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Semester I Fall 2013
Time: T & R 11 am-12:15 pm
Location: Engineering Hall 3355
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:15 -5:30 pm
Wednesday 9:00-12:00 am

GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES 325: GLOBAL FEMINISMS

OBJECTIVES

Women's rights globally have come into the public awareness in recent years in ways we have not seen before, with both interesting and troubling consequences. This course explores these changing understandings and critically examines their impact. Journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, for example, have made the powerful argument that saving the world's women from sex trafficking, bride burnings, female genital cutting, and mass rape is the paramount moral challenge of this century, in the same way slavery was in the 19th century and totalitarianism in the 20th century. Today women's rights are being variously depicted as critical to addressing problems of third world poverty; women's education is being described as an essential component in the fight against global terrorism; women politicians are seen by some as a key defense in the fight against government corruption; and gender equality, some argue, serves as the crucible in the clash of civilizations and fight against extremism and Islamic fundamentalism. While these are not new ideas, they have increasingly captured the popular imagination, influencing policy makers, foundations and even military strategists. This course takes a critical look at the implications of these new discourses surrounding women's rights.

The main goal of this class is to explore key global debates regarding contemporary feminism in a variety of areas, ranging from reproductive rights to violence against women, trafficking, religious expression, female genital cutting, and other such concerns. The course will examine how feminists worldwide — all of whom share a desire to improve the status of women — may have diametrically opposed views about how to do so both within and between countries. The perspectives in this course are interdisciplinary, ranging from legal perspectives to medical, anthropological, sociological, and cultural. The readings include academic studies, articles by journalists and activists, blogs, memoirs, video clips, and many other sources.

We ask, what accounts for these shifts in emphasis in the US and around the globe and what is their significance? How should we evaluate the claims made regarding the importance of women's rights? What are the main tensions within feminist and women's movements regarding how best to understand and advance women's rights? How have these understandings changed over time?

REQUIREMENTS

Any changes to the course and email notifications will be posted on the course wiki. It is your responsibility to check these notices on a regular basis.

Reading: I expect students to have read the assigned material and come to class prepared to discuss the readings.

Class attendance: Class attendance is critical in order to engage the material in an effective way. The exams draw to a large extent on lectures and class discussion and cannot be adequately completed without participating in and attending class. Please come to class on time out of respect for other class participants, but mostly for your own sake since being late adds stress to your life and causes you to feel you are not in control.

Participation: I strongly encourage class participation in various forms, especially through discussion in class. Students are required to do readings and there will be random quizzes. Debates and commentary are especially encouraged on the wiki. Participation can improve one's grade, especially if it is borderline between grades.

Assignments: There will be at least three short assignments throughout the course of the semester in lieu of the class to be done wherever you please. These are a form of blended learning involving individual/group projects that last a little longer than the duration of the class, requiring you to draw on your readings to analyze a real world problem or dataset. One assignment will involve a Wikipedia entry.

Papers: One (8-10 page) term paper is required of undergraduate students and a 20-page research paper is required of graduate students. The papers must use course themes as a starting point. An abstract (paragraph summary) of the paper should be submitted to the Learn@UW Dropbox. Students are welcome to meet with me before turning in their summary. If the topic is later changed, a new abstract must be submitted and approved.

Exams: Two exams are required. The exams will involve essays that integrate material.

NOTE: All exams, papers, book reviews and the abstract must be submitted in Learn@UW in the Dropbox. Please do NOT email them to me or give me a hard copy unless you experience difficulties uploading to Learn@UW.

GRADING CRITERIA

Participation (5%); quizzes (5%); assignments (10%); paper (30%); mid-term exam (25%); final exam (25%).

DEADLINES

September 19	Abstract due
October 17	Mid-term exam
November 20	Term paper
December 17	Final exam

OFFICE HOURS

Please use the wiki to sign up for appointments with Professor Tripp. You will need to have a google account (can use your wisc.edu email address but gmail is easiest).

WIKI

You are strongly urged to explore the course wiki, which is a key resource for course updates, sources for your paper, videos, maps, links to additional readings, suggested movies, and other useful

information. Add information about yourself on the About Us page, including fun facts, photos, connections to Africa if any, background and interests. Please bookmark the wiki when you receive the link via email. Or type in the link <https://sites.google.com/site/globalfeminisms/home>

LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONE USE

Students may not use laptops in class. Cell phones must be turned off and put away. As interesting as the class is, I am utterly incapable of competing with the lure of FB. Therefore I must stack the deck squarely in my favor.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You should be familiar with the University's standards for academic honesty as described in the pamphlet, *Academic Misconduct: Rules and Procedures*, published by the Dean of Students' Office. Your paper and exams cannot be written even partially by someone else: they must be a product of your own efforts. Books, articles and class notes may be consulted in writing papers, but you must cite such sources, referencing or footnoting any facts or ideas that are not your own. Quoted material must be enclosed in quotation marks. Students who fail to heed this warning risk failing the course or an even worse fate. Please watch YouTube video on plagiarism that is linked to the wiki on the page "Quoting."

