annual Women's Studies Student Symposium will be held on April 4 at NOON until 6 pm and you will present your paper there and be involved the entire day of April 4. In addition we will practice the full symposium the Friday before on March 28 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 are required to attend the full day of the symposium and be present for all papers. Each of you will be assigned to be the CONVENER for each of the panels at the symposium. You will also be responsible for leading the class discussion on the readings in class to facilitate comprehension of the readings. And you are required to be present on Mar 28 to practice presenting your the papers in the symposium format at 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 or four 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. Please pass out the questions you have developed to each class member. 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 (50%) and Presentation (20%) at Symposium- 70 points

Final paper (12-15 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 thoroughness; 10 points for a clear understanding of the topic; and 10 points for the quality of your presentation and 5 points for your assistance at the symposium.

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 have even used this to select your country. The steps for development of your paper were the following:

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

Second, you then submitted 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 4 times throughout the semester.

4. Assistance with organization of the symposium (5%)

Course Schedule:

Jan 14 Introduction to course; assignment of student responsibilities
Begin discussion of your individual research topics

Jan 16 What is transnational feminism?

Lee and Shaw, pp. 1-58

Jan 21 Discussion of your research paper- Be prepared to present your outline of paper in 15 minutes

Jan 23 Global Politics of the Body

Lee and Shaw, pp. 109-154

Jan 28 DUE---Present your title, thesis statement and overview of topic with sources
Present this to class 15 minutes each

Jan 30 Politics of Women's Health

Lee and Shaw, pp. 206-244

Feb 4 Due revision of thesis statement and outline of review of literature

Feb 6 Violence against Women Worldwide

Lee and Shaw, pp. 349-389

Feb 11 DUE—First draft of Introduction and Review of Literature

Feb 13 Women's Work in the Global Environment

Lee and Shaw, pp. 399-444

Feb 18 DUE - Revision of the intro and review of literature

Presentation to class 15 minutes

Feb 20 Women and Environmental Politics

Lee and Shaw, pp. 445-488

Feb 25 DUE first draft of conclusion of paper and presentation to class

Feb 27 Case Study: Liberia –Women in Peace Movement

Film: Pray the Devil Back to Hell

Mar 4 DUE – 1st draft of full paper and presentation to class

Mar 6 Reproductive Freedoms Worldwide

Lee and Shaw, pp. 253-28; 295-300

Mar 18 DUE – Last draft of Final Paper Presentations begin.

Mar 20 PRESENTATIONS IN CLASS WITH POWERPOINT OR PREZI

Mar 25 SECOND PRESENTATION - using power point or prezi

Mar 27 Presentations continued, If necessary

*****March 28 FRIDAY Practice presentation in TV Room with all symposium participants

April 1 Revision of Presentations

April 3 Continue with Presentations

*****April 4 Symposium noon-6 pm

April 8 Evaluation of Symposium

April 10 No class

April 15 No Class

April 17 Transnational Capitalism---Traveling Barbie - Reading: Grewal pp. 80-120.

April 22 HIV/AIDS in Women's Lives

Shaw and Lee, pp. 607-635

April 24 Evaluation of course