Winthrop University

GLOBAL WOMEN’S ENGAGEMENT
Master of Liberal Arts Program
Concentration in Political and Civic Engagement
PLSC 632, Sec 001, 3 credits

Dr. Jennifer Leigh Disney
Spring 2013
Mondays 6:30pm-9:15pm
Bancroft 339

My Contact Information: (803) 323-4668; Bancroft Room #327, disneyj@winthrop.edu
PLSC Office Hours: Mondays 9:00am-12:00pm and by appointment
PLSC Office Location: Bancroft Hall 327
WMST Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:00am-12:00am and by appointment
WMST Office Location: Bancroft Annex G-03

Required Texts


The texts listed above have been ordered at the Bookstore. You are expected to read each required reading before the class period the reading is assigned.

Recommended Readings (See Also List at End of Syllabus)


**Course Description**

This course is designed to explore the theories and practices of women’s political participation in a global context. We will examine a variety of approaches toward global feminisms and how global feminists seek to explain and understand women’s social, political, and economic conditions around the world. We will investigate the impact women have had on global politics and globalization, as well as the impact global politics and globalization have had on women. This course participates in Winthrop University’s Global Learning Initiative by its very nature.

Women’s Studies generally and global women’s engagement specifically are arguably a necessary part of any curriculum for a variety of reasons: (1) the existing misogyny in much of the disciplinary treatment of women; (2) the absence of women within most disciplinary discourses; (3) claims of universality within theory and practice which are actually based on male experience; (4) claims of internationality within theory and practice which are actually based on First World, Western, Eurocentric experiences. This course seeks to offer a critique of such biases by bringing the experiences and perspectives of women from around the world into the discourse. In addition, this course is designed to offer feminist reconceptualizations of: (1) basic concepts used within the study of global politics; (2) existing structures and institutions of power in our society; and (3) visions of what a just world would look like. Throughout this course, we will pay particular attention to the relationships between the micro and macro levels of analysis, and the identities, realities and interlocking oppressions of gender, race, class, culture, ethnicity, nation and post-coloniality. I contend that the best way to construct an inclusive human community is to do so from the perspective of those who live at the intersections of multiple oppressions. An understanding of how interlocking systems of oppression operate is crucial to working toward their demise.

**Course Goals**
The goals of this course are to interrogate four provocative texts in the field of global women’s engagement collectively and for each of you to pursue an individual and independent research project on a question or topic of interest in the field which emerges for you from this process. Some of the questions you should feel comfortable answering by the end of this course include: How are women engaging global politics? How are global politics engaging women? What impact does globalization have on these processes? What is the relationship between gender, race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, nationality, post-coloniality and culture in the lives of women and men around the world? How do these differences affect the lived experiences of women globally? What kinds of women’s movements and constructions of ‘feminism’ exist around the world? What have women done in various political, cultural, and economic settings to challenge oppression and create a better world for themselves, their communities, other women, and their families? To what extent can Third World Feminisms and notions of ‘intersectionality’ offer a theory and a practice which unite women and men in a common fight against multiple systems of oppression?

Course Requirements

**ORAL PARTICIPATION:** This is a graduate-level seminar. The enrollment is purposely kept low to ensure a class environment conducive to conversation, interaction, and active participation, including interrogating and questioning the ideas and concepts presented in the readings, thinking critically and creatively out loud, and posing questions to presenters and peers. Each of you should come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that week. I encourage you to take notes on the readings and to utilize those notes during class discussions. Everyone is expected to make a contribution to the work of the class, whether by asking questions, making comments, suggesting criticisms, or offering insights.

**WRITTEN PARTICIPATION:** ALL STUDENTS are strongly encouraged to prepare daily reading notes and discussion questions to share with the class as part of your class participation grade. You will each be required to write a minimum 20-page maximum 30-page research paper based on a subject of interest to you in the field of global women’s engagement. To help assist you in completing this project, you will be required to submit a 20-source annotated bibliography and a 2-page paper topic proposal. The four books we are reading collectively in this class should be a part of your annotated bibliography. Annotations should be about 250 words in length, or roughly half a page single spaced. Thus, your annotated bibliography assignment will be 10 pages in length single spaced. This should go a long way in helping to prepare you for completing quality final papers.

