Global Feminisms: 
Neoliberal Political Economy and Culture, 
Gendered Violence, and Feminist Activisms

Faculty Information
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Email is the best way to reach me outside of class. I often do not check email after 5pm because of family commitments.

Course Librarian
Dolsy Smith, Gelman Library
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Course Description
This course considers globalized power that unevenly impacts women across the globe. We will discuss women’s responses, both locally and globally, to power gone global.

We’ll begin by asking the following questions: What does globalization “look” like? How is globalization experienced differently, and cross-culturally, by women? What are the implications of transnational flows of information, money, labor, people, women, children, produced goods, raw materials and natural resources, disease, arts and culture, language, and more? What do these flows suggest for the status of women, anywhere and everywhere, and for the conditions for women in the future? What relationship with nation-states does globalization create for women? What relationships with the local, including institutions of civil society, local communities, work, families, does globalization create? How does globalized power influence women’s intimate lives and sexualities?

At the same time as we think about globalized power, we’ll consider women’s local and global responses to globalized power. We’ll ask: How do women respond to the globalized power and to local contexts and situations? What are women doing in different locations? How do women communicate with each other? What constitutes “feminisms” in relation to power, all forms and mixes of it, which has gone global? Throughout the semester we will keep always in mind, what are the possibilities of and what are the barriers to “global feminisms” under neoliberal, global capitalism, and nation-state power, and specific local conditions and histories. We’ll also keep track of the names that globalization goes by (i.e. neoliberalism) as well as the names that feminist responses go by (i.e. transnational feminisms, global feminism, international feminism) and think about what these different terms signify and for whom.
Course Reading
Books - purchase at the bookstore

Bedford, Kate. *Developing Partnerships: Gender, Sexuality, and the Reformed World Bank*
Bell, Beverly. *Walking on Fire*
Kabeer, Naila, Ratna Sudarshan, and Kirsty Miward. *Organizing Women Workers in the Informal Economy*
Kelly, Patty. *Lydia’s Open Door.*
Mohanty, Chandra. *Feminism Beyond Borders*
Sunder Rajan, Rajeswari. *Scandal of the State*

All other course readings will be distributed via Blackboard. Students will distribute presentation material via Blackboard.

Course Requirements

Weekly Reading Responses
Each student will bring a one to two page written response to the course reading to class every week. The purpose of the reading responses is to inform class conversations about the readings and to share your observations and questions. It is also a means to develop your own analytic, writing, and research skills.

Weekly reading responses can be written in a variety of ways. You may use the writing responses to connect one week’s readings to other readings or to link readings to current events, ideally by placing them in a context that draws on themes we are discussing in class. Weekly reading responses can serve as a place to share questions you have about the course materials, connect readings to your research, and or explore ideas in development. Or, you might choose different audiences than the academic seminar to direct your work. This discussion of approaches is certainly not exhaustive – you are welcome to approach the reading responses in other ways as well.

Please turn in your reading response at the end of class. (25%)

Research Paper
A final paper of 12 or more pages on a topic related to course themes of the student’s choice is due on Friday, December 6th 5pm. (50%)

Research Paper Presentation
The weeks of November 18th and November 25th students will present their research to the class. Each presentation should include discussion of how you have identified area of research, why this area is important for feminist scholarship or feminist policy or other related areas, how you conduct your research (methodology), and should explain why the paper is important for feminist scholarship and/or activism.
Presentation dates will be assigned in late October. The presentation should be read out loud so that members of the class can pay attention to both the content and the writing of the project. At the end of the session the class will discuss all the papers together and make suggestions for development. (25%)

Class Participation
As this is a seminar style class, everyone’s attendance and participation is fundamental to the success of the course. You are expected to have read all materials carefully and critically before class and to come ready to actively engage with both the course materials and with your peers. Students will be asked to point to places in the reading, ask questions that the entire class can explore. Class attendance is mandatory and more than two absences will detract from your course grade. Please email me if you need to miss class.

Resources
Women In and Beyond the Global project (WIBG) http://www.womeninandbeyond.org/ is a GW Women’s Studies initiative. From the website: “WIBG is a project organized by GW Women’s Studies faculty, students, and librarians. WIBG aims to break down barriers between academic and activist knowledge by fueling activist scholarship; encouraging collective reflection on feminist movement-building; and documenting and preserving these activities through digital media—a critical tool in the global struggles for women’s equality and the promotion of democracy.”

The WIBG blog is a great resource for feminist commentary from around the world. If you read through the blog posts, you’ll find some written by WSTU students, faculty, friends, and comrades. I highly encourage you to turn your final seminar paper into a WIBG blog.

Course Outline

Unit I
Locating Global (Neoliberal) Violence

Week 1. August 25
Overview of course
Preface from Patty Kelly *Lydia’s Open Door*
Selection from Beverly Bell *Walking on Fire*

NO CLASS Monday, September 1 (Labor Day)

Week 2. September 8 (Local/Global)
Patty Kelly, finish the book
Stuart Hall, Doreen Massey, and Michael Rustin, “After Neoliberalism: Analyzing the Present”
Doreen Massey, “Vocabularies of the Economy”
Week 3. September 15 (State)
Rajeswari Sunder-Rajan, *The Scandal of the State*, Chapters 1-4
Michael Foucault “Governmentality”

Week 4. September 22 (Supranational Institutions)
Kate Bedford, *Developing Partnerships*
Rebecca Dingo, “Chapter,” Networking Arguments

Unit II
Analyzing Global (Neoliberal) Violence

Week 5. September 29 (Power and Violence)
Achille Membe, “Necropolitics”
Michael Foucault, “Biopolitics”
Melissa Wright, “Narcopolitics and Femicide”

Week 6. October 6 (Imperialism)
Chandra Mohanty *Feminism Beyond Borders* (select chapters)
Chandra Mohanty “US Empire”

Week 7. October 13 (Political Economy)
Gayatri Spivak “Scattered Speculations on the Question of Value”
Grace Hong “Existentially Surplus: Women of Color Feminism and the New Crises of Capitalism”
Nicole Markotic and Robert Mcruer, “Leading with your Head: On the Borders of Disability, Sexuality, and the Nation”

Week 8. October 20
Library Session: Meet in Gelman 300
Gelman Librarian Dolsy Smith will lead a session on research that is designed for this class.

Week 8. October 27 (Political Economy and Representation)
Gayatri Spivak “Can the Subaltern Speak?”

Week 9. November 3 (Shifting Representations)
Saidya Hartman, “Venus in Two Acts”
Chiara Corso, “World Making at the Margin”
Robert Mcruer “Enfreakment” from *Metarhetorics of Global Development*

Unit III
Feminist Activisms/Feminist Movement Building

Week 10. November 10
Naila Kabeer, Ratna Sudarshan, and Kirsty Milward. *Organizing Women Workers in the Informal Economy*
Week 11. November 17
Beverly Bell *Walking on Fire*

Week 12. November 24
Paper Presentations

Week 13. December 1
Paper Presentations

FINAL Paper Due Monday, December 8\textsuperscript{th} by 5pm