WST 281: Sexuality and Gender: A Global Perspective
Spring 2012
Saturday, 1-5 pm

Instructor: Janelle Bussert
Office: Women’s Resource Center, 207A Sverdrup
Office Hours: Saturday, 9-12 p.m.
Office Hours by Appointment: If you are unavailable during my office hours, I am happy to schedule another time to meet with you.
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The objectives for this course are these:
- to develop a critical lens through which to view gender and other categories of difference, socially-constructed institutions, and the notions of gender, race, etc. in a global context;
- to become familiar with the discipline of Transnational Feminism and to gain a basic understanding of feminisms and feminist analysis in global context;
- to recognize how categories of difference and power are intertwined and interconnected throughout the world;
- to realize how we experience these categories of difference through our bodies and through the impact of cultural and global gender ideals on our body image, sexuality, and physical, mental, and spiritual health;
- to further develop critical thinking and analytical skills to examine global institutions – religion, medicine, government, education, science, and family – and their impact on women’s experiences of gender and sexuality in the wider world.

Required Texts:

Course Requirements:
1) Readings and class discussions are the backbone of this course. You should read the assignments thoroughly and thoughtfully and come to class prepared to ask questions and offer comments. The readings will inform our discussions; we will stray into other areas, but have your books open during class so that we stay focused on the course material. Be prepared with specific examples from the text(s) to back up any assertions that you make, in class or on paper.

Participation is therefore expected. YOU share the responsibility for making the class interesting and worthwhile. You should make thoughtful contributions on a regular basis (at least once per class). Attendance (see below) is also part of your participation grade. Beyond this, I will also grade your participation by assessing the level to which you are engaged in, invested in, and serious about your work in this course.
Attendance is mandatory. Absences, included repeated lateness and/or early departures, will affect your grade. Missing more than five hours of class will result in your final grade being lowered by one full letter grade. Missing more than six hours of class may result in your withdrawal from or failure in the course. Perfect attendance will be reflected in your participation and attendance grade.

2) You will write 5 short papers, in response to the chapters in the textbook. These must be typed in standard format (12 point font, double-spaced, one-inch margins). For each paper, you will need to write 2½ -3 pages of your thoughts regarding both the THEORY section of the readings for that week, and at least two examples in your paper from two of the articles at the 2nd half of each chapter. I’m looking for a thesis statement regarding the opening section, which is generally more theory based. See handout, “Bloom’s Taxonomy and Rubric for Papers.” Summaries of the reading(s) are not appropriate for this assignment. Evidence of critical thinking is very important!

3) Oral Presentations. You will have two oral presentations in this course: One on an additional article from outside resources, and one final presentation on “Paula.”

Tips for your oral presentations
1) Talk to your audience. Don’t read to us. Make an outline of what you want to say, using index cards or a large font on regular paper, and work from the outline rather than reading a complete paper.
2) Practice your talk. Do a full presentation alone in your room or to the cat, and then, when you feel comfortable, do a practice run for your family/friends/roommate.
3) We will do peer assessment of the oral presentations. These assessments will be positive and will focus on two questions:
   a. What did the speaker do well?
   b. What could the speaker do to improve?

5. Notes For five chapters from the textbook, please turn in a typed, single spaced summary of the theory and two articles from the chapter in the book covered on that night. But this assignment is totally different from the papers in that you are simply summarizing the information, no critical analysis is necessary. Please outline the highlights of the theory section and two articles.

A general note on late assignments: In the absence of a really, really good excuse (feel free to try me – it never hurts to ask), I generally do not accept late work. Late work without an extension, if accepted at all, will be given lowered grades. In other words, if you turn in a weekly paper after the class in which it is due, it is an unfair advantage, since after the discussion is much easier to write the paper. Thus, if it is not turned in before class begins, it will given half credit (half of the score of the grade it receives).