**Your Grade Composition will be as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Class Participation in Reading/Discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-Source Annotated Bibliography &amp; 2-Page Proposal</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-30 Page Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Class Cumulative Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**The Grade Distribution in this class will be as follows:**

- **A-** 90-92
- **A** 93-96
- **A+** 97-99
- **B-** 80-82
- **B** 83-86
- **B+** 87-89
- **C-** 70-72
- **C** 73-76
- **C+** 77-79
**Schedule of Class Topics and Reading Assignments:** (The need may arise to make changes to this schedule depending upon the development of the class. Any and all changes will be communicated to the class. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of such changes.)

January 7  
Discussion of Course Description and Requirements  
Introduction to Global Feminisms and Women’s Studies

January 14  
*Feminism Seduced: How Global Elites Use Women’s Labor and Ideas to Exploit the World*, Introductory Pages and Chapters 1-2  
Father Roy Bourgeois, “Gender, Militarism, and US-Latin American Relations,” Plowden Auditorium, 7:00pm

January 21  
MLK Holiday – NO CLASS

January 28  
*Feminism Seduced: How Global Elites Use Women’s Labor and Ideas to Exploit the World*, Chapters 3-6

February 4  
*Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*, Introductory Pages and Chapters 1-2

February 11  
*Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*, Chapters 3-6

February 18  
*Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*, Chapters 7-9

February 25  
*Dialogue and Difference: Feminisms Challenge Globalization*, Introductory Pages and Chapters 1-4

**March 4**  
2-Page Paper Topic Proposal Due  
*Dialogue and Difference: Feminisms Challenge Globalization*, Chapters 5-9

March 11-15  
SPRING BREAK

**March 18**  
20-Source Annotated Bibliography Due  
*Global Feminism: Transnational Women’s Activism, Organizing, and Human Rights*, Introductory Pages and Part I

March 25  
*Global Feminism: Transnational Women’s Activism, Organizing, and*
Student Obligations

Attendance and Class Participation
Given the demands of the course material, it will be almost impossible to do well in this class if you are absent. You need to assess your own ability to consistently attend this class and participate in its work before committing yourself to it. Please see me if you have any questions about these factors. In addition, every student is expected to arrive on time. Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the class and is not acceptable.

Class Discussions and Classroom Decorum:
The classroom—especially at the graduate seminar level—is an arena for discussion and free exchange of ideas. All students are expected to behave in a respectful and appropriate manner toward their fellow students, even when you disagree with them. In addition, all students are expected to refrain from any behaviors that disrupt the learning environment for others. Inappropriate activities include, but are not limited to, chronic tardiness, engaging in idle chitchat during presentations and discussions, using cell phones, IPODS, Blackberries and other personal electronic devices in class, or using laptop computers for activities such as checking e-mail, that are unrelated to what is happening in the classroom. Please see me if you have any questions about these issues.

Exam Policy
You must take exams on the days they are assigned. If an emergency arises, you must call me and leave a message on my voicemail by the day of the exam and be prepared to document the emergency in writing. I will then assess the possibility of a make-up exam. If this policy is not followed, you will receive a 0 for the exam, which you cannot afford if you want to pass the class.

Students with Disabilities
If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Gena Smith,
Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 323-2233, as soon as possible. Once you have your professor notification letter, please notify me so that I am aware of your accommodations well before the first assignment.

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

Winthrop University takes an extremely serious view of violations of academic integrity. My in-class policy is one of zero tolerance for **any** form of academic dishonesty. In short, this means that a proven instance of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the **course**, and not solely for the assignment in question. Using the words or ideas of others as one's own is plagiarism. Quoting or paraphrasing material from books or articles without properly citing the source is also plagiarism. All sources used must be properly cited in your papers. It is your responsibility to talk with me if you have any questions about research, citations, internet use, or paper composition. Such a discussion must take place before you submit a paper.

