

Transnational Asian and Asian American Feminisms

WOMENSST 693A-01 (SPIRE# 80471) 3 credits

Thurs 2:30PM - 5:00PM Bartlett 131

(Graduate Seminar, open to advanced undergraduates with instructor permission)

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Description

How are transnational Asian and Asian American feminist scholars destabilizing and complicating fixed, U.S.-centric notions of identity, difference, history and politics? How does the history of U.S. imperialism and wars in Asia shape particularly gendered and sexualized transnational migration flows, neoliberal policies, global capitalist development, cultural practices and representation? This course explores the possibilities and constraints for developing transnational critiques, solidarity, and movements that recognize common concerns, frameworks and struggles while recognizing the heterogeneity, specificity and multiple sites which comprise current Asian and Asian American feminist scholarship and movements.

The course will operate as a seminar based on in-depth reading and critique of texts, rigorous thinking, independent research and most importantly, informed discussion and active participation in building an intellectual community (in class and on-line). It fulfills the critical race feminisms or transnational feminisms requirement for WGSS Advanced Certificate in Feminist Studies. It also counts toward both the UMASS Asian & Asian American Studies Certificate and the Five College API Certificate (<http://www.umass.edu/asianasianamstudies/courses.html>).

Course Requirements

- Regular attendance and active, informed participation in the seminar is required. An attendance sheet will be circulated at the beginning of class.
- Reading assignments must be completed BEFORE the class period for which they are assigned.
- You will be asked to comment and give feedback to other students. Peer responses should be constructive and respectful. With this understanding of peer feedback, students should decide for themselves what topics they feel comfortable writing about and how they wish to explore these topics. It is the responsibility of everyone to foster as safe a space as possible for people to challenge themselves and take risks in their writing.

- We will follow all university policies on issues of Academic Honesty, Grading, Attendance, Examinations, and Absences due to Religious Observance.
- You are responsible for knowing when assignments are due and handing them in on time. Dates of major writing assignments are below.

Summary of Assignments and Due Dates (hard copies due at beginning of class)

- Attendance and Participation (Ongoing, includes informal writing and in-class exercises): 20%
- Discussant Essay and Presentations on Readings (you sign up for which week to respond Post to Moodle by 9p on Monday before class) 20%
- Reflections and Peer Feedback - at least 7 Moodle posts on the discussant essays, readings class discussions and debates (at least five should respond to discussants before class) 10%
- Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography for Final Project (Due Nov 10 on Moodle): 10%
- Final Paper: Analytical Paper OR Research Proposal Due Dec 12 25%
- Final Class Presentation on Dec 1 or Dec 8 10%
- Final Course Reflection Due Dec 14 5%

Attendance and Class Participation and Moodle Posts **20%**

Attendance and participation in the seminar is required. You are expected to contribute to the discussion, and to support your colleagues in participating as well. You are also expected to participate actively on Moodle and respond with questions and comments to reflection papers (you must respond at least 5 times during the semester by noon Tues and you should save and turn in a hard copy of these posts in a single word document at the end of the semester). Because we only meet once a week, each class session is important and any unexcused absences will result in your grade being marked down. Two unexcused absences will result in an “F” in the course. For an excused absence you must: 1) provide documentation; 2) submit a 2-3 page additional reflection paper based on the readings assigned for that week, due before class if you know in advance you will miss, or if not, due by the next class; and 3) complete any in-class exercises assigned for that class period, due at the beginning of the next class. If you know that for extenuating circumstances you will need to miss a class, please let me know in advance.

Discussant Essay and Class Presentations **20%**

3-5 double-spaced pages posted by 5p the day before class, bring hard copy to class. You will pick a week to write a reflection paper on the readings. Essays should focus less on summary and more on analysis and be succinct, and well-organized. Each paper should: 1) describe key concepts and debates in that week’s assigned readings (you do not have to discuss all the readings equally but should address themes that emerge across readings); 2) identify at least one argument or concept that you agree with/find compelling and at least one that you disagree with/find unconvincing; and 3) pose questions for further reflection and discussion. If you post a reflection paper after the deadline, it will make it difficult for students to read and comment on before class, and you will be substantially marked down. Every week that you have posted a reflection, you should read responses

to your paper and be prepared to dialogue with students who have commented. Whether or not you post a reflection paper that week, you should read all the other reflection papers and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Reflections and Peer Feedback

10%

You are expected to participate actively on Moodle and respond with questions and comments to discussant papers (respond at least 8 times during the semester, five before class by noon Thurs; save and turn in these posts in a single word document at the end of the semester) as well as general reflections on readings, topics and discussions. Peer comments should be clear, respectful and constructive and refer specifically to points in the papers. It is fine to agree or disagree with others' arguments, but these critiques must focus on intellectual debates and refrain from personal attacks.

