

# TRANSNATIONAL FEMINISMS

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## UMASS

### **WGSS 290B – Introduction to Sexuality Studies: Movements for Justice in the Contemporary World**

**Monday, Wednesday 11:15-12:05 p.m.**

**Friday discussions 12:20 and 1:25**

**Svati Shah**

This interdisciplinary course will help students to understand what the term "sexuality studies" means by providing a foundation in the key concepts, historical and social contexts, topics, and politics that inform the fields of sexuality studies; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender studies; and queer studies. Course instruction will be carried out through readings, lectures, films, and discussions, as well as individual and group assignments. Over the course of the semester, students will develop and use critical thinking skills to discern how "sexuality" becomes consolidated as a distinct category of analysis in the late nineteenth century, and what it means to speak about sexuality and transgender politics and categories today. Topics will include queer theories and politics, trans theories and politics, LGBTQ social movements within and outside of the US, relationships with feminist reproductive justice movements, heterosexuality, homophobia, and HIV/AIDS and health discourses. The range of materials covered will prioritize developing analyses that examine the interplay between sexuality and class, gender, race, ethnicity, and neoliberalism. (Gen. Ed. SB, DG)

### **WGSS 392J/692J – Feminisms and Environmental Justice**

**Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:45 p.m.**

**Kiran Asher**

While feminism and environmental justice are both political projects of social change, their objects or objectives are not the same. As we sink into the 21st century, amid looming fears of ecological catastrophes and socio-economic crises, is a conversation between these two projects likely to be productive for both struggles, or are their goals at odds with each other? This class will examine the perceived, existing, and potential links (or disjuncts) between feminism and environmental justice. Our interdisciplinary inquiry will be guided by questions such as: What is understood by the terms "feminism" and "environmental justice"? How have nature and the environment figured in feminist writings and feminist ideas of justice? Conversely, how do women and gender figure in ideas and struggles for environmental justice? Indeed, how do feminist ideals inform (or not) other struggles for social change (such as those of peasants, workers, ethnic groups, queer folk, and more)?

### **WGSS 493W/693W - Worlds of Migration**

**Monday 4:00-6:30 p.m.**

**Svati Shah**

This seminar takes an expansive view of migration, beginning with readings from archaeology, physical anthropology and antiquity, all of which show that humans have always traveled great

distances, for resources, because of climate disturbances, and for reasons that are yet to be understood. Indeed, migration has been a consistent feature and “producer” of human existence. Taking human migration as the norm rather than the exception, we will examine when, how and why “nativism” and reactionary discourses of ethnic and racialized citizenship began imagining a different view of migration to the one we find in the records of human history. Readings on contemporary migration will focus on India, South Africa, Greece, Australia and the US, all of which have had intense debates on questions of nation, sexuality, race and labor in recent years. Theoretically, we will rely on critiques of migration that emphasize temporality, political economy and postcoloniality, especially with respect to understanding borders and how they are surveilled and enforced. Our readings and discussions will expand the terrain of what counts as “migration”, why certain forms of human movement across great distances are not thought of as “migration” at all, and why legal and policy debates around the world tend to focus on cross-border migration, often at the expense of equally important discussions of domestic, “circular” and seasonal migrations that people everywhere undertake as a means of survival.

### **CHINESE 394WI – Women in Chinese Cultures**

**Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-11:15 p.m.**

**Elena Chiu**

This course focuses on the representation of women and the constitution of gender in Chinese culture as seen through literature and mass media. It focuses on literary and visual representations of women to examine important issues such as the relationship between gender and power, self and society, and tradition and modernity. This course has a dual goal: to explore how women's social role has evolved from pre-modern China to the present and to examine important issues such as women's agency, "inner-outer" division, and the yin-yang dichotomy in Chinese literature and culture. Satisfies the Integrative Experience requirement for BA-Chinese majors.

### **HISTORY 397REH – Race, Sex, and Empire: Britain and India**

**Monday, Wednesday 4:00-5:15 p.m**

**Priyanka Srivastava**

Imperialism cannot be understood merely as an economic-military-territorial system of control and exploitation. Cultural domination is integral to any sustained system of global exploitation. Focusing on cultural aspects of imperialism, this course explores the racial and sexual politics of British Empire in India from the late eighteenth to early twentieth century. Using a combination of primary and secondary sources as well as visual and literary material the course will examine how socially constructed racial and gendered hierarchies, and myths about the sexual practices of colonized people were linked to the pursuit and maintenance of imperial rule over India. Simultaneously, we will consider how the complex intersection of race, sexuality, and class influenced the political and social cultures of both Britain (the metropole) and India (the colony). We will analyze key scholarly perspectives on the following: forms of colonial knowledge, theories of Aryanism, colonial masculinities, regulation of sexual behavior and prostitution, and the varying roles of colonial institutions, medical practices, popular discourses, and cultural artifacts in producing racial and sexual stereotypes and in creating distinctions between the colonizers and the colonized.

