Global Feminism

Dr. Kesho Y. Scott
SOC 390.1 T, 10-11:50, Th 10-10:50
Fall 2009
ARH 317

Office: 106 Carnegie
Phone: 269-4291
Email: scottkl1@grinnell.edu

Fall 2009

Course Description:
This course is intended for students interested in the intersections of feminism, trans-nationalism and social justice activism. Through texts, articles and discussions we will explore women’s organizing and feminist advocacy as it has occurred in various regions of the world, and how feminist interests and organizations have become globalized into a larger international force for social change.

Key questions we will study include: How do feminisms emerge? What specific issues have galvanized women across national, regional and transnational borders? What are the politics of generalizing cross-culturally about women’s interests and/or feminist demands? What is the relationship between feminism and nationalism or globalized feminism and imperialism? How and when do the interests of First World women (North) and Third World women (South) come together? And when do they conflict? How might this be theorized? What is the history of the globalized women’s movements and how does it impact local women’s movements, international development and policy, and the politics for and against globalization? Finally, what role might feminist agendas play in addressing current global issues?

The course will combine sociological and multidisciplinary scholarship, applied research and advocacy, group presentations and an intensive individual research project that demonstrate a comprehensive and critical overview of these issues used in the global feminist enterprise.

Books and Films:
- (GF) Bonnie Smith, Global Feminisms Since 1945, 2000
- (WAG) Nancy Naples and Manisha Desai, Women’s Activism and Globalization, 2002
- (DC) Uma Narayan, Dislocating Cultures, 1997
- (GW) Valentine M. Moghadam, Globalizing Women, 2005
- JSTOR Articles, Instructor’s Handouts, Current Events, etc
- Note: There is overlapping in text themes but theory and methodological diversity.
- There will be three films. Each will be announced and scheduled twice for each film.

Requirements:
A. Writing:
- All presentations will be outlined and reproduced for classmates (Weeks 1-6)
- Research Paper (Weeks 7-10)
- Take Home Final Exam on the films (Weeks 11-15)
B. Oral Presentations: There will be several in-class short presentations. You will be teamed in assigned groups and asked to lead class discussions on assigned readings. There will be no make-up opportunity with these assignments. This is considered class homework. Prepare for each reading and add five discussion questions to the handout for class discussion.

C. Examinations: Take-Home Final Exam (Weeks 11-14) DUE: __________
   • All writing assignment will require outlines, first and second drafts!

D. GRADING:
   • Attendance and class participation 10%
   • Class Presentations (Weeks 1-6) 30%
   • Mid Exam Research Paper (Weeks 7-10) 30%
   • Take Home Final Exam (Weeks 11-14) 30%
     ▪ Total 100%

E. Academic Honesty: You must abide by the rules on plagiarism, outlined in the Student Handbook (p.49-50 in 03-04), which require that you “acknowledge explicitly any expressions, ideas, or observations that are not” your own. In the case of cooperatively produced work, you must indicate who produced which part of the data or product. If you are unsure of your obligations, please see me.

F. Instructor’s E-mail Policy: I believe e-mail is a convenient privilege and a technological wonder for enhancing learning but it is NOT a substitute for face-to-face interactions with your instructor. Use the e-mail for urgent class matters to communication with your classmates about assignments. Otherwise, I expect frequent visits during my office hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MWF</th>
<th>TTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug. 28</td>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aug. 31, Sept. 2, 4</td>
<td>Sept. 1, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sept. 7, 9, 11</td>
<td>Sept. 8, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sept. 14, 16, 18</td>
<td>Sept. 15, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sept. 21, 23, 25</td>
<td>Sept. 22, 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sept. 28, 30, Oct. 2</td>
<td>Sept. 29, Oct. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct. 5, 7, 9</td>
<td>Oct. 6, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct. 12, 14, 16</td>
<td>Oct. 13, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
<td>Oct. 19 - 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct. 26, 28, 30</td>
<td>Oct. 27, 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nov. 2, 4, 6</td>
<td>Nov. 3, 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Schedule:

**Week 1:** Introduction of the Course, Group and Individual assignments
  - Read: Preface and Introduction
  - Read: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
  - Characterize feminism and during and beyond nation-building
  - Countries: Egypt, Vietnam, South Africa, Brazil and Kenya

**Week 2:** How and when do feminist identity and activism emerge?
- Read: (GF) Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
  - Link between women's movement, social movements and globalization
  - Countries: Korea, USA Reflections, Britain, Japan, and the Soviet Union

**Week 3:** Comparisons and Case Study: China
- *(GF)*, Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14
  - Lecture: Women’s Movement in China (Dr. Scott’s 2009 Trip)
  - Countries: Iran, Amnesty International, Germany, USA Reflections of Women of Color at Beijing, China Conference

**Week 4:** Women’s Activism and Globalization
- *(WAG)*, Nancy Naples and Manisha Desai, *Women’s Activism and Globalization*
  - Read: Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 3
  - What is trans-nationalism? Transnational activism?
  - What are the pros and cons of globalization?

G. **Instructor has the right to add or delete any part of this syllabus.**

H. Do not send assignments through email unless instructed.

**I. Instructor will send course updates and revised assignments through email. Please read your email regularly.**

**II. Keep in touch with your group for presentation assignments and scheduling changes.**
What are the strengths and challenges of organizing women in the global North and South?

**RESEARCH TOPICS DEVELOPED AND DUE!**

**Week 5:** Challenges of Organizing Across Borders
- (WAG), Read: Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
- What are the roles of organizations in feminist transnational leadership?
- **Countries:** Nicaragua, Soviet Union, Mexico, India and Central America

**Week 6:** When the Local is Global and Activism is for and against……
- (WAG), Read: Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
- **Countries:** Trinidad, Mali and WFAM, USA, Morocco, Europe and Japan

**ALL ASSIGNED CLASS PRESENTATIONS FOR WEEKS 1-6 COMPLETED!**

**Week 7:** Challenges and Possibilities of Transnational Praxis
- (WAG), Read: Chapters 15
- (DC), Uma Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures*
- (DC), Read: Preface and Chapters 1

**ALL RESEARCH TOPICS APPROVED AND OUTLINE DONE!**

**Week 8:** Politics of Global North and South in Activism
- (DC), Chapters 2, 3

[FALL BREAK Oct. 19-23]

**Week 9:** Identity, Voices, Alliances and Privileges through Activism
- (DC), Chapters 4, 5
- Film 1: ____________________________

*First Draft of Research Paper done!*

**Week 10:** Global Feminist Praxis in Film:
- Film 2: ____________________________
- Film 3: ____________________________

*Research Papers due Thursday Nov. 12th by 4:30 pm in my office!*

**Week 11:** Globalization as a Gendered Process
- (GW), Valentine M. Moghadam, *Globalizing Women*
- (GW), Read: Chapters 1, 2,
- What is Moghadam’s thesis? Her evidence for it?
**Week 12:** Unionization as a Tool of Feminist Activism
- (GW), Chapters 3, 4
  - What are the challenges to women’s transnational organizations?
  - How does women’s labor, inequalities and regional crisis shape women’s activism?

**Week 13:** From Structural adjustment to Religious Fundamentalism
- (GW), Chapters 5, 6
  - What is structural adjustment as an economic and social policy?
  - What is religious fundamentalist?
  - Multiple-Case Studies and Sati in India

**Week 14:** Strengths and Pitfalls of Union Organizing in the Global Economy
- (GW), Read: Chapters 7, 8
  - What is global governance?
  - What is its relationship to global feminist activism?
  - And, which side of the globalization argument does global governance stand?

**REVIEW SHEET FOR TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM!**

**Week 15:** Pulling It All Together: Reflection of Global Feminist Successes
- Current Events—round table talks on books, articles, editorials, films on “global feminist sisterhood and praxis.” (Each student is to bring a two page review)
- New emergent issues for global feminism, its origins, leaders, organizational forms, strategies for activism, etc.…
- Future directions of a WORLD WIDE FEMINIST MOVEMENT?
- CLASS EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS!

**TAKE HOME FINAL DUE AT SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM TIME! DATE: _________**