
Womensst 499F
Spring 2006
Schedule #: 57885

**Culminating Experience: Transnational
Women's Economic & Political Activisms:
Research, Geographies of Development,
Violence, and Resistance**

Professor Alex Deschamps

Tue: 1:00–3:30 pm at Bartlett 312

Office/Hours: Bartlett 7B » Tue: 3:30 – 4:30 pm » Thu: 2:00 – 3:30 pm » and by appointment
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Office/Hours: Bartlett 208C » Tue: 10:00 – 11:00 am » and by appointment

Course Description

This is a two-semester (Fall 2005 & Spring 2006) Culminating Experience course (4 & 4 credits) which will fulfill the Honor's Requirements for Senior Theses and/or projects as well as allow Women's Studies Majors and Minors the opportunity to put their academic and scholarly work into Praxis. This course will research the geographies of Development, Gendered Violence, and Resistance.

Fall 2005 – Womensst 499E:

In this first semester, we did a survey of the field of feminist research and praxis locating transnational practices of resistance and development and explore the implementation of feminist gendered projects that have been successful in ensuring some measurable social, cultural, and economic success. Students had the opportunity to assess which of these practices can be applicable, transferable, but not necessarily replicable on a global basis. Since the relationship between academic theorizing and community organizing for productive social and political change is a vital, complex and an ever-changing source of feminist inquiry, we built on that relationship by juxtaposing activist social and political work with the theoretical, intersectionalities, feminist research methodology, and how these arenas inform and transform each other.

Spring 2006 – Womensst 499F:

In this second semester, students will complete their research from the first semester working on their specific project, paper or combination. This is individually specific and will fulfill the requirements for the Commonwealth College Honors and/or final grade. Students who have notebook computers are encouraged to bring them to class.

Enrollment Process:

Students who register for WOMENSST 499F will either have previously taken WOMENSST 499E or be competent and familiar with academic writing; be conversant with Feminist Theories and an understanding of the Intersectionalities with Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality, (locally and globally); be willing to be engaged in rigorous scholarship and feminist research methodologies and practice. This course is open to Commonwealth College Students as well as Women's Studies Seniors. All procedures and policies as established by the Commonwealth College will be followed. Ideally students will have taken at least two core Women's Studies courses, or at least two electives. Without these pre-requisites, it may be difficult for students to keep up with the scholarship of the course.

Breadth/Synthesis & Individual Maturation:

The issues will be related ultimately to the student's "location", personally, and professionally, at the threshold of the future, in search of a space of her/his own. The expectation is that students will

expand their world view and allow the course material to be transferable both personally and academically. Choices for research papers and projects should reflect individual interest, growth, and vision. We will examine the impact on people's lives and the agency roles of women and men as they adopt strategies to improve material, social, cultural, and political conditions of their lives. Human security, transnational migration, and gendered violence will be some key areas of concern.

Interdisciplinary:

The content and core of Women's Studies are always interdisciplinary. We will be engaged in doing and reading multiple research methodologies, literary analysis and performance theory, development theory (economic, community, social, transnational), cultural anthropology, post-colonial theory, and praxis of Internet Technology.

Sustained effort on Topic/Project:

Students enrolled in 499F will meet as a class once a week for 2½ hours. Students MUST adhere to all meeting times and timely revisions of their work. This will be fast paced because you will be working collectively and individually with the faculty and teaching assistant so all required work must be done on time. Students will be presented with information about the proper use of the Library Data Base as well as using Information Technology to enhance their learning and prepare for their research and/or projects.

Course Requirements & Written Assignments

Grading and evaluation will be based on the following:

1. Preparedness and active class participation, timely submission of all written work, class leadership, active and constructive peer feedback. Consistent designated meetings as arranged with Faculty. (15%).
2. Writing Process. Each student will be expected to pay strict adherence to the writing process and dates as outlined in the syllabus for in-class processes and individual consults. A productive academic finished product is essential for this course and in order for the Teaching Assistant and myself to work with you throughout the semester, all writing materials must be ready by the due dates. Feel free to bring in your notebook computers/laptops if you have one. We will chart your progress, give feedback, and meet with you as needed. Since most of the theory was done last semester, you will now be working with your own literature review, research resources, and other relevant materials. *Dates for In-Class Processes are February 14th and 28th, March 14th and April 11th. You must have the required work at these times in class.* (20%).
3. Attend at least one relevant seminar/activity, presentation on campus or in any of the other area Colleges and write a 3-5 page analytical paper demonstrating the inter-textualizing of readings. *Due no later than Tuesday April 4th, 2006.* (5%).
4. Working in groups, students will create a bibliographic resource/website and/or handbook of readings, annotated bibliographies, websites, or search engines for the course. Each group will be graded on the organization, comprehensiveness, and completeness of their entries. This is a requirement for submission to Commonwealth College. This web site will be a link on the Commonwealth College Web page. Group sites due *Tuesday April 11th, 2006.* (10%).
5. Final Research Project or Paper. This will be individual students' work. All papers or projects analyses are due on *Tuesday May 09th, 2006.* (50%).

*Our Undergraduate mini conference will take place on **Friday May 05th, 2006** in the Campus Center.*

Academic Honesty and Other Undergraduate Policies

My assumption is that students are generally honest. You are responsible for knowing and following the University of Massachusetts Academic Guidelines. *Please read and familiarize yourselves with the University Policy Statement on Academic Honesty, Course Requirements, Attendance, Religious Observances, and other relevant policies, in the Undergraduate Rights and Responsibilities Booklet or at website http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/rights/default.htm.* Necessary action, in compliance with official guidelines, will be taken against students who commit academic dishonesty. Plagiarism of any kind will be detrimental to your tenure at the University. Avoid using written papers from the internet. Caucus with me about resources for learning needs. Always credit your sources – theorists we've read; internet sources; your peers if you use one of their ideas.

