Interrogating Gender and Globalization
Fall 2005 – Friday, 1:30-4:30

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This course investigates interactions between gender and economic globalization, considering ways in which economic globalization is at play in constructions of masculinity and femininity, along with ways in which gender has shaped and inflected globalization.

We begin by considering alternative approaches to theorizing gender and economic globalization so as to establish a set of common terms and frames of reference. We then look at their interplay by exploring the impact of gendered assumptions on global capital and by thinking about the link between conventions of masculinity and the behavior of global decision-makers. From there, we consider work that addresses the “feminization of labor” in transnational production, with a focus on the differential impact of this form of globalization on women, men and on gender equity. We explore studies that examine the movement of capital, export-processing, domestic labor, sex work, and deindustrialization in “the north.” In each instance, we will be alert to the uneven, unequal and occasionally surprising impact of these processes on women and men and the potential for feminist transformations.

Course Reading

A photocopy packet of course readings is available. In addition, the following books should be purchased.

David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity* (Blackwell 1989)


Course Requirements

1. **Class attendance, participation, preparedness and thoughtful completion of written commentaries** account for 50% of the final course grade.

As a reading seminar, the primary requirement for this course is to complete the assigned reading in a manner that prepares you for class discussion. To prepare for class discussion, you are to write a short commentary/informal “thought piece” on the class readings. These commentaries should be typed and about 2 pages long.

Regular class attendance and participation in class discussion are expected.

2. **Analytical Essays and/or Research Paper** account for 50% of your final course grade.

There are two “formal writing” options:

1. 2 analytical essays (10+ pages each)
   
   The first due on 10/28 (week 7). The second due at the end of the semester.

2. An independent research paper (20-30 pages)

   You are responsible for defining a topic early in the course, putting together a bibliography, and meeting with one of us to discuss your paper at least 3 weeks prior to the end of the semester.
Course Outline

9/16: Introduction


9/23: Gender


Cynthia Enloe, C1 “Gender Makes the World Go Round” in *Bananas, Beaches and Bases* (University of California Press 1989), 1-18.


9/30: Economic Globalization


David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*, parts II-IV (Blackwell 1989), 121-359.


10/7: Gendered meanings shape theories of the global


Doreen Massey, C10 “Flexile Sexism” in *Space, Place, and Gender* (University of Minnesota Press 1994), 212-248.


**Capital Mobility**

10/14: Transnational Production


Leslie Salzinger, “From High Heels to Swathed Bodies: Gendered Meanings under Production in Mexico’s Export Processing Industry,” Feminist Studies 23(3), Fall 1997: 549-574. (on-line journal access)

10/21: Globalization and Commodity Chains


Women Working the NAFTA Food Chain, ed. D.Barndt (Second Story Press, 1999) –
Harriet Friedmann, C1, “Remaking ‘Traditions’: How We Eat, What We Eat and the Changing Political Economy of Food,” 36-60;
Fran Ansley, C7, “Putting the Pieces Together: Tennessee Women Find the Global Economy in Their Own Backyards,”142-160; and
Jan Kainer, C9, “Not Quite What They Bargained For: Female Labour in Canadian Supermarkets,”176-189.

Film: “Tales From the Global Economy: The Cappuccino Trail” (2002, 50 min, VC 2970)
10/28: The Informal Sector


Labor Mobility

11/4: Transnational domestic work


Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo and Ernestine Avila, “I’m Here, but I’m There: The Meanings of Latina Transnational Motherhood,” Gender and Society 11(5), October 1997: 548-570. (on-line journal access)

Arlie Hochschild: “Love and Gold” in Global Woman, 15-30


Pei-Chia Lan: “Maid or Madam: Filipina Migrant Workers and the Continuity of Domestic Labor,” Gender and Society 17(2), April 2003: 548-571. (on-line journal access)

11/11 Sex work


11/18: Emergent challenges to private patriarchy


Thanksgiving Holiday

12/2: Resistance


Amy Lind, “Negotiating boundaries: women’s organizations and the politics of restructuring in Ecuador” in Gender and Global Restructuring, 161-175

Catherine Eschle, “‘Skeleton Women’”: feminism and the antiglobalization movement,” Signs, 30(3), Spring 2005: 1741-1770. (on-line journal access)


12/9: Gendered processes shape how globalization operates

Masculinity:


Femininity:
