

## ASIAN AND LATINA WORKERS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY



### ETHN 129 / USP 135

Tues, Thurs: 9:30-10:50 am  
Sequoia 147

### Instructor

Harrod J Suarez  
hjsuarez@ucsd.edu

### Office Hours

Tuesdays, 11-1 pm,  
or by appointment  
Social Science Building 247

This course explores the ways contemporary Asian and Latina workers live multiple identities: racialized, gendered, sexualized, commodified, etc. Much of our discourse will focus on the current election and the hidden but incredibly important roles that Asian and Latina workers play in it. We will consider questions such as: What are strategies used in defining these identities, and how do these strategies function in terms of economic, political and national discourses? How do racialized women cope with, struggle with and challenge these attempts? How can we combine intellectual, political and creative resources to produce critical interventions?

In this course, we will address primarily two concerns:

- 1) We will seek to understand the politics of race, gender, etc., in the lives of women of color (esp. Asian and Latina) working within the conditions of global capital.
- 2) We will strengthen our writing skills through a series of writing workshops in order to produce a critical paper analyzing how Asian and/or Latina workers are represented in different texts.

<u>Assignments</u>		<u>Scale</u>		<u>Course Material</u>
Participation:	20%	A	94-100	1. Licia Fiol-Matta,
Discussion Board:	10%	A-	90-93	<i>A Queer Mother for the Nation</i>
Paper Workshops:	20%	B+	87-89	2. Wendy Lee, <i>Happy Family</i>
Critical Paper:	35%	B	84-86	3. Salvador Plascencia,
Final Exam:	15%	B-	80-83	<i>The People of Paper</i>
		C+	77-79	4. Ricardo Piglia,
		C	74-76	<i>The Absent City</i>
		C-	70-73	5. E-Reserve Articles

\*Articles available on E-Reserve. Books available at Groundworks and on library reserve.

## ASSIGNMENTS

### Participation (20%)

In a course like this, participation is important. This grade encompasses a number of variables, especially attendance (~10%), contributing to discussion (~10%). Other variables include arriving and leaving on time; respecting your peers, participating in group workshops and preparing for class by completing reading and/or writing assignments. Since we are meeting just twice a week, you should plan on not missing more than two meetings.

### Discussion Board (10%)

The Discussion Board assignment via WebCT will produce a database of questions for the Critical Paper. Make two discussion board posts—one *before* Week 5, and one *before* Thanksgiving. Your task is to create two questions *per post* based on the week's readings; you are *not* required to answer the questions. As you work toward the Critical Paper, refer to this database for insights from your peers.

### Paper Workshops (20%)

In order to facilitate the writing of your Critical Paper, we will have a series of four Writing Workshops. These workshops are important, and it will be important both to prepare for the workshop by completing whatever work may be needed and to provide constructive feedback for others in your group. If this process is done well, the result will be improved writing skills that will help both for the course and for each of your writing futures.

### Critical Paper (35%)

The purpose of this assignment is to analyze how Asian and/or Latina workers are imagined in contemporary politics and in literature, and to specify in what ways these representations compare and contrast. In this class, we will be reading three novels; this does not include the Fiol-Matta text. Your task is to produce a critical paper (8-10 pages) based on one novel, two or three scholarly critiques drawn from our readings, and political coverage. We will go over the guidelines and expectations in depth in Week 3. It will be due on the last day of class, Thursday, December 4.

### Final Exam (15%)

The prompt for the Final Exam will be distributed on the last day of class, Thursday, December 4. It will likely consist of two short-essay questions, though this is subject to change. It will be due at 11 am on Thursday, December 11, which correlates to the time our Final Exam is scheduled to end. Please email it to me at [hjsuarez@ucsd.edu](mailto:hjsuarez@ucsd.edu). No late submissions will be accepted for the exam.



## SCHEDULE

### **PART I: "Categories: Gender, Globalization, Race"**

---

- Week 1:**     Thurs. 9/25  
              > Introduction  
              > "Gender" (**Halberstam**), "Globalization" (**Lowe**), "Race" (**Ferguson**),  
                      in *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*, eds. Burgett and Hendler  
              > **Enloe**, "Conclusion: The Personal is International," in *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases*, 195-201.
- 

- Week 2:**     Tues. 9/30  
              > **Mohanty**, "'Under Western Eyes' Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through  
                      Anticapitalist Struggles," in *Feminism without Borders*, 221-251  
              > **Lee**, *Happy Family*, Chs. 1-4  
  
              Thurs. 10/2  
              > **Tadiar**, "Domestic Bodies," in *Fantasy-Production*, 113-149  
              > **Lee**, *Happy Family*, Chs. 5-8
- 

- Week 3:**     Tues. 10/7  
              > **Lee**, *Happy Family*, Chs. 9-12  
              > **Parreñas**, "Contradictory Class Mobility: The Politics of Domestic  
                      Work in Globalization," in *Servants of Globalization*, 150-196
- 

- Thurs. 10/9  
              > **Lee**, *Happy Family*, Chs. 13-17  
              > Writing Workshop (*Part One: Choosing a topic*)
- 

### **PART II: "Migrating for Labor, Laboring for Migration"**

---

- Week 4:**     Tues. 10/14  
              > **Fiol-Matta**, "Introduction: The Schoolteacher of America" and "Race  
                      Woman," *A Queer Mother for the Nation*  
              > **Plascencia**, *The People of Paper*, Prologue-Ch. 5
- 

- Thurs. 10/16  
              > No class.  
              > **Plascencia**, *The People of Paper*, Chs. 6-14
- 