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

People with disabilities will be fully included in this course. Please inform the professor if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or assessments of this course to enable you to participate fully. Confidentiality of the shared information will be strictly maintained. Certain accommodations may require the assistance of the McBurney Disability Office on campus. The McBurney Disability Center can be reached at (608) 263-2741 or via email at mcburney@odos.wisc.edu.

READINGS

The required books are available for purchase from A Room of One's Own, 315 West Gorham Street; (phone: 257-7888), and can be borrowed from the Helen C. White Reserve Room. Links to scanned readings are available on the course wiki. Short additional topical readings from the news with links to the wiki will be assigned throughout the course as they appear in the media.

Coleman, Isobel. 2010. *Paradise Beneath her Feet: How Women are Transforming the Middle East*. New York: Random House. ISBN: 1400066956

Basu, Amrita, ed., *Women's Movements in the Global Era: The Power of Local Feminisms*, Westview Press, 2010. ISBN: 0813344441

Andrea Cornwall, Elizabeth Harrison, Ann Whitehead, Eds. *Gender Myths and Feminist Fables: The Struggle for Interpretive Power in Gender and Development* (Wiley-Blackwell 2008). ISBN: 1444306685

COURSE OUTLINE

September 3

Introduction to Course: Conceptualizing Feminism

September 5

A Very Brief History of Women's Rights and Citizenship I

Tripp, Aili Mari. "The Evolution of Transnational Feminisms: Consensus, Conflict and New Dynamics," In *Global Feminism: Transnational Women's Activism, Organizing, and Human Rights* Eds. Myra Marx Ferree and Aili Mari Tripp. New York: New York University Press, 2006, 51-78.

Saving the World's Women (links on wiki) New York Times Magazine August 17, 2009 **Links on wiki**

Kristof, Nicolas and Sheryl WuDunn, "The Women's Crusade"

Landler, Mark "A New Gender Agenda"

September 10, 12

A Very Brief History of Women's Rights and Citizenship

Ramirez, Francisco O., Yasemin Soysal, and Suzanne Shanahan. 1997. "The Changing Logic of Political Citizenship: Cross-National Acquisition of Women's Suffrage Rights, 1890 to 1990." *American Sociological Review* 62(5): 735-45.

Snyder, Peg. "Unlikely Godmother: The UN and the Global Women's Movement," In *Global Feminism: Transnational Women's Activism, Organizing, and Human Rights* Eds. Myra Marx Ferree and Aili Mari Tripp. New York: New York University Press, 2006, 24-50.

Franceschet, Susan, Mona Lena Krook, and Jennifer M. Piscopo, "Conceptualizing the Impact of Gender Quotas," In *Gender Quotas: Women's Descriptive, Substantive, and Symbolic Representation*, New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

September 17 and 19

Global and Local Discourses on Women and Islam

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2002. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Other," *American Anthropologist* 104(3): 783-790.

Mahmood, Saba. 2008. "Feminism, Democracy, and Empire: Islam and the War of Terror," In Joan Scott, ed. *Women's Studies on the Edge*, Duke University Press.

Salime, Zakiya. 2007. "The 'War on Terrorism:' Appropriation and Subversion by Moroccan Women." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 33-1: 1:24

September 24

Global and Local Discourses on Feminism in the Middle East: North Africa and the Arab Spring

Coleman, *Paradise Beneath her Feet*, Chapters 1, 2

McKanders, Karla Mari, *Anatomy of an Uprising: Women, Democracy and the Moroccan Feminist Spring*, *Texas Journal of Women and the Law*, Spring 2013 forthcoming.

September 26

Global and Local Discourses on Feminism in the Middle East: Iran and Saudi Arabia

Coleman, *Paradise Beneath her Feet*, Chapters 3, 6 (Optional Chapters 7))

Basu, *Women's Movements in the Global Era*, Chapter 12 (Optional 11)

October 1**Global and Local Discourses on Feminism in South Asia: Pakistan, India, Afghanistan**

Coleman, *Paradise Beneath her Feet*, Chapters 4, 5

Basu, *Women's Movements in the Global Era*, Chapter 4

Deo, Nandini, "Indian Women Activists and Transnational Feminism over the Twentieth Century, 2012
Journal of Women's History, Vol. 24 No. 4, 149–174.

