

Sociology 8290  
Call #: 82651  
Spring 2009  
T 5-7:45 pm  
Baldwin, 114A

Dr. Patricia Richards  
Office: Baldwin 314  
Office Hours: W 1-3 pm  
Telephone: 542-3235  
Email: plr333@uga.edu

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER

### Course Description:

This course is designed as an analysis of the intersections among gender, race, class, and nation in different parts of the world. It will focus predominantly on the experiences of women in the Global South, particularly (but not exclusively) Latin America. However, as gender and global power are relational concepts, all discussions will necessarily also encompass, explicitly or implicitly, the experiences of men and the role of the Global North. We will begin by examining the relationships among gender, race, class, nation, and state. We will then explore methodologies of cross-cultural and transnational research. In the final section of the course, we will focus on political economy and development through the gender/race/class nation lens.

### Recommended Texts

Joni Seager: *Atlas of Women in the World*

### Required Texts

Uma Narayan. 1997. *Dislocating Cultures*.

Begoña Aretxaga. 1997. *Shattering Silence*

Mounira M. Charrad. 2001. *States and Women's Rights*.

Patricia Richards. 2004. *Pobladoras, Indígenas, and the State*.

Walden Bello, et al. 1999 (1994). *Dark Victory*.

Leslie Salzinger 2003. *Genders in Production*.

Susan Kahn. 2000. *Reproducing Jews*

Nadje Sadig Al-Ali. 2007. *Iraqi Women: Untold Stories From 1948 to the Present*

Light Carruyo. 2008. *Producing Knowledge, Protecting Forests*

Additional readings, as noted, will be available on WebCT or through electronic journals. (See pp. 3-4 of this syllabus for full citations.)

I reserve the right to add or subtract readings over the course of the semester and encourage students to suggest relevant readings for the whole class.

Course Requirements: Students are required to attend all classes, complete all readings, and to lead discussion on at least two occasions. Course grades will be based on participation (10%) and the class presentations (10%), as well as two take-home examinations (40% each). These exams require students to reflect on and analyze the readings and the class discussion; they do not require extra reading outside of class.

A Note to Auditors: Graduate students may audit this class (with my permission). However, auditors must agree to attend all sessions, complete the assigned readings, and participate in class discussion. Auditors may be called upon to lead a seminar discussion, depending on class size.

### Course Schedule:

Jan 13: Introduction to the Course

## **Gender, Nation, State**

Jan 20: Talking Gender in the 'Third World'

Reading: Narayan, Uma. *Dislocating Cultures*

Jan 27: Gender and Nationalist Movements

Reading: Aretxaga, Begoña. *Shattering Silence*

Feb 3: Gender, the Nation, and Women's Bodies

Reading: Kahn, Susan. *Reproducing Jews*

Feb 10: Gender and the State: Gender Policy

Reading: Charrad, M.M. *States and Women's Rights*

Feb 17: Gender and the State: Transnational Politics and Women's Lives

Reading: Al-Ali, Nadje. *Iraqi Women*

***First Exam Distributed in Class***

Feb 24: Taking Stock

***First Exam Due in Class***

## **Extensions on Gender, Nation, State**

Mar 5: Motherhood and Mobilization

Reading: WebCT: Baldez, Blee, Chuchryk, Navarro, Stephen, Taylor

Mar 10: No Class (Spring Break)

Mar 17: Gendered Transitions

Reading: WebCT: Miethe, Yang  
Electronic Journals: Jaquette, Friedman, Seidman, others TBA

## **Reflections on Method and Theory**

Mar 24: The Method of Cross-Cultural Research

Reading: Richards, Patricia. *Pobladoras, Indígenas and the State*

Mar 31: What is Transnational Feminist Sociology? Theory and Application

Reading: Electronic Journals: Special Issue of *Gender & Society* 19 (2)

### **Political Economy & Development**

Apr 7: The Gendered Effects of Structural Adjustment

Reading: Bello, Walden, et al. *Dark Victory*

WebCT: Ferguson, Lind

\*Note: I will be out of town on the 7th and need to reschedule this class. Will Apr 9 or 10 work?