**Dropping the Course: Winthrop’s “N” Grade Policy**

The last day that you can withdraw from a graduate fall semester course with an automatic “N” grade is **Wednesday, March 6**. Per university policy, students may not withdraw from a course after this date without documented extenuating circumstances. Appeals must be made to the Registrar.

**You will earn the grade you receive in this class. It is your responsibility to make an appointment with me if you earn a grade below satisfactory.**

**Women’s Studies/Global Women’s Movements/Feminist Theory Reading List**

- Abramowitz, Mimi. *Regulating the Lives of Women*
- Aguilar, Delia D. and Anne E. Lacsamana, eds. *Women and Globalization*
- Alexander, M. Jacqui and Chandra Talpade Mohanty. *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures*
- Baehr, Ninia. *Abortion Without Apology: A Radical History for the 1990s*
- Basu, Amrita. *The Challenge of Local Feminisms: Women’s Movements in Global Perspective*
- Bauer, Gretchen and Hannah Britton, eds. *Women in African Parliaments*
- Beneria, Lourdes. *Gender, Development, and Globalization: Economics as if All People Mattered*
- Bookman, Ann and Morgen, Sandra. *Women and the Politics of Empowerment*
- Boserup, Ester. *Women’s Role in Economic Development*
- Britton, Hannah E. *Women in the South African Parliament: From Resistance to Governance*
- Braidotti, Rosi, et al. *Women, the Environment and Sustainable Development: Towards a Theoretical Synthesis*
- Bulbeck, Chilla. *Re-Orienting Western Feminisms: Women’s Diversity in a Postcolonial World*
- Brown, Wendy. *States of Injury: Power and Freedom in Late Modernity*
- Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity: Bodies That Matter*
- Carver, Terrell. *Gender is Not a Synonym for Women*
- Chaudhuri, Nupur and Strobel, Margaret. *Western Women and Imperialism: Complicity and Resistance*
- Collins, Patricia Hill. *Black Feminist Thought*
- Collinson, Helen. *Women and Revolution in Nicaragua*
- Coole, Diana. *Women in Political Theory: From Contemporary Misogyny to Contemporary Feminism*
Daly, Mary. Gyn/Ecology: The Metaethics of Radical Feminism.
de Beauvoir, Simone. The Second Sex.
Disney, Jennifer Leigh. Women’s Activism and Feminist Agency in Mozambique and Nicaragua.
Eisenstein, Hester. Contemporary Feminist Thought; Feminism Seduced: How Global Elites Use Women’s Labor and Ideas to Exploit the World.
Eisenstein, Zillah. Capitalist Patriarchy and the Case for Socialist Feminism; The Radical Future of Liberal Feminism; Against Empire: Feminisms, Racism, and the West.
Engels, Friedrich. The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.
Ferre, Myra Marx and Martin. Feminist Organizations: Harvest of the New Women’s Movement.
Ferre, Myra Marx and Aili Mari Tripp, eds. Global Feminism: Transnational Women’s Activism, Organizing, and Human Rights.
Firestone, Shulamith. The Dialectic of Sex.
Fried, Marilyn Gerber. From Abortion to Reproductive Freedom: Transforming a Movement.
Goldberg, Gertrude Schaffner and Eleanor Kremen, eds. The Feminization of Poverty.
Gordon, April. Transforming Capitalism and Patriarchy: Gender and Development in Africa.
Hartsock, Nancy. Money, Sex and Power: Toward a Feminist Historical Materialism.
Held, Virginia. Feminist Morality: Transforming Culture, Society and Politics.
Hennessy, Rosemary. Materialist Feminism and the Politics of Discourse.
hooks, bell. Ain’t I a Woman; Feminist Theory From Margin to Center.
Hoyt, Katherine. The Many Faces of Sandinista Democracy.
Hull, Gloria, Scott, Patricia and Smith Barbara eds. All the Women are White, All the Blacks are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave.
Jayawardena, Kumari. Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World.
Jones, Kathleen and Jonasdottir, Anna. The Political Interests of Gender: Developing Research w/ Feminist Face.
Kaplan, Caren, Norma Alarcón, Minoo Moallem, Between Woman and Nation: Nationalisms, Transnational Feminisms, State.
