Transnational Feminism  
Spring 2010 WST 3415 – Section 1956  
MWF Period 5, 11:45-12:35  
Turlington Hall 2333  

Professor Florence Babb, Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research (CWSGR)  
Graduate Assistants Diana McCarley (CWSGR) and Joe Feldman (Anthropology)  

Office hours (Babb): Mon and Wed 1:30-3pm, 204 Ustler Hall, fbabb@ufl.edu, 273-0384  
Contact McCarley, dpmccarley@ufl.edu, and Feldman, jpfeldman@ufl.edu,  
for office hours by appointment

Course description and objective:

This course, required for the Women's Studies major, places women, gender, and feminism in a transnational perspective, focusing on various theories and movements engendered across contemporary national contexts in an era of globalization. Development, reproductive politics, work and family relations, and culture and communication will all be considered among the issues being addressed by transnational activists today. Examples from Latin America, Asia, and Africa will provide insights into the complex questions emerging in contemporary social mobilizations. We will examine differences of gender, race, class, sexual orientation, national origin in the experiences of women organizing to work for change around the globe. We will consider how power relations are negotiated and what prospects there are for communities of women and men in the global South to actively construct terms of engagement with communities from the global North. In addition to readings, written work, and active participation in class discussion, there will be occasional guest lectures and videos and students will be encouraged to attend some events outside of class time.

Required books (available at UF Bookstore):


Other required readings are on library reserve.

Grading://

Grade scale:  

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A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic distribution credit. See the following website on current grading policies:  
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html
**Course requirements and policies:**

Professor Babb will be assisted by Diana McCarley and Joe Feldman in teaching this course. Students are responsible to all three of them as co-instructors of the course. We share responsibilities in grading student work as well as in assessing in-class participation. You may call on any of us as needed, but in general students will report first to the GA whose discussion group they are part of in the class.

**Participation**

Full attendance and prompt arrival at all classes is essential and counts for course credit. Students are expected to come to class having done the reading and to be ready to participate in discussion. Late arrivals and early departures are not acceptable. Students will be expected to participate in panel discussions / presentations in class. [15% of course grade]

**Response papers**

Students are required to submit 8 2-page double-spaced entries in class on assigned due dates based on the reading for that week. You should highlight points of importance to the course in your informed and thoughtful assessment of the material. Be sure to check your work for clarity of writing. [15% of course grade]

**Tests**

There will be three short-answer and essay tests based on course material, lectures, videos, and discussion. [20% each = 60% of course grade]

**Presentations and reports**

Group presentations in April and individual reports of 4-5 double-spaced pages due at the end of the semester, on topics relevant to the course, constitute the final course requirement. [Group Presentation is included in Participation grade; Individual Report = 10% 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 an accommodation.

**Course readings and assignments:**

W Jan 6  **Introduction to Transnational Feminism**

F Jan 8  Naples and Desai, Preface and Ch 1, Naples, “Changing the Terms,” to p 14.

          **Response paper 1 due**
M Jan 18  MLK Day, no class
W Jan 20  **Women’s Movements / Gendered Movements**
          Ch 5, Hrycak, “From Mothers’ Rights to Equal Rights,” pp 64-82.
          Meet in groups.
W Jan 27  Ch 8, Bickham Mendez, “Creating Alternatives from a Gender Perspective,” pp 121-141.
F Jan 29  Review readings, meet in groups.
          **Response paper 2 due**
M Feb 1   **Test 1**
W Feb 3   **Local and Global Contexts**
          **Presentation** by Camee Maddox (Anthropology) on feminist / womanist politics from the US to the Caribbean.
          Meet in groups.
          Video: “Gender Analysis”
W Feb 10  **Activism and the Transnational State**
F Feb 12  Review readings, meet in groups.
          **Response paper 3 due**
M Feb 15  Ch 13, Cichowski, “‘No Discrimination Whatsoever,’” pp 220-238.
          **Presentation** by Joe Feldman (Anthropology) on gender and human rights in transnational practice.
F Feb 19  Review readings, meet in groups.

M Feb 22  Challenges to Transnational Feminism  

Response paper 4 due

F Feb 26  Test 2

M Mar 1  Living at Intersections of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality  
Presentation by Sarah Page-Chan (Anthropology) on politics of LGBT sexuality in Jamaica.


F Mar 5  Review readings, meet in groups.  
Response paper 5 due

Mar 8-12  Spring break

M Mar 15  Case study from Brazil  
Thayer, Making Transnational Feminism, to p 34.

W Mar 17  Thayer, pp 35-52.

F Mar 19  Review reading, meet in groups.  
Response paper 6 due

M Mar 22  Thayer, pp 53-82.  
Presentation by Diana McCarley (Women’s Studies) on gender, health, and embodiment in Latin America.

Video: “MACHO”

F Mar 26  Review reading, meet in groups.  
Response paper 7 due

M Mar 29  Thayer, pp 110-127.
W Mar 31    Thayer, pp 128-163.

F Apr 2     Review reading, meet in groups.  
Response paper 8 due

M Apr 5     Thayer, pp 164-177 (to end).

W Apr 7     Course Wrap-Up
On library reserve: Basu, “Globalization of the Local / Localization of the Global: 
Mapping Transnational Women’s Movements,” in Feminist Theory Reader  
(McCann and Kim, eds), pp 69-77.

F Apr 9     Review reading, meet in groups.

M Apr 12    Test 3

W Apr 14    Student presentations

F Apr 16    Student presentations

M Apr 19    Student presentations

W Apr 21    Student presentations  
Individual reports due in class.