Prospectus for Final Project:

10%

You will pick one of the two options for the Final Paper outlined below and you will provide an abstract, outline, bibliography and steps and schedule for completion. Your prospectus (3-4 double-spaced pages not including bibliography) should address the following questions: 1) What is your topic; 2) Why is it important for understanding transnational Asian and Asian American feminist thought; and 3) How will you design and carry out your project? In addition, you will include an annotated bibliography (annotations explaining the importance of each text for your project).

Final Paper: 1) Analytical Paper OR 2) Research Paper OR 3) Research Proposal

25%

You will pick ONE of the following choices for the final project: (10-15 pages)

- 1) Analytical Paper - You will pick course readings (at least 5) and discuss key themes, connections, debates and disagreements.
- 2) Research Paper - You will pick a topic and research it through interviews, literary, media or film analysis, statistics etc. applying at least 5 assigned course readings and outside readings.
- 3) Research Proposal – You will design a plan for researching an issue relevant to transnational Asian and Asian American feminist thought. You will make the case for why this research project is important, how you would carry it out, and what original knowledge it would contribute. Incorporate at least 5 assigned course readings as well as outside sources.

Final Presentation

10%

You will give a 10-15 min presentation on your paper and answer questions from class members.

Final Course Reflection

5%

Whichever option you pick, you will also write a final course reflection (3-5 double spaced pages) discussing at least three key learning moments in the course where the material or discussion most spoke to you, how they changed your thinking and how you plan to apply these insights.

General Course Policies

HARD COPIES of papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned deadlines. They should be printed in 12pt font, stapled, proofread and have proper citations and bibliography in APA format.

INCOMPLETES will not be given except in documented circumstances of health or family emergency.

LATE PAPER POLICY – late assignments will be marked down (10% for each day they are late). Deadlines for in-class or on-line exercises will be announced and assignments handed in more than 24 hours after the deadlines will not receive credit. Paper assignments will not be accepted after a week past the deadline.

RESPONDING TO EMAIL: I aim to respond to questions sent by email within 48 hours on weekdays. Please do not expect a response on the weekend. Please make use of office hours to ask questions in person. You can also use your colleagues and our TA Martha Balaguera as resources.

STUDENT COLLABORATION: I encourage you to exchange ideas and discuss course readings and assignments with each other. However, all written work must be your own and you must give appropriate credit to any relevant sources, properly cited using APA format.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Plagiarism will result in failing the class and will be referred to the Academic Honesty Board. Ignorance of academic honesty policies is not an excuse for violating them. Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated and you are responsible for educating yourself about the University's official policy on academic honesty. Following is a summary (you can read it in full at: http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/code_conduct/acad_honest.htm)

If an instructor finds that a student has violated the University's Academic Honesty Policy, the instructor has the right to lower the student's grade, or even to fail the student for the course. Students have the right to appeal such a grade penalty by an instructor. The University Academic Honesty Board, which must be notified by instructors of any grade penalty, reviews all student appeals. The Board may sustain or recommend modification of the penalty given by the faculty member, or may recommend sanctions exceeding those originally given, such as suspension or expulsion from the University. The Board may also recommend sanctions for offenders who have committed multiple violations of the Academic Honesty Policy but who have not appealed the faculty members' decisions. The Updated Student Academic Regulations can be read at: <http://www.umass.edu/registrar/media/academicregs.pdf>

ACCOMMODATIONS: We are happy to work with you but please let me know as early as possible if you require accommodations due to illness or disability and make sure to coordinate with other university offices as necessary.

READINGS will be posted on Moodle. Required books are: Nadkarni, Asha. 2014. *Eugenic Feminism: Reproductive Nationalism in the United States and India*. And Kim, Jodi. 2010. *Ends of Empire: Asian American Critique and the Cold War*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Tentative Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

Subject to changes as interests of the class take shape. Please refer to Moodle for updates.

