ETHN 129x USP 135:
Asian and Latina Immigrant Workers in the Global Economy
MWF 2:00-2:50, Solis 110
Winter 2010

Instructor: Grace Kim
Office: TBA
Office hours: Mondays 1-2, Wednesdays 3-5, or by appointment
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Overview:
In *Ghostly Matters*, Avery Gordon writes: “... even those who live in the most dire circumstances possess a complex and oftentimes contradictory humanity and subjectivity that is never adequately glimpsed by viewing them as victims or, on the other hand, as superhuman agents. It has always baffled me why those most interested in understanding and changing the barbaric domination that characterizes our modernity often – not always – withhold from the very people they are most concerned with the right to complex personhood.”

In a move to “complexify” the lives of Asian and Latina immigrant women, this course locates racialized gendered labor formations betwixt and between global economic processes, local and national politics, and individual histories. Grounding contemporary labor migrations from Latin America and Asia in the history of colonialism and US imperialism, we will explore the ways in which larger structural processes have differentially shaped the meanings of work, family, and motherhood across national, racial and class lines, as well as how Asian and Latina immigrant women redefine those social fields and make them meaningful for themselves and their communities. Paying particular attention to personal stories (captured in ethnographic studies and feature films), the primary goal of this course is to understand individual lives not as mere “reflections” of larger structural transformations and cultural conflicts, but as co-constitutive of those very struggles and shifts that make up globalization. To that end, we will examine the personal narratives and social movements of domestic workers, nurses, maquiladora workers, and military brides, among others, and the ways in which they resist and challenge labor exploitation, imperialism, militarization and neoliberalism. Our secondary goal is to consider how our analysis of Asian and Latina immigrant workers challenges liberal feminist perspectives.

Required Texts:
**All texts on reserve at Geisel Library or available for purchase at Groundwork Books.**
**With the exception of the Ehrenreich article for Week One (available online), all other readings will be made available on WebCT as pdf files.**

**Grading and Course Requirements:**

- Attendance and active class participation: 20%
- Essay #1 (3-5 pages), due week 4: 20%
- Essay #2 (5-7 pages), due week 8: 30%
- In-class Final Examination: 30%

Scale:

- A: 93-100 points
- A-: 90-92
- B+: 86-89
- B: 83-85
- B-: 80-82
- C+: 76-79
- C: 73-75
- C-: 70-72
- D+: 66-69
- D: 63-65
- D-: 60-62
- F: below 60

*Attendance and participation constitute a significant portion of your grade. Arrive to each class session on time and stay for its duration. Tardiness and absences will result in the lowering of your grade.*

*Active participation means thoughtful engagement with the readings/lectures, meaningful contributions to class discussions, and respectful collegiality toward your classmates and instructor. Visits to my office hours will also count toward class participation.*

*As this is a fairly writing-intensive class, I strongly suggest that you see me during my office hours to discuss your drafts and/or visit the Office of Academic Support & Instructional Services (OASIS) for writing support. You can drop by OASIS on the 3rd floor of Center Hall, M-F 8am-4:30pm, or contact them at 858 534-3760 or oasis@ucsd.edu.*

*All written work must be typed in 12 pt Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. For proper essay format and citation guidelines, please refer to the MLA stylebook. Proofread, spell-check, paginate and staple all work before handing in.*

*The final exam will consist of both short and long essays. It will focus primarily on the 2nd half of class, but will ask students to integrate concepts and perspectives covered in the 1st half.*

**Policies:**

*All course requirements must be completed by the specified due date and time in order to pass the course and receive a grade. Any one missing assignment will result in a course failure. If you are taking the course P/NP, you must complete all assignments and receive at least a 70% on each.*

*Ten points will be deducted from your papers for every 24 hours they are late. In order to receive an extension, you must contact me at least 24 hours PRIOR to the due date and time. NO EXCEPTIONS! In the case of a medical/personal emergency, you must produce a doctor's note or other documentation in order for an exception to be made.*

*Please complete readings by the date they are assigned, and bring the text(s) with which we are currently covering to class.*

*Turn off phones and refrain from text messaging during class.*
Schedule (subject to change):

**Week One: Rethinking Women's Work and Feminist Solidarities**

Mon 1/4  Introduction


**Week Two: Colonialism and Racialized Gendered Labor Migrations**


Wed 1/13 Film: La operación
Screening and Discussion


**Week Three: Globalization, Immigration, and the Racialization of Paid Domestic Work**

Mon 1/18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, No Class

Wed 1/20 Hondagneu-Sotelo, Doméstica, Preface and Chapters 1-2.

Fri 1/22 Hondagneu-Sotelo, Doméstica, Chapters 3-5.

**Week Four: Immigration/Welfare Policy and Racialized Motherhood**

Mon 1/25 Film: Maid in America
Screening and Discussion
**Essay #1 Due In-Class**


Week Five:  At Home: Transnational Motherhood and Affective Labor


Week Six:  Mobilizing and Militarizing Women’s Lives and Labor


Week Seven: On the Homefront: Stateside Militarization and Women’s Work
Mon 2/15  President’s Day Holiday, No Class


Fri 2/19  Film: *The Women Outside: Korean Women and Military Bases*
   Screening and Discussion
Week Eight: Feminicide, Border Violence, and the Global Economy  
**Essay #2 Due In-Class**  
Wed 2/24  Film: Senorita Extraviada  
Screening and Discussion  

Week Nine: Feminized Immigrant Labor, Cold War Politics, and the High-Tech Economy  
Mon 3/1  Film: Maquilapolis  
Screening and Discussion  
Wed 3/3  Pellow and Park, Silicon Valley of Dreams, Chapters 1-4.  
Fri 3/5  Pellow and Park, Silicon Valley of Dreams, Chapters 5-7.  

Week Ten: Femininity(ies) and Feminism(s)  
Mon 3/8  Pellow and Park, Silicon Valley of Dreams, Chapters 8-10.  
Fri 3/12  Final Exam Review and Wrap-Up  

**FINAL EXAM, Monday, March 15, 3-6PM, Room TBD**

Majoring or Minoring in Ethnic Studies at UCSD

Many students take an ethnic studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of “interest” yet have no information about the major or minor and don’t realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An ethnic studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the ethnic studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or yescamilla@ucsd.edu.