October 3**Class Assignment****October 8****Global Gender Politics: How Local and Global Discourses Influence One Another**

Hodgson, Dorothy. 2011. " 'These are not our priorities' Maasai Women, Human Rights, and the Problem of Culture." In Hodgson, Dorothy, ed. *Gender and Culture at the Limit of Rights*. (Studies in Human Rights Series, University of Pennsylvania Press)

Merry, Sally Engle, 2006. "Transnational Human Rights and Local Activism: Mapping the Middle,"
American Anthropologist, 108 (1): 38-51.

October 10, 15**Perspectives on Female Genital Cutting**

Mekuria, Salem. 1995. "Female Genital Mutilation in Africa: Some African Views." *ACAS Bulletin*.

Abusharaf, Rogaia Mustafa. 2000. "Revisiting Feminist Discourses on Infibulation: Responses from Sudanese Feminists." In *Female "Circumcision" in Africa: Culture, Controversy and Change*, ed. B. Shell-Duncan and Y. Hernlund. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

Boyle, Elizabeth Heger. 2005. "The Evolution of Debates over Female Genital Cutting," In *Female Genital Cutting: Cultural Conflict in the Global Community*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Gruenbaum, Ellen. 2005. "Socio-cultural Dynamics of Female Genital Cutting: Research Findings, Gaps, and Directions." *Culture, Health & Sexuality* September-October (7):5.

October 17**Midterm exam****October 22, 24****Debating Sex Trafficking and Prostitution**

Schotten, Heike C. 2005. "Men, Masculinity, and Male Domination: Reframing Feminist Analyses of Sex Work." *Politics & Gender* (2): 211-40.

Doezema, Jo. 2001. "Ouch! Western Feminists' 'Wounded Attachment' to the 'Third World Prostitute,' "
Feminist Review, No. 67, pp. 16-38.

Agustin, Laura, "What's Wrong with 'Trafficking' Crusade? Well-meaning interference?" and "Contributing to 'Development': Money Made Selling Sex" (see also link to her blog on wiki)

Sunitha Krishnan (See link to TED talk on wiki)

October 29

Guest speaker: Sahar Elmougy

October 31

Global Perspectives on Framing Inequality

Crenshaw, Kimberle. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color," *Stanford Law Review*, Vol. 43, No. 6, pp. 1241-1299

Ferree, Myra Marx. 2009. "Inequality, Intersectionality and the Politics of Discourse: Framing Feminist Alliances," In *The Discursive Politics of Gender Equality: Stretching, Bending and Policy-Making*, ed. E. Lombardo, P. Meier and M. Verloo. New York: Routledge.

November 5, 7, 12

Framing Women in Foreign and Multilateral Assistance

Kamau-Rutenberg, Wanjiru, "No, you can't have my clitoris!!" 5 April 2010, blog Can? We? Save? Africa? Critical thoughts on aid, philanthropy, and giving towards Africa. ***Link on wiki***

Cornwall, Andrea, Elizabeth Harrison, Ann Whitehead, Eds. 2008. *Gender Myths and Feminist Fables: The Struggle for Interpretive Power in Gender and Development*. Malden (MA, US), Oxford (UK), and Carlton (Australia): Wiley-Blackwell. All chapters except Chapters 2, 6 and 7

November 7

Class assignment

November 14, 19, 21, 26

Women and Conflict

El-Bushra, Judy, 2008. "Feminism, Gender, and Women's Peace Activism," In Cornwall, Harrison, Whitehead, Eds. *Gender Myths and Feminist Fables*, pp 127-144.

Cohen, Dara Kay and Amelia Hoover Green, "Dueling Incentives: Sexual Violence in Liberia and the Politics of Human Rights Advocacy," *Journal of Peace Research* (2012) vol. 49 no. 3 445-458.

Mackenzie, Megan, "War Rape is Not Declining," 17 October in Duck of Minerva blog.

Accessed on October 17, 2012 <http://www.whiteoliphant.com/duckofminerva/2012/10/war-rape-is-not-declining.html>

Human Security Report 2012 <http://www.hsrgroup.org/human-security-reports/2012/overview.aspx>

November 21

Class Assignment

November 28 Thanksgiving

December 3

November Basu, *Local Feminisms*, Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 7

December 5, 10

Basu, *Local Feminisms*, Chapters 8, 9, 10, 13

December 12

New Directions in Global Feminism

Tripp, Aili Mari. 2006. "Challenges in Transnational Feminist Mobilization." *Global Feminism: Transnational Women's Activism, Organizing, and Human Rights*, In Myra Marx Ferree and Aili Mari Tripp. New York, NY: New York University Press, pp. 296-312.

See link on wiki for Beijing +15 Conference documents

Exam December 17, 2:45 pm - 4:45 pm (takehome to be written during those hours)