WGSS 7780 Theorizing Global and Transnational Feminisms
Spring 2013
Wednesdays 11.15-2pm
University Hall 286

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3.30 and by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This is a graduate seminar that will introduce key concepts, debates and projects of global and transnational feminisms. As a group we will consider some of the following, including:
what constitutes this field within the discipline of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies;
the geographies and temporality that undergird knowledge production on global/transnational feminisms;
feminist projects situated in various (trans)national contexts;
institutional and policy structures that operate in the name of global women’s rights;
and feminist responses to economic globalization. Each of these questions contains a plethora of other issues, which we will elaborate on during class discussion.

In preparation for the class, please consider the following:

1) Why is non-U.S. women’s organizing termed “global” while domestic activism is not? How does the answer to that question fit within WGSS in the U.S. academy?
2) Additionally, who determines what/who constitutes the global? Is the global truly inclusive of the entire globe? If not, what spatial understandings of the globe tend to inform knowledge production and policy?
3) What accounts for how some inequalities/discriminations gain recognition as registers for rights while others do not? Furthermore, are rights neutral? Do they need to be?
4) What practices are recognized as global feminism? What distinguishes global and transnational feminisms?

The objectives of the course are: to become familiar with major concepts and questions within the field; to gain a deeper understanding of feminist theorizing and activism outside of the contexts you are most familiar, and to gain a sense of the theoretical underpinnings of global and transnational feminist thinking.

** If you have special needs, please let me know as soon as possible. I will work with you and Disability Services **
Requirements

Participation 30%

This includes providing ONE class lead (details provided in class), attending TWO extra-class lectures/events (responses posted on Carmen), and actively engaging the class on a WEEKLY basis. Graduate seminars should not be missed. If for some extremely pressing reason you are not able to attend, please notify me in advance and we will try to manage your absence.

Key Concepts 15%

You will prepare short analytical abstracts for a set of key concepts from the class. Due April 1 by 3pm

Assessing Global/Transnational Feminisms 15%

Students will choose a journal that fits within the field of global/transnational feminist studies. You will research the journal’s trajectory for the past decade or so in order to assess the themes and trends. More details to be provided. Length expectation is approximately 3,000-4,000 words. Due March 1 by 3pm.

Final Project 40%

In consultation with the instructor, you will choose a final project that fits with your program of study and current tenure in graduate school. I am open to a variety of formats but the project should be significant, as it constitutes a large portion of the course evaluation. Some examples include: a paper on a single topic/issue raised in the class (20-30 pgs); a literature review on a relevant topic/theme (20-30 pgs); an essay intended for publication (length determined by journal); or an exegesis on an area of scholarship that you need a deeper understanding of. Final project ideas must be determined by April 3. You will present your project in our final class, April 17 and the final draft is due April 24 by noon.

** All written work must be turned in to me in hard copy, not via email.

Books to purchase (available at SBX or through online bookseller):


**Readings and Schedule**

**January 9**

First day of class – orientation to the class and each other; what are the key concepts and questions in the field; student expectations, etc.

**January 16**

Mapping the geographies, temporalities and subjects of global and transnational feminisms


**Recommended:**
January 23 Locating/problematizing feminist theorizing part I


January 30 Locating/problematizing feminist theorizing part II

Heng, Geraldine. 1997. “‘A Great Way to Fly”’: Nationalism, the State, and the Varieties of Third-World Feminism.” In Feminist Genealogies. (chapter 2)


February 6 Traveling Feminism


February 13 Feminists Theorize Violence


February 20 Women’s Rights and Global Institutions part I


February 27 No Class

** March 1 Papers due by noon

March 6 Women’s Rights and Global Institutions part II


March 13  No Class

March 20  Feminists Interrogate Globalization


March 27  Theorizing Globalization and Activist Responses


** April 1 key concepts due by noon

April 3  Transnational Feminist Praxis


April 10  Concluding remarks and synthesizing


April 17  Student Presentations