Apr 14: Environment, Tourism, and International Aid

Reading: Carruyo, Light. *Producing Knowledge, Protecting Forests*

Apr 21: The Global Assembly Line

Reading: Salzinger, Leslie. *Genders in Production*

### **Second Exam Distributed in Class**

Apr 28: **Second Exam Due at Class Time.** Place TBA

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### FULL CITATIONS FOR ARTICLES, AND WHERE YOU CAN FIND THEM

#### **Motherhood and Mobilization**

WebCT:

Baldez, Lisa. 2001. "Nonpartisanship as a Political Strategy: Women Left, Right, and Center in Chile." Pp. 273-297 in *Radical Women in Latin America: Left and Right*, edited by Victoria González and Karen Kampwirth. University Park, PA: Penn State Press.

Blee, Kathleen M. 2002. "The Gendered Organization of Hate: Women in the US Ku Klux Klan," pp. 101-114 in *Right-Wing Women: From Conservatives to Extremists around the World*, edited by Paola Bacchetta and Margaret Power. New York: Routledge

Chuchryk, Patricia. 1989. "Subversive Mothers: The Women's Opposition to the Military Regime in Chile." Pp. 130-151 in *Women, the state, and development*, edited by S. E. M. Charlton, J. Everett, and K. Staudt. Albany: State University of New York Press.

Navarro, Marysa. 2002. "Against Marianismo," pp. 257-272 in *Gender's Place: Feminist Anthropologies of Latin America*, edited by L.J. Frazier, J. Hurtig and R. Montoya del Solar. Palgrave Macmillin.

Stephen, Lynn. 1997. "Women's Rights are Human Rights: The Merging of Feminine and Feminist Interests among El Salvador's Mothers of the Disappeared (COMADRES)." Pp. 29-55 in *Women and Social Movements in Latin America: Power from Below*. Austin: UT Press.

Taylor, Diana. 1997. "Making a Spectacle: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" and "Alicia Partnoy: A Portrait." Pp. 182-203 in *The Politics of Motherhood: Activist Voices from Left to Right*, edited by A. Jetter, A. Orleck, and D. Taylor. Hanover: The University Press of New England.

## **Gendered Transitions**

### WebCT:

Miethe, Ingrid. 1999. "From 'Mother of the Revolution' to 'Fathers of Unification': Concepts of Politics among Women Activists Following German Unification." *Social Politics* 6(1): 1-22.

Yang, Mayfair Mei-hui. 1999. "From Gender Erasure to Gender Difference: State Feminism, Consumer Sexuality, and Women's Public Sphere in China." Pp. 35-67 in *Spaces of Their Own: Women's Public Sphere Transnational China*, edited by Mayfair Mei-hui Yang. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

### Electronic Journals:

Jaquette, Jane. 2001. "Women and Democracy: Regional Differences and Contrasting Views." *Journal of Democracy* 12(3): 111-125.

Friedman, Elisabeth J. 1998. "Paradoxes of Gendered Political Opportunity in the Venezuelan Transition to Democracy." *Latin American Research Review* 33(3):87-135.

Seidman, Gay W. 1999. "Gendered Citizenship: South Africa's Democratic Transition and the Construction of a Gendered State." *Gender & Society* 13(3):287-307.

Additional Readings TBA

## **Transnational Feminism**

### Electronic Journals:

Special Issue of *Gender & Society* 2005, Vol. 19, No. 2.

## **Gendered Effects of Structural Adjustment**

### WebCT:

Ferguson, Ann. 2005. "Water Reform, Gender, and HIV/AIDS: Perspectives from Malawi," in *Globalization, Water, and Wealth: Resource Management in Times of Scarcity*. Santa Fe: School of American Research.

Lind, Amy. 2002. "Making Feminist Sense of Neoliberalism: The Institutionalization of Women's Struggles for Survival in Ecuador and Bolivia." *Journal of Developing Societies* 18(2/3): 228-258.