**JAPANESE 391S/591S – Women Writers of Japan**

**Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:15 p.m.**

**Amanda Seaman**

See department for description.

**POLISCI 392AP – Activism, Participation and Protest**

**Wednesday 2:30-5:00 p.m.**

**Sonia Alvarez**

This course examines contemporary forms of political activism, participation, and protest. Drawing on select case studies, principally from Latin America, the U.S, and Europe, we will pay particular attention to the dynamic development of feminisms, anti-racist/Black mobilizations, anti-austerity and pro-democracy protests, and LGBTQ organizing.

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## **AMHERST COLLEGE**

**SWAG 372/AMST 370 – Indigenous Feminisms**

**Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-11:20 a.m.**

**Jennifer Hamilton**

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Indigenous feminisms, and explores how questions of sex, gender, and sexuality have been articulated in relation to concerns such as sovereignty, colonization, and imperialism. We will explore how Indigenous feminists engage with or challenge other modes of feminist thought and activism. We will focus on how Indigenous ways of knowing and being can challenge how we conduct research and produce knowledge. While we will concentrate on work produced within the context of Native North America, we will also be attentive to transnational dimensions of Indigenous feminist histories, political movements, and world-building. Specific topics include movements to recognize missing and murdered Indigenous women; Indigenous feminist science and technology studies; and, Indigenous futurisms.

**SWAG 380/HIST 380/AMST 380 – Women of Color and the Emergence of U.S. Third World Feminist Left**

**Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-11:20 a.m.**

**Lili Kim**

This research seminar investigates the active role taken by Asian American women and other women of color in the emergence of the U.S. Third World Feminist Left during the 1960s and 1970s. This movement saw ending imperialism and colonialism as a necessary part of their fight against racism, sexism, and capitalism in the United States and beyond and drew inspiration from Third World feminism and decolonization activities. Third

World feminism posits that women's activism in the Third World do not originate from the ideologies of the First World and specifically centers Third World women's radicalism in their local/national contexts and struggles. Organizations such as the Third World Women's Alliance (TWWA) in New York City, which grew out of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), brought together Black, Puerto Rican, and Asian American women in the socialist fight to end imperialism, sexism, capitalism, and racism. The images of revolutionary Third World women engaged in anti-colonial struggles in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East, especially during the Vietnam War era, inspired U.S.-based feminists of color and helped them embrace leftist Third World solidarity politics. Students will utilize the rich archival sources found in the Sophia Smith Collection (TWWA records, Miriam Ching Yoon Louie papers, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum papers) as well as the Triple Jeopardy newspapers found in the Marshall I. Bloom papers at the Amherst College Archives and Special Collections to produce a 12-15-page research paper and will publicly present their collective work.

**SWAG 400 – Contemporary Debates: Gender, Exile and Belonging**  
**Wednesday 2:00-4:45 p.m.**  
**Krupa Shandilya**

In the context of the current immigration crisis worldwide, the current iteration of this seminar will explore the way concepts of home, belonging, exile and citizenship are gendered. Who belongs to a nation? What impact do race, religion, gender, sexuality, and class have on how nations mark citizenship? Topics include cultural conservatism, Islamophobia, and anti-immigrant sentiments that mold the discourses of citizenship and belonging. The seminar will place South Asia in a comparative context, drawing on case studies from other nations (including Hong Kong, Vietnam, Nigeria and Haiti) of the global south. Texts include Chimamanda Adichie's *Americanah*, Edward Said's *Reflections on Exile*, Mohsin Hamid's *Reluctant Fundamentalist*, and Viet Thanh Nguyen's *The Sympathizer* among others.

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## **MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE**

**GNDST 204CW/ASIAN 215/FMT 230CW - Androgyny and Gender Negotiation in Contemporary Chinese Women's Theater**  
**Wednesday 1:30-4:20 p.m.**  
**Ying Wang**

Yue Opera, an all-female art that flourished in Shanghai in 1923, resulted from China's social changes and the women's movement. Combining traditional with modern forms and Chinese with Western cultures, Yue Opera today attracts loyal and enthusiastic audiences

despite pop arts crazes. We will focus on how audiences, particularly women, are fascinated by gender renegotiations as well as by the all-female cast. The class will read and watch classics of this theater, including *Romance of the Western Bower*, *Peony Pavilion*, and *Butterfly Lovers*. Students will also learn the basics of traditional Chinese opera.

**GNDST 206WA/AFCNA 241WA/HIST 296WA - West African Women in Their Own Words**

**Elisa Prosperetti**

This course challenges students to consider how and why, following Ralph-Michel Trouillot, certain voices get "silenced" in the historical record. We study how women have both shaped history and been subject to its forces, though often in unexpected ways. This course is unique because we learn about women in 18th, 19th and 20th century West Africa through their own words. Students will encounter more than a dozen real and fictional African women: mighty queens, snide co-wives, shrewd traders, ingenious slaves, brilliant writers, and fierce activists. Engaging with their stories in multiple formats; students will study graphic novels, fiction, and memoir, in addition to academic works.