Kennedy, Elizabeth and Mendus, Susan. Women in Western Political Philosophy: Kant to Nietzsche.
MacKinnon, Catherine. Toward a Feminist Theory of the State.
Mansbridge, Jane. Beyond Adversary Democracy.
Marchand, Marriane and Jane Parpart, eds. Feminism/Postmodernism/Development.
Mies, Maria. Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale.
Millet, Kate. Sexual Politics
Mohanty, Chandra, Russo, Ann and Lourdes, Torres. Third World Woman and the Politics of Feminism
Moghadam, Valentine M. Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks
Moraga, Cherrie and Anzaldua, Gloria eds. This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color
Narayan, Uma and Harding, Sandra, eds. Decentering the Center: Philosophy for a Multicultural, Postcolonial World
Nicholson, Linda. Feminism/Postmodernism
Okin, Susan Moller. Women in Western Political Thought; Justice, Gender, and the Family
Oyewumi, Oyeronke. The Invention of Women: Making an African Sense of Western Gender Discourses
Oyewumi, Oyeronke, ed. African Women & Feminism: Reflecting on the Politics of Sisterhood
Parpart, Jane and Stichter, Sharon (eds). Women, Employment and the Family in the International Division of Labor.
Parpart, Jane and Kathleen A. Staudt. Women and the State in Africa
Pateman, Carol. The Sexual Contract, The Problem of Political Obligation, The Disorder of Women
Petchesky, Rosalind. Abortion and Women's Choice: The State, Sexuality, and Reproductive Freedom
Piven, Frances Fox and Richard Cloward. Regulating the Poor; Poor People’s Movements
Radeliffe, Sarah A. and Sallie Westwood. eds. ‘Viva’: Women and Popular Protest in Latin America
Rajan, Rajeswari Sunder. Real & Imagined Women: Gender, Culture and Postcolonialism
Randall, Margaret. Gathering Rage: The Failure of 20th Century Revolutions to Develop a Feminist Agenda
Rose, Nancy. Workfare or Fair Work: Women, Welfare and Government Work Programs
Ruchwarger, Gary. Struggling for Survival: Workers, Women and Class on a Nicaraguan State Farm
Sargent, Lydia ed. Women and Revolution: A Discussion of The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism
Sassoon, Anne Showstack, ed. Women and the State
Sawicki, Jana. Disciplining Foucault: Feminism, Power and the Body
Schechter, Susan. Women and Male Violence
Sen, Gita and Cowan, Caren. Development Crises and Alternative Visions (DAWN)
Shanley, Mary and Pateman Carole. Feminist Interpretations and Political Theory
Sheldon, Kathleen. Pounders of Grain: Women, Work, History in Mozambique
Shiva, Vandana and Maria Mies. Ecofeminism
Sparr, Pamela ed. Mortgaging Women's Lives: Feminist Critiques of Structural Adjustment
Spelman, Elizabeth. Inessential Woman: Problems of Exclusion in Feminist Thought
Stephen, Lynn. Women and Social Movements in Latin America: Power From Below
Terborg-Penn, Rosalyn and Andrea Benton Rushing eds. Women in Africa and the African Diaspora
Tetreault, Mary Ann. Women and Revolution in Africa, Asia and the New World
Tronto, Joan. Moral Boundaries: A Political Argument for an Ethic of Care
Urdang, Stephanie. And Still They Dance: Women, War and the Struggle for Change in Mozambique
Visvanathan, Nalini, et.a. The Women, Gender, and Development Reader
Wieringa, Saskia ed. Subversive Women: Women's Movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean
Young, Iris Marion. Justice and the Politics of Difference
The Bridge Poem
by Donna Kate Rushin

I've had enough
I'm sick of seeing and touching
Both sides of things
Sick of being the damn bridge for everybody

Nobody
Can talk to anybody
Without me Right?

I explain my mother to my father my father to my little sister
My little sister to my brother my brother to the white feminists
The white feminists to the Black church folks the Black church folks
To the Ex-hippies the ex-hippies to the Black separatists the
Black separatists to the artists the artists to my friends' parents...

