Course description and objective:

This graduate seminar will consider the diverse ways in which intimacy and power mix with sex and gender in an increasingly transnational world. We will read and discuss various theorizations and ethnographies by scholars in anthropology, history, and cultural studies, as well as in feminist studies. Topics will include, but won’t be limited to, the gender division of labor in the transnational “care” industry; new forms of romance mediated by the Internet and global economy; non-heteronormative sexualities in diverse locales; diasporic cultures and intimacies; commoditized sex and romance in tourist circuits; and the impact of globalization on youth and family relationships. The course will focus on recent and innovative ethnographic writing based on studies carried out in the US and beyond, in areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and their diasporas. Videos and occasional recommended outside lectures will complement course material.

Course books, available at Wild Iris Bookstore, 802 W. University Avenue:


Course requirements and policies:

Participation

Because the course meets just once each week, full attendance in all classes is essential. Students are expected to come to class having done the reading and ready to participate in discussion. Everyone will have an opportunity to play a part in facilitating the weekly discussion, which includes sending out questions to the class by the day before we meet and then guiding the class through the discussion. [20% of course grade]

Précis

A 2-3pp double-spaced précis (graded on a 20-point scale) will be due on those dates when we finish reading a book, to ensure thoughtful attention to the reading. Your précis should begin with a brief summation of your view of the work’s contribution (strengths and weaknesses) and then you may go on to identify particular points of interest in relation to the course. Be sure to refer to places in the text with proper citation of page numbers and strive for clarity of presentation. [30% of course grade]

Final Paper

There will be a course paper of approximately 20-25 double-spaced pages based on additional reading due at the end of the semester. I will expect to receive proposals for these papers (at the latest) by March 27, including short bibliographies of material to be referenced. These papers may draw on multiple works in order to support a specific topic of relevance to the course, or they may take the form of a review essay on a theme appropriate to the course. Everyone will have an opportunity to give an oral presentation of their subject matter during the final weeks of the semester. [50% of course grade]

Academic Honesty

The University of Florida’s honor code requires all students to be honest in their academic work. University policies on cheating, plagiarism, and related issues are available at: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html

Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.
Course readings:

January 11  Introduction to the course
            Video, “Chain of Love” (dir.: Marije Meerman, 2001, 50 min.)

January 18  MLK Day—no class
            Read from The Empire of Love

January 25  The Empire of Love, to end (précis due)

February 1  The Heart is Unknown Country, to p.107

February 8  The Heart is Unknown Country, to end (précis due)

February 15 Romance on a Global Stage, to p.115

February 22 Romance on a Global Stage, to end (précis due)
            Video, “In the Name of Love” (dir.: Shannon O’Rourke, 2003, 58 min.)

March 1    The Intimate Economies of Bangkok, to p.101

March 8    Spring break

March 15   The Intimate Economies of Bangkok, to end (précis due)
            Video clip, “Beautiful Boxer” (dir.: Ekachai Uekrongtahm, 2004, 113 min.)

March 22   Global Divas, to p.88 (final paper proposals and bibliography due)

March 29   Global Divas, to end (précis due)

April 5    Read from What’s Love Got to Do with It?, to p.115
            Video clip, “Heading South” (dir.: Laurent Cantet, 2005, 105 min.)

April 12   What’s Love Got to Do with It?, to end (précis due)

April 19   Presentation of projects (last class)

April 26   Final papers due