<i>Week & Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
Week 1 9/8	Course Introduction	<p>Course Overview, Self-Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nguyen, Mimi T. 2011. "The Biopower of Beauty: Humanitarian Imperialisms and Global Feminisms in an Age of Terror." <i>Signs</i> 36: 21: 359-383.
Week 2 9/15	Transnational Asian and Asian American Feminist Frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schlund-Vials, Cathy et al, eds. 2015. <i>Keywords for Asian American Studies</i>. New York: NYU Press. "Transnational" "Globalization" "Diaspora" "Post-colonialism" • Noh, E. 2003. "Problematics of Transnational Feminism for Asian American Women." <i>CR: The New Centennial Review</i> 3.3: 131-49. • Ninh, E. <i>Ingratitude: The Debt-Bound Daughter in Asian American Literature</i>. New York: NYU Press. Introduction and Afterward.
Week 3 9/22	Gendering and Sexualizing Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luibheid, Eithne. 2005. <i>Queer Migrations : Sexuality, U.S. Citizenship, and Border Crossings.</i>: University of Minnesota Press. Introduction ix-xivi. • Seid, Danielle. 2016. Third Chinese Daughter: Narrating Labor, Immigration and Trans Identity in Kim Fu's <i>For Today I am a Boy</i>. <i>Amerasia</i> 42:2: 139-169. • Reddy, Chandan. 2005. "Asian Diasporas, Neoliberalism, and Family: Reviewing the Case for Homosexual Asylum in the Context of Family Rights." <i>Social Text</i> 23: 3-4: 101-119.
Week 4 9/29	Transnational Feminist Theories and Methodologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. <i>Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing, Theory, Practicing Solidarity</i>. Intro and Chap 7 • Lowe, Lisa. 2006. "The Intimacies of Four Continents." In <i>Haunted by Empire</i>, Ann Stoler, ed. Durham: Duke University Press. 191-212.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choo, Hae Yeon. 2012. "The Transnational Journey of Intersectionality." <i>Gender & Society</i>, 26: 1: 40-45
Week 5 10/6	Orientalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Said, E. <i>Orientalism</i> excerpts • Hale, Sondra. 2005. "Edward Said—Accidental Feminist: Orientalism and Middle East Women's Studies." <i>Amerasia</i> 31:1:1-70. • Jim, Alice Ming Wai. 2005. "Queer Canadiana and Madama Butterfly's Legacy in Three Acts: Playwrighting Orientalism." <i>Amerasia</i> 31:1: 104-110.
Week 6 10/13	Nation, Development and Reproduction Guest Speaker: Asha Nadkarni, Assoc Prof of English, UMass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nadkarni, Asha. 2014. <i>Eugenic Feminism: Reproductive Nationalism in the United States and India</i>. Minn: University of Minnesota Press.
Week 7 10/20	Transnational Reproductive Politics and Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim, Hosu. 2015. "The Biopolitics of Transnational Adoption in South Korea Preemption and the Governance of Single Birthmothers." <i>Body and Society</i> 21:1:58-89. • Songwoo Hur. "Expanding the Feminist Politics of Reproduction in the Context of the Developmental Hegemony of South Korea." <i>Asian Journal of Women's Studies</i> 19.3 (2013): 116-148, 211 • Wang, Leslie. 2016. <i>Outsourced Children Orphanage Care and Adoption in Globalizing China</i>. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.
Week 8 10/27	Neoliberalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ong, Aiwa. 2007. <i>Neoliberalism as Exception</i> excerpts • Grewal, Inderpal. 2005. <i>Transnational America</i>. 3. "Women's Rights as Human Rights": The Transnational Production of Global Feminist Subjects 121-157.
Week 9 11/3	Wars, Colonialism and Imperialism in Asia Guest Speaker: Jodi Kim, Assoc Prof. of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim, Jodi. 2011. <i>Ends of Empire: Asian American Critique and the Cold War</i>. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

	Ethnic Studies, UC Riverside.	
Week 10 11/10	Transnational Feminist Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Das Gupta, Monisha. 2006. <i>Unruly Immigrants: Rights, Activism, and Transnational South Asian Politics in the United States</i>. Durham: Duke University Press. Introduction 1-26. • Sun Lee Myoung. "Asian Feminist Pedagogy and Women's Empowerment: A Preliminary Analysis of Ewha Global Empowerment Program (EGEP)." <i>Asian Journal of Women's Studies</i> 20.2 (2014): 7-32 • Desai, Manisha. 2007. "The Messy Relationship Between Feminisms and Globalizations." <i>Gender & Society</i> 20(10):1-7 •
Week 11 11/17	Transnational Labor and Migrants Guest Speaker: Young Min Moon, Professor of Art UMASS and Guggenheim Fellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shah. Svati. 2014. <i>Street Corner Secrets: Sex, Work, and Migration in the City of Mumbai</i>. Durham: Duke University Press. Introduction 1-40. • Parrenas, Rhacel. 2008. <i>Force of Domesticity</i>. Introduction: Filipina Migrants and the Force of Domesticity. 1-22. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Translocating Migrants: Sun Min Lee's Representation of Migrant Women and the Paradoxical Possibilities of Documentary,"
Week 12 11/24	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving Break
Week 13 12/1		Student Presentations
Week 14 12/8		Student Presentations
Dec 12		Final Papers due on Moodle
Dec 14		Final Course Reflections due on Moodle