Texts

[Required]:	Chela Sandoval. <i>Methodology of the Oppressed</i> . Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000.
	Handouts and other related resources to be distributed or on E-Reserve.
[Recommended]:	Peggy Antrobus. <i>The Global Women's Movement: Issues and Strategies for the Next Century</i> . London; New York: Zed Books, 2004.

Available at Food For Thought Bookshop, North Pleasant Street, Amherst and also on reserve in the library.

Course Calendar

Jan 31 st [Week 1]	<p><u>Expectations, Syllabus, Deadlines, Re-visiting Working Definitions: Identity Politics, Feminisms: Third World, Global, Transnational - The Historical and the Contemporaneous</u></p> <p>In class editing, reviewing, and fine tuning of research/project proposal Review of data sources and Commonwealth College research sites.</p>
Feb 7 th [Week 2]	<p><u>Transnational Feminisms, Global Justice and Activism: Redefining Power, Reassessing the Political</u></p> <p>Film Screening: Women Whom Organize</p> <p>Readings: [Handout]–Johanna Brenner, “Transnational Feminism and The Struggle for Global Justice”. <i>New Politics</i>, vol. 9, no.2 (New Series), Whole no. 34, Winter 2003. [Handout]–“Transnational Feminism: A Range of Disciplinary Perspectives” from http://www.history.ucla.edu/dubois/Transnational%20Feminism.html</p>
Feb 14 th [Week 3]	<p><u>First In-Class Writing Process</u></p> <p><i>***Students’ Writings and/or Progress Reports***</i></p>
Feb 21 st [Week 4]	<p>No Class – Monday’s Class Schedule re President’s Day Holiday</p>
Feb 28 th [Week 5]	<p><u>Second In-Class Writing Process</u></p> <p><i>***Students’ Writings and/or Progress Reports***</i></p>
Mar 7 th [Week 6]	<p><u>Theory Out of Bounds: A Range of Applications</u></p> <p><u>Guest Lecture</u></p> <p>Readings: [Text]–Chela Sandoval, <u>Methodology of the Oppressed</u>, Part II, Chapter 2 and Part III, Chapter 3. [Handout]–Augusto Boal, “Poetics of the Oppressed” in <u>Theatre of the Oppressed</u>. Theatre Communications Group, New York, 1985. 120-156.</p>
Mar 14 th [Week 7]	<p><u>Third In-Class Writing Process</u></p> <p><i>***Students’ Writings and/or Progress Reports***</i> <i>***Turn in a hard copy of work in progress***</i></p>
March 18 th –26 th	<p>Spring Break Recess</p>
Mar 27 th [Week 9]	<p><u>Individual Consults</u></p> <p><i>***Students’ Writings and/or Progress Reports***</i></p>

Course Calendar (Cont'd)

Apr 4 th [Week 10]	<p><u>Gendered Violence: Security, War, Migrations, Transnational Consequences and Solutions</u></p> <p>Film Screening: Cut From Different Cloth: Burqas & Beliefs</p> <p>Readings: [Handout]–Leela Fernandes. “The Boundaries of Terror: Feminism, Human Rights and the Politics of Global Crisis” in <u>Just Advocacy?: Women’s Human Rights, Transnational Feminisms, and the Politics of Representation</u>. Eds. Wendy S. Hesford and Wendy Kozol. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2005. 56-74.</p> <p>[Handout]–Inderpal Grewa. “Transnational America: Race and Gender after 9:11” in <u>Transnational America: Feminism, Diasporas, Neo-liberalisms</u>. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005. 196-220.</p> <p>***<i>Last Date for Seminar/Event Paper</i>***</p>
Apr 11 th [Week 11]	<p><u>Fourth In-Class Writing Process</u></p> <p>***<i>Students’ writings and/or progress reports</i>***</p> <p>***<i>Last Day for Submissions for Web Site Resources</i>***</p>
Apr 18 th [Week 12]	<p><u>Pedagogy, Praxis, and Constructing a Vision of Possibilities</u></p> <p>Readings: [Text]–Peggy Antrobus. “The New Context: Challenges and Dilemmas for the Future”. pp. 137-163.</p> <p>[Text]–Peggy Antrobus. “Leadership for Moving Forward. Is Another World Possible”. pp 164-186.</p> <p>[Handout]–Kumar, Corinne. “South Wind: Towards a New Political Imaginary” in <u>Dialogue and Difference: Feminisms Challenge Globalization</u>. Eds. Marguerite R. Waller and Sylvia Marcos. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. 165-199.</p>
Apr 25 th [Week 13]	<p><u>In-Class Conference Preparation – Student Presentations</u></p> <p>***<i>Students’ Papers and/or Projects</i>***</p>
May 2 nd [Week 14]	<p><u>In-Class Conference Preparation – Student Presentations</u></p> <p>***<i>Students’ Papers and/or Projects</i>***</p>
Friday May 5 th	<p><u>Our Undergraduate Mini Conference</u></p>
May 9 th [Week 15]	<p><u>Conference Debriefing, Student Feedback and Discussion</u></p> <p>***<i>Finished Papers Formatted for Submission to Commonwealth College</i>***</p>
May 16 th [Week 16]	<p><u>Implications for Further Research and Practice</u></p> <p>Closing Exercises, Evaluations, Next Steps, Celebration</p>