**GNDST 210SL/RELIG 207/CST 249L - Women and Gender in Islam**

**Tuesday, Thursday 11:30-12:45 p.m.**

**Amina Steinfelds**

This course will examine a range of ways in which Islam has constructed women--and women have constructed Islam. We will study concepts of gender as they are reflected in classical Islamic texts, as well as different aspects of the social, economic, political, and ritual lives of women in various Islamic societies.

**GNDST 212BW/CST 249BW - Black Women and the Politics of Survival**

**Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-2:45 p.m.**

**Riche Barnes**

Contemporary Black women in Africa and the Diaspora are concerned with the sea of economic and political troubles facing their communities, and grappling with how to affirm their own identities while transforming societal notions of gender and family. In this course, we will explore the "intersectionality" of race, gender, sexuality, class, transnational identity; reproductive health; homophobia and heteronormativity, along with the effects of racism, unequal forms of economic development, and globalization on Black communities. The overall aim of this course is to link contemporary Black women's theory and practice to a history and tradition of survival and resistance.

**GNDST 333FP/FREN 341FS - Women and Writing in French-Speaking Africa**

**Tuesday 1:30-4:20 p.m.**

**Samba Gadjigo**

This course explores writings by women in French-speaking Africa from its early beginnings in the late 1970s to the present. Special attention will be given to social, political, gender, and aesthetic issues.

**GNDST 333AE - Race, Gender and Sexual Aesthetics in the Global Era**

**Wednesday 1:30-4:20 p.m.**

**TBD**

Reading across a spectrum of disciplinary focuses (e.g. philosophies of aesthetics, post-structural feminisms, Black cultural studies, and queer of color critique) this course asks the question what is the nature of aesthetics when it negotiates modes of difference? This course explores the history and debates on aesthetics as it relates to race, gender, and sexuality with particular emphasis on Black diaspora theory and cultural production. Drawing on sensation, exhibitions, active discussion, observation, and experimentation, emphasis will be placed on developing a fine-tuned approach to aesthetic inquiry and appreciation.

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## **SMITH COLLEGE**

**SWG 288/FRN 288 – Immigration and Sexuality in France and Europe**

**Monday, Wednesday 1:20-2:35 p.m.**

**Mehammed Mack**

This course analyzes the politics of sexuality in immigration debates in France and Europe, from the 1920s to the present. Students examine both cultural productions and social science texts: memoirs, psychoanalytical literature, activist statements, sociological studies, films, fashion, performance art, music videos, and dance forms. France has historically been the leading European host country for immigrants, a multiplicity of origins reflected in its current demographic make-up. Topics include: the hyper-sexualization of black, brown, and Muslim bodies, France as a Mediterranean culture, immigrant loneliness in Europe, intermarriage and demographic change, the veil and niqab, as well as sexual nationalism and homo-nationalism.

**HST 286 – Historiographic Debates in the History of Gender and Sexuality**

**Tuesday 7:00-10:00 p.m.**

**Darcy Buerkle**

This course considers methodologies and debates in modern historical writing about gender and sexuality, with a primary focus on European history. Students develop an understanding of significant, contemporary historiographic trends and research topics in the history of women and gender.

**LAS 201 – Caribbean Feminisms**

**Tuesday, Thursday 9:20-10:53 p.m.**

## **Ginetta Candelarío**

This course will introduce students to the history and sociology of feminisms in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. Course materials will include primary documents, secondary sources and historical fiction in English. However, students who are able to read Spanish will have the option of engaging with texts in that language.

### **SPN 230 – Creative Writing By and With Spanish Women Writers**

**Tuesday, Thursday 1:20-2:35 p.m.**

**Reyes Lazaro**

This is a hinge course between beginning-intermediate and advanced-intermediate courses. Students read and practice creative writing (essays and pieces of fiction) with the aid of fictional and biographical pieces written by Spanish women from the 12th century to our day. Its goal is to develop introspective writing, students' competence and self-confidence in the analysis of short and longer fiction in Spanish, knowledge of the history of women's writing in Spain, and acquisition of linguistic and cultural literacy in Spanish through playful fiction writing. Fulfills the writing requirement for the major.

### **SPN 255 – Muslim Women in Film**

**Tuesday, Thursday 2:45-4:00 p.m.**

**Ibtissam Bouachrine**

Focusing on films by and about Muslim women from Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, this transdisciplinary course will explore one question: What do Muslim women want? Students will watch and study critically films in Farsi, Hebrew, French, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, and different Arabic dialects. Class discussion and assignments will be primarily in Spanish.