- Week 5:**     Tues. 10/21  
              > **Plascencia**, *The People of Paper*, Chs. 15-22  
              > **Fiol-Matta**, "Schooling and Sexuality"
- 

- Thurs. 10/23  
              > **Plascencia**, *The People of Paper*, Chs. 23-27

> Writing Workshop (*Part Two: Writing a thesis paragraph*)

---

**Week 6:** Tues. 10/28

> Film: "Life and Debt," by Stephanie Black

---

Thurs. 10/30

> **Fiol-Matta**, "Citizen Mother"

> **Luibheid**, "Looking Like a Lesbian: Sexual Monitoring at the US-Mexico Border," in *Entry Denied*, 77-102

---

**Week 7:** Tues. 11/4

> **Fiol-Matta**, "Intimate Nationalism"

> **Briggs**, "Sex and Citizenship: The Politics of Prostitution in Puerto Rico, 1898-1918," in *Reproducing Empire*, 46-73

---

Thurs. 11/6

> **Fiol-Matta**, "Image Is Everything"

> Writing Workshop (*Part Three: Structuring your essay*)

---

**PART III: "Deus Ex Machina"**

---

**Week 8:** Tues. 11/11

> Holiday (Veteran's Day)

> **Piglia**, *The Absent City*, pgs. 13-46

---

Thurs. 11/13

> **Haraway**, "Cyborg Manifesto"

> **Piglia**, *The Absent City*, pgs. 46-70

---

**Week 9:** Tues. 11/18

> **Piglia**, *The Absent City*, pgs. 71-112

> **Fiol-Matta**, "Pedagogy, Humanities, Social Unrest"

---

Thurs. 11/20

> **Piglia**, *The Absent City*, pgs. 113-139

> **Ong**, "Saying No to the West: Liberal Reasoning in Asia," in *Flexible Citizenship*, 185-213

---

**Week 10:** Tues. 11/25

> **Grewal**, "'Women's Rights as Human Rights': The Transnational Production of Global Feminist Subjects," in *Transnational America*, 121-157

> Writing Workshop (*Part Four: On strong writing*)

---

Thurs. 11/27

> Holiday (Thanksgiving)

> **Fiol-Matta**, "Education and Loss" and "Epilogue"

---

**Week 11:**     Tues. 12/2

- > **Shimizu**, “‘Little Brown Fucking Machines Powered by Rice’ or Sex Tourists with Movie Cameras and Prostitutes without Movie Cameras: Politicizing the Bottom in Southeast Asian Sex Tourist Movies,” in *The Hypersexuality of Race*, 185-225

---

Thurs. 12/4

- > **Critical Paper due at beginning of class.**
- > Conclusions
- > Final Exam Prompt Distribution

**FINAL EXAM**

Please submit Final Exam via WebCT email by **Thursday, December 11, at 11 am.** Late submissions will not be accepted.

**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](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu).

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

1. The University of California, in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or age in any of its policies, procedures, or practices; nor does the university discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.
2. Students are expected to complete the course in compliance with the instructor's standards. No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort. for example:

For more information, please consult the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Laura Briggs, "Sex and Citizenship: The Politics of Prostitution in Puerto Rico, 1898-1918," *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico* (Berkeley: UC Press, 2002), 46-73.
- Cynthia Enloe, "Conclusion: The Personal is International," *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics* (Berkeley: UC Press, 1989), 195-201.
- Roderick Ferguson, "Race," in *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*, eds. Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler (New York: NYUP, 2007), 191-196.
- Licia Fiol-Matta, *A Queer Mother for the Nation: The State and Gabriela Mistral* (Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2002).
- Inderpal Grewal, "'Women's Rights as Human Rights': The Transnational Production of Global Feminist Subjects," *Transnational America: Feminisms, Diasporas, Neoliberalisms* (Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2005), 121-157.
- Judith Halberstam, "Gender," in *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*, eds. Burgett and Hendler (New York: NYUP, 2007), 116-120.
- Donna Haraway, "A Manifesto for Cyborgs: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the 1980s," in *Socialist Review* 15, no. 80 (1985), 65-108.
- Wendy Lee, *Happy Family* (New York: Black Cat, 2008).
- Lisa Lowe, "Globalization," in *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*, eds. Burgett and Hendler (New York: NYUP, 2007), 120-123.
- Eithne Luibheid, "Looking Like a Lesbian: Sexual Monitoring at the US-Mexico Border," *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border* (Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2002), 77-102.
- Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "'Under Western Eyes' Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles," *Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity* (Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2003), 221-251.
- Aihwa Ong, "Saying No to the West: Liberal Reasoning in Asia," *Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality* (Durham, NC: Duke UP, 1999), 185-213.
- Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, "Contradictory Class Mobility: The Politics of Domestic Work in Globalization," *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work* (Stanford, CA: Stanford UP, 2001), 150-196.
- Ricardo Piglia, *The Absent City*, trans. Sergio Waisman (Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2000).
- Salvador Plascencia, *The People of Paper* (Orlando, FL: Harcourt, 2005).
- Celine Parreñas Shimizu, "'Little Brown Fucking Machines Powered by Rice' or Sex Tourists with Movie Cameras and Prostitutes without Movie Cameras: Politicizing the Bottom in Southeast Asian Sex Tourist Movies," *The Hypersexuality of Race: Performing Asian/American Women on Screen and Scene* (Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2007), 185-225.
- Neferti Xina M. Tadiar, "Domestic Bodies," *Fantasy-Production: Sexual Economies and Other Philippine Consequences for the New World Order* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong UP, 2004), 113-149.