

WS 505 Feminist Analysis in Global Perspective
T/TR 11.30-1.18
DB 29

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Office Hours:

Course Description

This course engages the question of feminist analysis in a global context. What do we mean by feminist analysis? What questions, subjects and methods are implied? Insofar as feminist analyses interrogate power relations and inequalities, we will attempt to understand the lives and experiences of women in and across cultural and national contexts. Given the globalized nature of the world, we will also question the (inter)relationships between power and communities (including your own) across the globe. The themes of the class include: critically assessing the impact of the globalization of women's rights represented by international agreements and transnational organizations; explore the multidimensional aspects of economic globalization and different feminist responses to them; and investigate/compare the (trans)national significance of sexuality (including reproductive policies, population control, sexual identity, etc).

Course Goals

The different components of the class facilitate the following learning goals:

- 1) To introduce and deepen your knowledge of feminist analyses, including intersectionality, structuralism, and representation.
- 2) To introduce and expand your knowledge of gender issues as they are contextually bound and complicated by other axis of social hierarchy, such as nationality, ethnicity, and sexuality.
- 3) To sharpen your analytical skills through close textual analysis, synthesis work and the application of course ideas to real-world examples.
- 4) To conduct a collaborative project that enhances your technology and research skills.

Assessment

Participation 10%

This grade is based on regular active participation and occasional pop quizzes. You are allowed one absence per term with no deductions to your grade.

Expanding Knowledge

15%

As a continuation of your participation grade, this assignment requires you to seek out experiences on the topic of feminist analyses in global perspective outside the classroom. I have included a list of possibilities with the syllabus. You are required to write a brief response paper for the experience (300 words or so) and post a blog entry for the class. You are also required, as part of the overall participation grade, to read and respond to each other's entries.

Feminist Analysis in Context #1

15%

You will research and assess an advocacy organization for how it uses intersectionality to frame and address the issues it works on (500-800 words). You will need to use course readings and apply them to your analysis. In addition to the write-up for me, you will post as a related blog on our website – please include all hyperlinks and use appropriate citations.

Feminist Analysis in Context #2

20%

For this writing assignment you will research the shadow reports that are created by NGOs in order to challenge and assess government compliance with international rights norms. You are required to locate, evaluate and reflect on two shadow reports: one from the USA on the USA and one on another country of your choice. In addition to evaluating the how well a country lives up to the norms it claims to protect, you should also consider the larger implications of such norms on local organizing. You should use course readings to help in your analysis. Like the previous assignment, a version of your work should be posted as a blog on our website (500-800 words).

Archeology of Consumption

20%

Starting February 1st you need to create a daily log of your consumption practices. The log should be for a full week and include ALL items consumed from the moment you wake up to the moment you go to sleep. After a week, you will assess the log and choose one commodity that you will research for this writing assignment. Your task is to investigate your consumption of the item through the interconnections of local and global in the world economy. Where was the product made? Who makes it? How is it distributed? What economies are intertwined in its production and consumption? Where

are you placed in the global economy? In addition to a research project, this essay also requires that you engage course readings. (1000-1500 words)

Final Collaborative Project

20%

In small groups you will conduct research for a Wiki that will navigate the (trans)national significance of sexuality (examples: reproductive policies, population control, sexual identity, nationalism, fundamentalism, economic justice, etc) in a particular context. More details will be provided.

Policies

- 1) Your participation grade is based on your presence and active/verbal engagement with the class. You are allowed one absence, after which, deductions to your grade will be made.
- 2) Late papers are not accepted without point deductions (2 pts per day).
- 3) This class is run in a discussion and semi-lecture format. I request that you turn off cell phones and limit computer use to note-taking. Please no Google jockies, unless requested.
- 4) Grading scale:

A+	98-100	A	97-95	A-	94-90
B+	89-88	B	87-85	B-	84-80
C+	79-78	C	77-75	C-	74-70

5) Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Any source (e.g., book, article, or website) that you use in your reviews, paper, and oral presentation must be properly mentioned, even if you are paraphrasing rather than quoting directly. University policy requires instructors to report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the Committee on Academic Misconduct for investigation. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct:

http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and

should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Schedule

January 6 Introduction to the Class

Part I: What is feminist analysis?