Then
I've got the explain myself
To everybody

I do more translating
Than the Gawdamn U.N.

Forget it
I'm sick of it

I'm sick of filling in your gaps

Sick of being your insurance against
The isolation of your self-imposed limitations
Sick of being the crazy at your holiday dinners
Sick of being the odd one at your Sunday Brunches
Sick of being the sole Black friend to 34 individual white people

Find another connection to the rest of the world
Find something else to make you legitimate
Find some other way to be political and hip

I will not be the bridge to your womanhood
Your manhood
Your human-ness
I'm sick of reminding you not to
Close off too tight for too long

I'm sick of mediating with your worst self
On behalf you your better selves

I am sick
Of having to remind you
To breathe
Before you suffocate
Your own fool self

Forget it
Stretch or drown
Evolve or die

The bridge I must be
Is the bridge to my own power
I must translate
My own fears
Mediate
My own weaknesses

I must be the bridge to nowhere
But my true self
And then
I will be useful


I Ain’t the Right Kind of Feminist
By Cheryl L. West
I Ain’t the Right Kind of Feminist
First off I’m too confused
Secondly you know my blackness envelops me
Thirdly my articulateness fails me
When the marching feminists come by
I walk with them for awhile
And then I trip over pebbles I didn’t see
My sexist heels are probably too high
I’m stuck in the sidewalk cracks

Oh were Oh were has my feminsim gone…
Don’t you know it’s chasing after
Somewhere in the white sea
I am in the movement
No chile
I’m not talking about dancing
I’m in the liberation movement
Yeah I’m talking baout the PLO
Yeah I’m talking about South Africa and apartheid
No I did not say you were fit to be tired

I am a woman
You are a lady
We are sisters in the movement
It’s about neapolitan ice cream
Mixed and oh so sweet
It’s not about white and sterility

Girl what are you talking about
I can have kids
My people have always had kids
No it’s about oppression of all oppressees
But they never come in peace
They just go some different labels
Tell me
Is sisterhood the same as the 60’s brotherhood

Oh where Oh were has my blackness gone

Don’t you know it’s chasing after Ms. Feminism
Somewhere in the white sea

I belong to a consciousness raising group
I have rhetoric
I am a sociologist
I study race, pride, sex, class, humanity
I also make mention of all the “isms”
I am a feminist

Well I am a sister
I am fluid in the dozens
I study us
I study urban renewal
Which includes my bathroom roaches
And my kitchen mice
And the animals down at Public Aid
Tell me about the man that has filled my
belly
and ten others with babies

Come share with me sister feminist
Let us dance the movement
Let my blackness catch your feminism
Let your oppression peek at mine
After all
I ain’t the right kind of feminist
I’m just woman

-from Third World Woman and the Politics of Feminism,
edited by Mohanty, Chandra, Russo, Ann and Lourdes, Torres (editors), Indiana
University
press, 1991
“Feminism is the principle that women should have political, economic, and social rights equal to those of men and the movement to win such rights” (Webster’s New World Dictionary).

“Feminism asks the world to recognize at long last that women aren’t decorative ornaments, worthy vessels, members of a ‘special interest group;’ they are half of the national population” (Susan Faludi).

“The feminist agenda is…about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians” (Pat Robertson).

“Feminism is the political theory and practice to free all women: women of color, working women, poor women, physically challenged women, lesbians, old women, as well as white, economically privileged, heterosexual women” (Barbara Smith).

“I myself have never been able to find out what precisely feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat” (Rebecca West).

“If the feminist movement does not address itself to issues of race, class and imperialism, it cannot be relevant to alleviating the oppression of most of the women of the world” (Cheryl Johnson-Odim).

“Feminism is a method of approaching life and politics, a way of asking questions and searching for answers, rather than a set of political conclusions about the oppression of women” (Nancy Hartsock).

“There is and must be a diversity of feminisms responsive to the different needs and concerns of different women and defined by them for themselves” (Nilufer Catatoy, Caren Grown, Aida Santiago).