

GENDER AND GLOBALIZATION

GOV. 307/607
FALL 2009
SAWYER, RM. 421
M-W 2:30-3:45

INSTRUCTOR INFO

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academics, policymakers, journalists and others often speak of a “globalized world,” but what does it mean to say that international politics is “globalized?” In this course, we will examine competing definitions of globalization, and try to understand the complex ways in which globalization can change or redefine existing conceptualizations of gender and traditional gender roles. We also will examine the divergent effects that globalization can have for men and women, and the ways in which gender, gender roles and sexuality can affect globalization. Our course will be broken down into five sections: 1) defining globalization; 2) economic globalization; 3) cultural globalization; 4) regulating globalization and its gendered consequences; and 5) globalization activism. By no means will our course be able to cover all of the dimensions of globalization. Rather, through our readings, class discussions, research papers and policy projects, we will try to understand the major challenges, causes and consequences of the complicated intersection between gender and globalization.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

One of the main objectives of this course is to introduce students to the nexus between globalization and gender and to understand the implications of cultural, social, political and economic globalization on how we understand gender and gender roles. In addition, this course is designed to sharpen students’ analytical, writing, research and presentational skills. As such, our work will be divided into three main requirements:

- **Readings and Class Participation (20%):** This course will be run as a seminar, and your daily contribution to discussion is crucial. This means coming to class having read and thought about the readings. Come prepared to participate *actively*, and remember, quality counts just as much as quantity. Our discussions about gender and globalization will be punctuated with discussions of current events, and I expect you to keep up with contemporary politics. Please do *all* of the readings prior to our class sessions on Mondays.

Attendance is mandatory, although I do allow two “free pass” days over the course of the semester. You needn’t tell me why you won’t be attending seminar on these days. After that, any absence will affect your grade negatively; with three or more absences you are in serious risk of failing the class.

- **Research Paper: (55%):** One of the main elements of this course is students’ original research. Each student is responsible for researching and writing a research paper on a

topic of their interest. While these papers can address any topic at the intersection of gender and globalization, all papers should be well formulated, researched and written. To help students achieve this goal, research papers will be due in parts over the course of the semester, with ample time for feedback and revision. In addition to the readings, research projects will be our main focus for the first two-thirds of the semester.

The paper's constituent parts and their due dates are as follows:

- Project proposal, preliminary bibliography and methodological overview (10%): due 9.23.09.
- Revised research question and literature review (10%): due 10.7.09
- Outline of paper—major topics, empirical evidence, etc. (10%): due 10.21.09
- Completed draft (25%): due 11.4.09

Research papers should be clear, concise and well written. Papers should be 10-12 pages (double-spaced, standard font) for undergraduates and 15-20 pages (double-spaced, standard font) for graduate students.

- **Group Project (25%):** In addition to the research paper, each student will participate in a group project that is designed to apply the research students conducted for their papers to real-world political problems relating to gender and globalization. This will be our focus for the last third of the semester.

Students will form groups during Week 3 of the course based on the topics they choose for their research projects. Each group is responsible for drafting a policy-related program (e.g. a legislative bill, an international treaty or a policy initiative), designed to address a contemporary political challenge related to gender and globalization, broadly defined.

I will leave some class time for students to organize and begin their group projects (most notably on 11.9.09), but it is the students' responsibility to organize their group's work.

We will discuss the group projects at length over the course of the semester, but the groups' main responsibilities include:

- Outlining a work plan that distributes responsibility for the project among the members of the group.
- Identifying a clear policy problem.
- Specifying a plan to integrate the research that group members conducted for their papers and filling in any gaps in their research.
- Identifying and critically evaluating any existing laws, bills, programs.
- Explaining why the group chose a bill/treaty/etc. to address their problem.
- Drafting the bill/treaty/etc.
- Making a 15-minute presentation to the class during Week 13 of our course with a Power Point and/or other visual aids.

- **Academic Honesty**

I have a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Handbooks for the University's policies for plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty. If you have any questions concerning the proper use of citations or sourcing, I would be more than happy to answer them.

READINGS

You should complete the assigned readings for the week prior to our Monday class meeting. We will rely on five primary texts this semester, and occasionally, I will ask you to read an article from a scholarly journal, think-tank or policy institution. You can access these articles from our Blackboard page. Links for the other readings are included in the course outline below.

The required books we will use are:

- Enloe, Cynthia. *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. Berkeley, UC Press (2001).
- Ehrenreich, Barbara and Arlie Russel Hochschild, eds. *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. New York: Henry Holdt and Company (2002).
- Lechner, Frank J. and John Boli, eds. *The Globalization Reader*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing Ltd. (2003).
- Naples, Nancy and Manisha Desai, eds. *Women's Activism and Globalization: Linking Local Struggles and Trasnational Politics*. New York: Routledge (2002).
- Chari, Sharad. *Fraternal Capital: Peasant-Workers, Self-Made Men, and Globalization in Provincial India*. Stanford: Stanford University Press (2004).

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: Introduction (9.9.09)

- Lechner and Boli, "General Introduction" and "Debating Globalization: Introduction" in Lechner and Boli (Part I).

Week 2: What is Globalization? (9.14.09 & 9.16.09)

- Lechner and Boli, "Explaining Globalization: Introduction (Part II).
- Gereffi, "The Global Economy: Organization, Governance, and Development" in Lechner and Boli (Ch. 19).
- Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy" in Lechner and Boli (Ch. 11).
- Berkovitch, "The Emergence and Transformation of the International Women's Movement" in Lechner and Boli (Ch. 30).
- Navarro, "*Las Mujeres Invisibles*/The Invisible Women" in Naples and Desai (Ch. 6).

Week 3: Economic Globalization (9.21.09 & 9.23.09)

- Lechner and Boli, "Economic Globalization: Introduction" in Lechner and Boli (Part IV).
- Miguel Korzeniewicz, "Commodity Chains and Marketing Strategies: Nike and the Global Athletic Footwear Industry" in Lechner and Boli (Ch. 18).
- Chari, "Introduction: A Worker Path to Capital" (Ch. 1) and "Social Labor, or How a Town Works" (Ch. 2).

Project proposal, preliminary bibliography and methodological overview due 9.23.09.

Week 4: The Gendered Consequences of the Globalized Political Economy

- Suzanne Bergeron, "Political Economy Discourses of Globalization and Feminist Politics," in *Signs* 26 (4): 2001, p. 983-1006.
- Chari, "Gender Fetishisms and Shifting Hegemonies" (Ch. 6) and "Conclusion: Globalizing the *Moffusils*" (Ch. 7).

- Recommended: Chari, Chapters 3-5
- Please read the following newspaper articles on men, women and the “Great Recession”
 - Floyd Norris, “In This Recession, More Men are Losing Jobs,” in *The New York Times*, 3.13.09. Available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/14/business/economy/14charts.html>
 - David Leonhardt, “After the Great Recession” in *The New York Times Magazine* 4.28.09 (Interview with President Obama. Please read Section III, The New Gender Gap). Available at: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/03/magazine/03Obama-t.html?_r=1&hp=&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1241017278-bN5YWH/IQ660RRlxKwO3AA&pagewanted=all
 - Catherine Rampell, “As Layoffs Surge, Women May Pass Men in Job Force,” in *The New York Times*, 2.5.09. Available at: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/06/business/06women.html?_r=1&hp=&pagewanted=all

Week 5: The “Oldest Profession(s)” in a “New” Economy (10.5.09 & 10.7.09)

- Ehrenreich and Hochschild, *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, entire.

Research Paper Revised Question and Literature Review Due: 10.7.09

Week 6: Cultural Globalization (10.14.09) No class on Columbus Day, 10.12.09

- Sen, “How to Judge Globalism” in Lechner and Boli (Ch. 2).
- Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” in Lechner and Boli (Ch. 5).
- Cichowski, “No Discrimination Whatsoever: Women’s Transnational Activism and the Evolution of EU Sex Equality Policy” in Naples and Desai (Ch. 13).

Week 7: Redefining Gender and Gender Roles in a Globalized World (10.19.09 & 10.21.09)

- Tyrell, “Bollywood versus Hollywood: Battle of the Dream Factories” in Lechner and Boli (Ch. 39).
- Datta, “Globalisation and Representations of Women in Indian Cinema,” in *Social Scientist* 28 (4): 2000, pp. 71-82.
 - *We also will watch a clip of a Bollywood classic in class this week.*
- Please read the following articles on the controversy over airing a kiss between two homosexual men on Brazilian TV:
 - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4406470.stm>
 - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4412240.stm>

Research Paper Outline Due: 10.21.09

Week 8: International Law and the Regulation of Globalization (10.26.09 & 10.28.09)

- Please read the following treaties and their corresponding websites:
 - CEDAW <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>
 - ICRMW <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/cmw.htm>
- Bayefsky, “The CEDAW Convention: Its Contribution Today” in *American Society of International Law Proceedings*, 94: 2000, p. 197.

- European Court of Human Rights, *Leyla Sahin v. Turkey*, Grand Chamber Judgment, 2005. Available at:
www.echr.coe.int/.../GrandChamberJudgmentLeylaSahinvTurkey101105.htm

Week 9: Resisting Globalization from Within: Corporate Social Responsibility (11.2.09 & 11.04.09)

- Robinson, “Beyond Good Intentions: Corporate Citizenship for a New Century” in Lechner and Boli (Ch. 22).
- Henderson, “The Case against ‘Corporate Social Responsibility’” in Lechner and Boli (Ch. 23).
- Bickham Mendez, “Creating Alternatives from a Gender Perspective: Transnational Organizing for Maquila Workers’ Rights in Central America” in Naples and Desai (Ch. 8).
- Karides, “Linking Local Efforts with Global Struggle: Trinidad’s National Union of Domestic Employees” in Naples and Desai (Ch. 10).

Research Papers Due: 11.04.09

Week 10: Group Projects Workshop (11.9.09) *No class on Veteran’s Day, 11.11.09*

- We will dedicate Monday to developing your group projects and a writing workshop.

Week 11: Resisting Globalization from the Outside (11.16.09 & 11.18.09)

- Wells, “Context, Strategy, Ground: Rural Women Organizing to Confront Local/Global Economic Issues” in Naples and Desai (Ch. 9).
- Purkayastha, “Contesting Multiple Margins: Asian Indian Community Activism in the Early and Late Twentieth Century” in Naples and Desai (Ch. 7).
- “The Challenges and Possibilities of Transnational Feminist Praxis” in Naples and Desai (Ch. 15).

Week 12: Taking Stock: Gender, Globalization and International Politics (11.23.09)

Thanksgiving recess, no class 11.25.09

- Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, entire.

Week 13: Group Project Presentations (11.30.09 & 12.2.09)

- This week in class, each group will present their projects to the class. Presentations will consist of power-point presentations by the groups, as well as an open discussion about each project by the other class members. All should come prepared to participate.

Group projects due 11.30.09.

Week 14: *No Class—CH at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.*