January 8

- * Intersectionality: A Tool for Gender and Economic Justice by AWID
- * Joan Scott, “Experience”
- * bell hooks, “Feminism: A Movement to end Sexist Oppression”

January 13

- * Nawar Al-Hassan Golley, “Is feminism relevant to Arab women?”
- * Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, “Comparative Analysis of Women’s Issues: Toward a Contextualized Methodology”

January 15

- * due: feminist analysis in context #1 – in class discussions

Part II: Globalizing Women’s Rights—Debates and Issues

January 20

- * Amrita Basu, “Globalization of the Local/Localization of the Global”
- * Susan Moller Okin, “Feminism, Women’s Human Rights, and Cultural Differences”
- * Nira Yuval Davis, “Human/Women’s Rights and Feminist Transversal Politics”

January 22

- * CEDAW
- * Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- * International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

January 27

- * Sonia Alvarez, “Translating the Global Effects of Transnational Organizing on Local Feminist Discourses and Practices in Latin America”
- * Kristen Ghodsee, “And if the Shoe Doesn’t Fit? (Wear it Anyway)”
- * Margaret Snyder, “Unlikely Godmother: The UN and Global Women’s Movements”

January 29

- * Due: feminist analysis in context #2 – in class discussions

Part III: Economic Globalization – Feminist Engagements and Responses

February 3

- * **NO CLASS**

February 5

- * Lourdes Benería, “Markets, Globalization and Gender”
- * V. Spike Peterson, “The Reproductive Economy”
- * Joy Zarembka, “America’s Dirty Work”

February 10

- * Marina Tzvetkova, “NGO responses to trafficking in women”
- * Valentine Moghadam, “From Structural Adjustment to the Global Trade Agenda”
- * Betty Wells, “Context, Strategy, Ground”

February 12

Lilja 4-Ever (2002)

February 17

- * Lars Kristensen, “Divergent Accounts of Equivalent Narratives”
- * Yelena Vansovich, “Moscow City *Duma* Discusses the Problem of Child Prostitution”
- * Katherine Avgerinos, “From Vixen to Victim”

February 19

DUE Friday 20th: Archeology of Consumption – in class discussion

Part IV: Local Populations/Global Sexualities

February 24

- * Barbara Einhorn, “Insiders and Outsiders: Within and Beyond the Gendered Nation”
- * Gail Kligman “Political Demography: The Banning of Abortion in Ceausescu’s Romania”

February 26

- * Jael Silliman et al., *Undivided Rights* (excerpts)

* Barbara Crane and Jennifer Dusenberry, "Power and Politics in International Funding for Reproductive Health"

March 3

In-class group work on Wicki final project

March 5

* Yoshiko Nozaki, "Feminism, Nationalism and the Japanese Textbook Controversy over 'Comfort Women'"

* Cynthia Enloe, "The Prostitute, the Colonel, and the Nationalist"

March 10

* Roberto Strongman, "Syncretic Religion and Dissident Sexualities"

* Cindy Patton, "The Globalization of 'Alterity' in Emerging Democracies"

* Brian James Baer, "Russian Gays/Western Gaze"
Group discussions and class wrap-up

March 12

List of Possible Expanding Knowledge of Feminist Analysis Projects

1) Speakers Events

During the term, there are many guest speaker events. Here are two that I know of:

February 12th, **Kate Bedford**, Kent University UK (Kate received her MA in WS at OSU)
Author of 'The Imperative of Male Inclusion: How Institutional Context Influences World Bank Gender Policy', *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 9:3, 2007.

February 24th, **Minoo Moallem**, University of California, Berkeley on "Political and Cultural Citizenship: The making and Unmaking of the Nation in Iran." 4:30 pm, The Mershon Center, 1501 Neil Ave., snacks provided. Author of *Between Warrior Brother and Veiled Sister: Islamic Fundamentalisms and the Cultural Politics of Patriarchy in Iran* (2005).

For any event, you should attend the talk, read something they have written, and write a very brief response (one page or so).

2) Films that address course materials

There are a lot of options here. I have a few suggestions, but feel free to seek out others and ask my approval.

In addition to watching them and writing a response, I would like you to find one critical

review of the film as well.

Beyond Beijing (1996)

Maquilapolis: City of Factories (year)

The Women and the Peacekeepers (year)