Grading Breakdown:
Five sets of notes on readings (theory and two articles): 50 each/250 points
Five Reflection Papers: 500 points (100 points each)
Reflection on outside article: 100 points
Final Group Presentation on “Paula”: 100 pts  
Participation: 50 pts

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**Class Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>4/14</th>
<th>Please note the reading assignment below for the first day of class!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction and Overview</strong></td>
<td><strong>pp. 15-20, 28-45 in</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chapter 1 in Shaw and Lee: Women Worldwide: Transnational Feminist Perspectives on Women (S and L: WW).</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Film:</strong> Passionate Politics: The Life and Work of Charlotte Bunch</td>
<td><strong>Speaker on Sex Trafficking</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 2</th>
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<th>Chapters 2/3</th>
<th>World Media/ Global Politics of the Body</th>
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<td>Session 3</td>
<td>5/12</td>
<td>Chapters 4/5</td>
<td>Sexualities Worldwide/Politics of Women’s Health</td>
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<td>Session 4</td>
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<td>Chapters 6/7</td>
<td>Reproductive Freedoms/Families in Global Context</td>
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<td>Session 5</td>
<td>6/2</td>
<td>Chapters 8/9</td>
<td>Violence Against Women Worldwide/Women’s Work in the Global Economy</td>
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<td>Session 6</td>
<td>6/9</td>
<td>Chapters 10/11</td>
<td>Women and Environmental Politics/ Women and Political Systems Worldwide</td>
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<td>Session 7</td>
<td>6/23</td>
<td>Chapter 12/ Conclusion</td>
<td>Women, War and Peace/Conclusion: Integrating the Themes</td>
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<td>Presentations on Paula: A Memoir</td>
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**Lists of possible articles for summary:**

*New Sexuality Studies*  
Steven Seidman, Nancy Fischer and Chet Meeks, eds.

- Transsexual, transgender, and queer. *Interview with Viviane Namastê*
- Not “straight” but still a “man”: Negotiating non-heterosexual masculinities in Beirut. *Ghassan Moussawi*
- How not to talk about Muslim women: patriarchy, Islam, and the sexual regulation of Pakistani women. *Saadia Toor*
- Lesbians. *Interview with Tamsin Wilton*
- The disappearance of the homosexual. *Interview with Henning Bech*
- Gay men and lesbians in the Netherlands. *Gert Hekma and Han Willem Duyvendak*
- Sexual liberation and the creative class in Israel. *Dana Kaplan*
- Iran’s sexual revolution. *Pardis Mahdavi*
- A post-identity culture of sexual resistance: the case of Lebanese nonheterosexuals. *Steven Seidman*
- War and the politics of sexual violence. *Margarita Palacios and Salvia Posocco*
• Condoms in the global economy. Peter Chua
• Sexual tourism. Interview with Julia O’Connell Davidson
• Migrant sex work and trafficking: sorting them out. Laura Agustin
• The public and hidden sexualities of Filipina women in Lebanon. Hayeon Lee
• Mexican immigrants, heterosexual sex and loving relationships in the United States. Interview with Gloria Gonzalez-Lopez
• Gender, sexuality, and the Lebanese diaspora: global identities and transnational practices. Dalia Abdelhady

The Gender Sexuality Reader
Roger Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo

• Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power, gender, race, and morality in colonial Asia. Ann Stoler
• Lifeboat Ethics, mother love and child death in northeast Brazil. Nancy Scheper-Hughes
• State Fatherhood, the politics of nationalism, sexuality, and race in Singapore. Geraldine Heng and Janadas Devan
• Seed of a Nation, men’s sex and potency in Mexico. Matthew Gutmann
• From Nation to Family, containing African AIDS. Cindy Patton
• Womb as Oasis, the symbolic context of pharaonic circumcision in rural northern Sudan. Janice Boddy
• “Playing with Fire” the gender construction of Chicana/Mexicana sexuality. Patricia Zavella
• The Consumption of Color and the Politics of White Skin in Post-Mao China. Louisa Schein
• The Enterprise of Empire, race, class, gender, and Japanese national identity. Jacalyn Harden
• Movie Stars and Islamic Moralism in Egypt. Lila Abu-Lughod
• Sex Acts and Sovereignty, race and sexuality in the construction of the Australian nation. Elizabeth Povinelli